RESOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS PROPOSING FOR THE NAME MODIFICATION OF "CHINK’S PEAK" IN POCATELLO, IDAHO

Adopted by OCA National Board
July 29, 2001

WHEREAS though there are distinct stories about the origin of the name Chink’s Peak, a common premise of the derivation of the name to a Chinese laborer who had worked on the mountain and had died; and

WHEREAS according to the United States Board on Geographic Names, the policy of changing names is when a local name is “derogatory to a particular person, race, or religion, the Board may disapprove such names and seek alternate local names for the features;” and

WHEREAS the pejorative nature of the term “Chink” is derogatory and harmful to Asian Pacific Americans and negates any honorary intent that the name might have held; and

WHEREAS the Organization of Chinese Americans believes that the name is extremely offensive to all Asian Pacific Americans; and

WHEREAS local advocates have been petitioning the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to remove the derogatory racial epithet for several years; and

WHEREAS local, municipal, city, state, and national groups representing diverse racial, ethnic background also advocate for removal of the derogatory racial epithet.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Organization of Chinese Americans supports the elimination of racially insensitive and derogatory terms from land features and man-made structures; and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED that the Organization of Chinese Americans advocates for rectifying the name Chink’s Peak, restoring tribute to the Chinese workers that labored on the mountain, and setting a precedent to other derogatory geographic names that are still present in the United States.