

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Resolution No. 22-14**

Honoring Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

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; and

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

WHEREAS the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of many distinct ethnicities and language dialects; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian-American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 72 percent between 2000 and 2015; and

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; and

WHEREAS section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian and 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; and

WHEREAS 2022 marks several important milestones for the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, including—

- (1) The Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, was the first United States law to prevent members of a specific ethnic or national group from immigrating to this country.
- (2) The repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1943, which occurred at the same time as the passage of the Magnuson Act, which permitted a quota of 105 Chinese immigrants annually.
- (3) The passage of the Immigration Act of 1965 eliminated the national origins quota systems.
- (4) The Immigration Act of 1990 provided the most comprehensive change in legal immigration since 1965. The act established a "flexible" worldwide cap on family-based, employment-based, and diversity immigrant visas.
- (5) In 2011-2012, The House of Representatives and the Senate condemned the Chinese Exclusion Act and affirmed a commitment to preserve civil rights and constitutional protections for all people.

- (6) The 46th anniversary of Presidential Proclamation 4417, dated February 19, 1976, in which President Gerald Ford formally condemned the incarceration of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II.
- (7) The 67th anniversary of the election to the House of Representatives of Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American, first Indian American, and first Sikh American elected to Congress.
- (8) The 76th anniversary of the passage of the amendments made by the Act of July 2, 1946 (commonly known as the "Luce–Cellar Act of 1946"), which allowed individuals from the Philippines and India to immigrate to the United States and become naturalized United States citizens.
- (9) The 76th anniversary of the passage of the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946, which stripped military benefits from Filipino World War II veterans in the service of the United States Armed Forces.
- (10) The 101th anniversary of the first premier in a United States film featuring an Asian-American woman, Anna May Wong, in "Bits of Life." and
- (11) the 121th anniversary of the arrival of Peter Ryu, the first Korean immigrant in the United States.

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the United States Armed Forces, including—

- (1) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, was elected the United States Senate in 1962. As President pro tempore of the Senate, he was the highest-ranking Asian-American government official in the history of the United States.
- (2) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American member of Congress, elected in 1955.
- (3) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian-American woman to be elected to Congress in 1965.
- (4) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian-American Senator, elected in 1959.
- (5) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, elected in 1990.
- (6) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian-American member of a Presidential cabinet, serving as Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton, and as Secretary of Transportation, under President George W. Bush.
- (7) Edwin Mah Lee, the first Asian American to serve as Mayor of San Francisco, beginning his tenure in 2011.
- (8) Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian-American woman member of a Presidential cabinet, serving in the George W. Bush and Donald Trump administrations.
- (9) Kamala D. Harris, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President, elected in 2020.

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to medical and public health fields, including:

- 1) Holt Cheng, MD, for becoming the first Chinese American male physician to earn a California medical license in 1904.
- 2) Margaret Chung, MD, for becoming the first American-born Chinese female physician to earn a California medical license in 1916.
- 3) Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, for her breakthrough in "functionally curing" newborns of AIDS. Dr. Luzuriaga is a Filipino American physician and pediatric immunologist who was named one of Time Magazine 100 most influential people in the world in 2013.

- 4) Derald Sue, PhD, and Stanley Sue, PhD, two Chinese American brothers, for their contributions to ethnic minority psychology. Dr. Derald Sue is best known for his work on multicultural counseling and racial microaggression, and Dr. Stanley Sue is best known for his work on cultural competence in psychotherapy with Asian Americans and ethnic minorities.
- 5) Marjorie Mau, MD, for being the first Native Hawaiian to earn the title of "master" physician by the American College of Physicians. Dr. Mau conducted groundbreaking research in metabolic disorders among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in 2012.
- 6) David Ho, MD, Taiwanese American, for pioneering treatment of HIV/AIDS. He was named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1996 for his research proving that HIV replicates immediately when entering a patient's bloodstream.
- 7) Haing Ngor, MD, a Cambodian gynecologist and obstetrician, for his role in helping refugees and advocating for justice in Cambodia. He also portrayed Cambodian journalist Dith Pran in the 1984 film "The Killing Fields."
- 8) Abraham Verghese, MD, an Indian American physician, for advocating for the importance of empathy in physician-patient relationships. He worked with young AIDS patients at a time when little could be done for them, other than work with them through their premature deaths.
- 9) Paul Yu, MD, a Chinese American cardiologist, was the first Asian President of the American Heart Association, from 1972-73.
- 10) Rolland Choy Lowe, MD, the first Asian American President of the San Francisco Medical Society and the California Medical Association.
- 11) Choh Hao Li, Ph.D, a Chinese American UCSF researcher, who discovered that the human pituitary growth hormone consists of 256 amino acids. In 1970, he developed a synthetic version of the growth hormone.

WHEREAS, According to the 2018 Community Survey, individuals with Asian and Pacific Islander heritage make up 26.3% of the healthcare workforce in California. One in 5 physicians across the United States identify as Asian and/or Pacific Islander. One in 11 nurses across the country identify as Asian and/or Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS, since January 2020, the increased use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related COVID-19 has perpetuated an anti-Asian stigma, and has resulted in a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander descent; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Health Commission approved resolution 21-5, "In Support of Communities of Individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander Descent and Denouncing Racism and Violence Against These Communities," in 2021; and

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, and continue to participate and advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

WHEREAS celebrating Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes the significance of Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States, the state of California, and the City of San Francisco; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the San Francisco Health Commission recognizes that Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the City of San Francisco.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission adopted the foregoing resolution at its May 3, 2022 meeting.



Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Health Commission Secretary