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The U.S. - China Railroad Friendship Association (UCRFA) was organized in 2016 with the mission of elevating the pride and visibility of Chinese American citizens for the role Chinese workers played in the building of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad - an effort which serves to strengthen friendships between the U.S. and China. The UCRFA will commemorate the Chinese railroad workers for their yeoman efforts to lay track on some of the most difficult and dangerous sections of the railroad. The commemoration will include: An annual celebration gala; investing in a dedicated monument; promoting cultural and friendship exchanges; regular professional and technical exchanges regarding railroad history and construction.

In 1865, Chinese immigrants were enlisted by the Central Pacific Railroad in the building of the western section of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Between 1865 and May 10, 1869, when the "Golden Spike" was driven with a silver hammer at Promontory Summit, it was estimated that up to 15,000 Chinese (the majority of the labor force) had been working tirelessly over and through the granite walls of the Sierra Nevada and the blistering desert of Nevada.

These efforts united California and the other western states to the eastern part of the country. With newly-opened markets in the east, there was rapid growth in California's agricultural production, followed by advancement in other economical forms as well.

2015 marked the start of the 150th anniversary of the Chinese contribution to the building of the First U.S. Transcontinental Railroad and 2019 will mark the end of the celebration. In 2015, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA), Union Pacific, California State Railroad Museum, California Center and Shandong Film Association (China), co-hosted a series of events in Sacramento and San Francisco to celebrate this occasion (www.railroad150.com). Out of this initial effort emerged this new nonprofit organization - UCRFA, that will carry the torch through to the end of the celebration in 2019. UCRFA founders: APAPA, California Center, and Sun Group USA, welcome additional member organizations to join in this worthy cause to instill a proud legacy to the humble, selfless, and resilient Chinese railroad workers of 19th century America!

Sincerely C.C. Yin, Margaret Wong Co - Chairs



US – CHINA RAILROAD FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

中美鐵路文化友好協會 記念章工建設太存洋鐵統一百五十同章 ***

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