



## H.Res. 415 – Honoring Edward Day Cohota, Joseph L. Pierce, and other veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who fought in the United States Civil War

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 415 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael Honda (D-CA) on May 17, 2007. The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 415 is expected to be considered on the House floor on July 30, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 415 expresses a sense of Congress that the House:

- Recognizes and expresses its appreciation for the courageous and loyal contributions made by soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent during the United States Civil War; and
- Recognizes and honors the 2 most documented of those soldiers, Edward Day Cohota and Joseph L. Pierce, for their distinguished and dedicated service to preserving and maintaining the Union.

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### BACKGROUND

There are numerous veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who bravely fought in the U.S. Civil War, including Edward Day Cohota and Edward Price. Mr. Edward Day Cohota escaped from China by stowing away in a ship in 1845. He enlisted in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment in the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in 1864. He fought in the Battle of Drury's Bluff where others around him reported he had seven bullet holes in his coat but was not wounded. He served in the United States Army for 30 years.

Joseph L. Pierce was sold by his parents in 1852. He was raised by captain Amos Peck ship after he was found floating in the South China Sea, as an adopted son. He went to school with the Peck children and learned in American Schools. He enlisted in the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Connecticut's Volunteer Infantry in 1862. He fought in the battle of Antietam, MD on September 17, 1862.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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