

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 243

Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2011

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. WU, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. STARK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCNERNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Whereas the United States joins together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the Nation's history;

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

Whereas today, according to the United States Census Bureau, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is one of the fastest growing and most diverse populations in the United States, comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 28 language groups in the community;

Whereas the 2010 United States Census estimates that there are 17,300,000 United States residents who identify themselves as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races and 1,200,000 United States residents who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau projects that by 2050, there will be 40,600,000 United States residents identifying as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races, to comprise 9 percent of the United States population, and there will be 2,600,000 United States residents identifying as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination with one or more other races, to comprise 0.6 percent of the total population;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month due to the following two historical events, first, May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and second, May 10, 1869, when, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants, the first transcontinental railroad was completed;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have faced injustices throughout United States history, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Japanese American

internment, unpunished hate crimes including the murder of Vincent Chin, and other events;

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

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as civil rights activist Yuri Kochiyama, Medal of Honor recipient Herbert Pililaau, the first Asian American Congressman Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, the first Asian American member of a presidential cabinet Norman Y. Mineta, and others have made significant strides in the political and military realms;

Whereas the Presidential Cabinet includes a record three Asian Americans, including Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki;

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 30 Members this year, including Senate President Pro Tempore Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, the highest ranking Asian American in United States history;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made history by assuming office in a number of new and historically significant positions, including Nikki Haley, the first Asian American and first female governor of South Carolina, Edwin M. Lee, the first Asian American Mayor

of San Francisco, California, and Jean Quan, the first Asian American and first woman to serve as Mayor of Oakland, CA;

Whereas today, Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders are serving in a record number of State legislatures across the Nation, in States as diverse as Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Utah, and Washington;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have risen to some of the highest positions in President Obama's Administration, including Pete Rouse as the first Asian American to serve as White House Chief of Staff, Tina Tchen as Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama, Chris Lu as White House Cabinet Secretary, Neal Katyal as Acting Solicitor General of the United States, Rajiv Shah as Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), L. Tammy Duckworth as Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Anthony M. Babauta as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas at the Department of Interior, and many others;

Whereas there has been a commitment to judicial diversity through the nomination of high caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander jurists at all levels of the Federal bench;

Whereas significant outreach efforts to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community have been made through the reestablishment of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to coordinate

multiagency efforts to ensure more accurate data collection and access to services for this community;

Whereas even with these exceptional milestones crossed by the community, there remains much to be done to ensure that linguistically and culturally isolated Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources, a voice in the United States Government, and continue to advance in the Nation's political landscape; 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 address 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
5 Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Nation's his-
6 tory; and

7 (2) recognizes that Asian American and Pacific
8 Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of
9 the United States and strengthen the Nation.

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