RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NAME CHANGE OF
JAP LANE IN ORANGE COUNTY AND JAP ROAD IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Adopted by OCA National Board
July 28, 2001

Whereas, the Organization of Chinese Americans has made a commitment to promote the history, contributions and cultural heritage of Americans of Chinese and Asian Pacific descent; and

Whereas, in Southeast Texas, a local effort has been undertaken to change the names of two roads: Jap Lane in Orange County and Jap Road in Jefferson County; and

Whereas, Jap Lane was named in honor of the agricultural colony founded in 1908 by Kichimatsu Kishi which contributed to the economic growth of the community; and

Whereas, Jap Road was named in recognition of another pioneer farmer, Yasuo Mayumi who immigrated to the United States in 1905; and

Whereas, in 1986, the United States Congress passed a resolution officially recognizing “Jpn” as the appropriate abbreviation for the words “Japan” and “Japanese”; and

Whereas, “Jap” is defined in Webster’s New World Dictionary as “a shortened form of Japanese often expressing contempt, hostility, etc.”; and

Whereas, current use of the term is considered an affront to the people of Japanese ancestry, and conveys hostility and thoughtlessness rather than respect;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Organization of Chinese Americans commends the members of the community in Orange and Jefferson County for the recognition of the contributions of Kichimatsu Kishi and Yasuo Mayumi; and

Be it further resolved, that the Organization of Chinese Americans support current efforts to change the names of the two roads in Southeast Texas in order to truly recognize and pay respect to the contributions of these pioneers.