



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, Laos, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea and Thailand; 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 under Executive Order 9066; and

WHEREAS, Filipino "manongs", the Filipino word for the oldest son, became the farmworkers' striker's identity. Led by Larry Itliong they were critical in the establishment of the Agriculture Workers Organization Committee (AWOC) that initiated the Coachella Valley and Delano Grape Strikes; 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 services. 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, Judge Atsushi Wallace Tashima, born in Santa Maria, is the first Japanese American and the third Asian American in history to serve on a U.S. Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, the AAPI community has continuously faced discrimination since the COVID-19 pandemic; and communities across the U.S. have experienced an escalation of hate, including harassment, threats, and violence; and increased fear and tension are being experienced by Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Jewish Americans.

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 7th day of May, 2024 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: Maureen Pavesato
Clerk of the Board

Atsushi Tashima

Supervisor - 1st District

Frank Carr

Supervisor - 2nd District

Joan Hartman

Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Tobin

Supervisor - 4th District

Stacy

Supervisor - 5th District