

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a time to recognize the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who serve as leaders in business, government, law, education, science, athletics, the arts, and many other fields and to bring awareness to the violence and hatred that this community has had to endure and continues to endure; and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a vast and diverse community, who can trace their heritage to the Pacific Island regions of Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia as well as dozens of countries including China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam and South Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week to celebrate two historical milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States, which occurred on May 7, 1843, and the significant contributions of Chinese workers in the building of the transcontinental railroad that was completed on May 10, 1869; and

**WHEREAS**, generations of brave women and men made the dangerous voyage across the Pacific to seek better lives for their families, and in the process have contributed greatly to the economic prosperity and cultural legacy of communities throughout California and the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded in December 2020 to Chinese American WWII veterans in recognition of their service, in spite of being ineligible for citizenship at the start of the war due to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act; in 2017 to Filipino American WWII veterans, who would lose their military benefits due to the Rescission Act of 1946; and in 2011 to Japanese American WWII veterans who served in spite of the incarceration of their families in internment camps under Executive Order 9066; and

**WHEREAS**, Filipino "manongs", elder farmworkers, led by Larry Iliong, were critical in the establishment of the United Farm Workers, when they initiated the Delano Grape Strike and asked Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Mexican farmworkers to join them; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara was once home to a thriving and bustling "Chinatown" on Canon Perdido Street between State Street and Anacapa Street, in what is now Downtown Santa Barbara, which was home to the Chinese immigrants that began arriving in Santa Barbara in the 1860s. The early Chinese residents of Santa Barbara worked in abalone fishing, farming, laundry enterprises and domestic service. Santa Barbara's old Chinatown was devastated and dismantled following the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake in the attempt to create a cohesive Spanish colonial revival look for the city's downtown, and Santa Barbara's Chinese population was deeply affected by this change; and

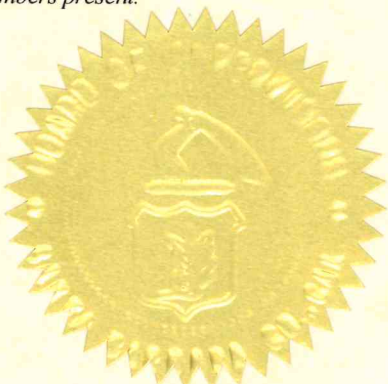
**WHEREAS**, the UCSB Department of Asian American Studies began as a program 50 years ago, at a time that Black Studies, Chicano/a Studies, Native American Studies & Ethnic Studies were developing around the nation to focus on race and social justice; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Ochoa was the first Filipino American woman in California to serve on a Board of Supervisors when she was elected Santa Barbara County 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor in 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, the AAPI community has continuously faced discrimination since the COVID-19 pandemic where there have been drastic increases in hate incidents and crimes directed at the AAPI community, of which more than half have occurred within California.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors declares May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Santa Barbara County and calls on all residents of our County to help bring awareness to issues affecting the AAPI community and celebrate the many contributions of AAPI community members.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



*[Handwritten Signature]*

Supervisor - 1st District

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Supervisor - 4th District

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board