



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND 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 Ocean to seek better lives and opportunities for their families and children and in the process have contributed greatly to the economic prosperity and cultural legacy of communities throughout California and the United States; 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, the AAPI community is 6.3% of Santa Barbara County's population and Filipino Americans are the largest AAPI group in the County. The first Filipino landing was in 1587 by Luzon Indios, indigenous Filipino sailors aboard the Manila Galleon which landed in Morro Bay during the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade era; and

WHEREAS, Filipino "manongs", elder farmworkers, led by Larry Iltiong, 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 commercial district and Santa Barbara's Chinese population was deeply affected by this change; and

WHEREAS, the AAPI community has continuously faced discrimination during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic where there have been drastic increases in hate crimes directed at the AAPI community, of which more than half have occurred within California, and including the Atlanta Spa Shootings last year, a directed attack toward the AAPI community which resulted in 6 deaths.

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 join in to bring awareness of the 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 17th day of May, 2022 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: Monica Reyes
Clerk of the Board

Pat Wilcox
Supervisor - 1st District
Alyssa Hart
Supervisor - 2nd District
Juan Water
Supervisor - 3rd District
Bob Moran
Supervisor - 4th District
St. Javayni
Supervisor - 5th District