

## BETTY ANN ONG FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1108  
Bakersfield, CA 93302

January 2, 2012

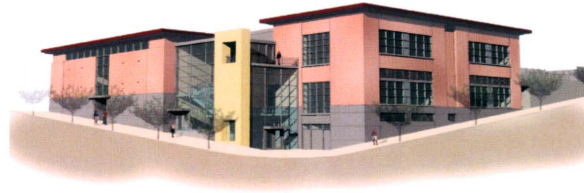
Dear Family and Friends,

On October 20, 2011, the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department Commission voted unanimously to change the name of Chinese Recreation Center to the "Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center". This center serves one of San Francisco's most densely populated neighborhoods by providing sports related activities and programs to people of all generations and backgrounds.

Betty Ann Ong was the flight attendant who first reported the hijacking of American Airlines Flight 11, which was flown directly into the World Trade Center in New York City, on September 11, 2001. The re-naming of the center honors the memory of Betty Ann Ong and all who sacrificed their lives on the day the United States of America was attacked.

The newly renovated, three-level, 23,850 square feet center is truly beautiful. It is scheduled for completion in July 2012 thanks to a \$21 million allocation from the 2000 Neighborhood Park Projects Bond and the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond.

However, these bonds provide for structural construction only and do not permit the purchase of any interior furnishings or sports equipment (e.g., desks, tables, benches, chairs, computers, audio-visual & class equipment, lockers, gym sports and fitness equipment) that are necessary to properly supply, equip, and operate the recreation center. The estimated total cost for these items is over \$100,000.



華埠康樂中心  
CHINESE RECREATION CENTER  
BUREAU OF ARCHITECTURE  
SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Recreation & Park Department will staff and maintain the Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center. However, it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that the newly rebuilt facility is properly equipped and can adequately continue to serve the people both now and for future generations to come.

We are asking for your generosity to help fund the new Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center with a tax-deductible donation, made payable to the Betty Ann Ong Foundation, at P. O. Box 1108 Bakersfield, CA 93302. (The Betty Ann Ong Foundation, a non-profit organization which was established in 2002, is dedicated in memory of Betty to promote children's wellness and active lifestyles.) Your donation will allow the center to thrive and continue as a cornerstone of vitality in the community.

Have a safe and healthy new year. Thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely,  
Cathie Ong-Herrera, President/CEO  
Bettyong.org (beesbuzz911@aol.com) FEIN: 56-2305946

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## Betty Ann Ong: 9/11 hero gets lasting tribute

1

34

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The Chinatown Recreation Center will be named after Betty Ann Ong, an American Airlines flight attendant whose plane was flown deliberately into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City by terrorist hijackers on Sept. 11, 2001.

For 23 minutes, Ong calmly relayed information to airline personnel on the ground about the terror unfolding on board, providing crucial information about the hijackers and helping alert the world to what was about to become part of the worst terrorist attack on American soil in the nation's history.

The San Francisco native who grew up in Chinatown and as a girl played at the neighborhood recreation center displayed "courage, professional, selflessness and above all, heroism," said Mark Buell, president of the San Francisco Recreation Commission, which voted unanimously Thursday to approve the name change.

"Her extraordinary act of heroism on 9/11 made a significant contribution not only to the city, but to the nation," Buell said.

Although Mayor Ed Lee announced the plan to name the center after Ong last month, the commission still had to approve the name change.

The commission received a petition signed by more than 3,700 people urging the official recognition. Supporters also packed the hearing room at City Hall when the proposal was up for approval. The rec center, at Washington and Mason streets, is being rebuilt and is set to reopen next year.

Among those in the audience were Ong's family. Harry Ong, an older brother, thanked city officials for naming the rec center after his sister. "The legacy of Betty and other 9/11 heroes," he said, "will be remembered forever."



Betty Ann Ong was a 45-year-old flight attendant who was killed when her plane crashed into the World Trade Center. (Photo courtesy of the family.)

Posted By: Rachel Gordon ( Email , Twitter ) | Oct 21 at 2:03 pm

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## **Chinatown rec center to be named after heroic Sept. 11 flight attendant**

By: Bay City News | 10/21/11 9:32 AM

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission approved Thursday to name a Chinatown recreation center after a local Chinese-American flight attendant who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

According to department officials the commission unanimously approved to name the center at 1199 Mason St. as the Betty Ong Chinese Recreation Center.

The center is undergoing renovations and is expected to reopen in early 2012.

Mayor Ed Lee requested in September the department honor The City's heroine by dedicating the center with her name, Betty Ong, officials said.

Ong grew up in Chinatown and went to San Francisco public schools and as a city youth played at the center with her siblings, officials said.

She was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, which was flying from Boston to Los Angeles on Sept. 11, 2001. She was reportedly the first person to report that the plane had been hijacked. Her call helped advise air traffic controllers to ground every plane in the country.

“(Ong) is truly an American hero, and we are proud to have a recreation center named after her,” said department general manager Phil Ginsburg.

URL: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2011/10/chinatown-rec-center-be-named-after-heroic-sept-11-flight-attendant>