

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



“MANY CULTURES,
ONE VOICE:
PROMOTE EQUALITY
AND INCLUSION”

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



[United States Military Academy](#) cadets perform a [haka](#) in 2009 during an observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (as of 2009, officially changed from **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**) is a period for the duration of the month of [May](#) for recognizing the contributions and influence of [Asian Americans](#) and [Pacific Islander Americans](#) to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

The first Asians documented in the Americas arrived in 1587, when Filipinos [landed in California](#); from 1898 to 1946, [the Philippines was an American possession](#). The next group of Asians documented in what

would be the United States were Indians in [Jamestown](#), documented as early as 1635. In 1778, the first Chinese to reach what would be the United States, [arrived in Hawaii](#). In 1788, the first Native Hawaiian arrived on the continental United States, in Oregon; in 1900, Hawaii was [annexed by the United States](#). The next group of Asians documented in what would be the United States were Japanese, who [arrived in Hawaii](#) in 1806. In 1884, the first Koreans arrived in the United States. In 1898, Guam was [ceded to the United States](#); beginning in the 1900s, [Chamorros](#) began to migrate to California and Hawaii. In 1904, what is now American Samoa was [ceded to the United States](#); beginning in the 1920s, Samoans began to migrate to Hawaii and the continental United States, with the first Samoans documented in Hawaii in 1920. In 1912, the first Vietnamese was documented in the United States.

History

A former congressional staffer in the 1970s, Jeanie Jew, first approached Representative [Frank Horton](#) of the idea of designating a month to recognize [Asian Pacific Americans](#), following the [bicentennial](#) celebrations. In June 1977 Representatives Horton, and [Norman Y. Mineta](#), introduced a [United States House of Representatives](#) resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate a month later by [Daniel Inouye](#) and [Spark Matsunaga](#).



The proposed resolutions sought that May be designated for two reasons. For on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrant arrived in the United States. More than two decades later, on May 10, 1869, the [golden spike](#) was driven into the [First Transcontinental Railroad](#), which was completed using Chinese labor.



Transcontinental railroad is completed, May 10, 1869

President [Jimmy Carter](#) signed a joint resolution for the celebration on October 5, 1978.

May is **National Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**, and I am proud to kick off this recognition for the JHM community as we recognize the rich history of contributions from Asians and Pacific Islanders in industries such as science, medicine, the arts and many others.

To give you some background, the first record of Asians setting foot in North America dates back to 1587, when Filipino sailors came to what is now California. The first Chinese immigrants were three sailors in 1785, and the first Japanese immigrants arrived in May 1843. The year 1869 marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad, which would not have been possible without the contributions of many Chinese Americans.



Celebrations includes:

Parades, Food, Music, Folkloric dancing and Battle reenactments



Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, [Spanish](#) for "Fifth of May") is an annual celebration held on **May 5**, which commemorates the anniversary of [Mexico's](#) victory over the [French Empire](#) at the [Battle of Puebla](#) in 1862. Led by General [Ignacio Zaragoza](#), the victory of a smaller, poorly equipped Mexican force against the larger and better armed French army was a morale boost for the Mexicans. Zaragoza died months after the battle from an illness, and a larger French force ultimately defeated the Mexican army at the Second Battle of Puebla and occupied Mexico City.



More popular in the United States than in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of [Mexican-American](#) culture. Celebrations began in California, where they have been observed annually since 1863. The day gained nationwide popularity in the 1980s due to advertising campaigns by beer, wine, and tequila companies; today, Cinco de Mayo generates beer sales on par with the [Super Bowl](#). In Mexico, the commemoration of the battle continues to be mostly ceremonial, such as through military parades or battle reenactments. The city of [Puebla](#) marks the event with various festivals and reenactments of the battle.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

End the stigma. Make it **OK**



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Now more than ever, we need to find ways to stay connected with our community. No one should feel alone or without the information, support and help they need.



Please find below links to websites for further assistance:

<https://hub.jhu.edu/at-work/2021/04/16/mental-health-awareness-month-webinar-series/>

<https://nami.org/Home>