

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 757

Recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2016

Ms. JUDY CHU of California submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the United States Census Bureau, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, a growth rate 4 times faster than the total United States population;

Whereas the 2010 decennial census estimated that there are now approximately 17,300,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,200,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up nearly 6 percent of the total United States population;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2016 marks several important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including the—

(1) 145th anniversary of the Chinese Massacre of 1871 when a mob of 500 White men entered Los Angeles' Chinatown and killed an estimated 20 Chinese immigrants, making the event one of the largest mass lynchings in United States history;

(2) 70th anniversary of the passage of the Luce-Cellar Act of 1946, legislation that allowed Filipinos and Indians to immigrate to the United States and naturalize to become United States citizens; and

(3) 60th anniversary of the election of Dalip Singh Saund to the United States House of Representatives, the first Asian American, first Indian American, and first Sikh American elected to the United States Congress;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, was the highest ranking Asian American government official in United States history, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congressman, Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman to be elected to Congress, Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator, Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American member of a Presidential cabinet, and others have made significant contributions in both our government and military;

Whereas the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 51 Members this year, including 13 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas in 2016, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and in the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas the number of Asian American and Pacific Islander Article III judges more than tripled between 2009 and 2016, reflecting a commitment to diversity in the Federal judiciary that has resulted in the confirmations of high caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander judicial nominees;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and to understand the challenges faced by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) recognizes the significance of Asian/Pacific
- 3 American Heritage Month as an important time to
- 4 celebrate the significant contributions of Asian

1 Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the
2 United States; and
3 (2) recognizes that Asian American and Pacific
4 Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of
5 and strengthen the United States.

