

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 CONCURRENT  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 23

By: Floyd of the Senate

and

Pae, Munson, and Fugate of  
the House

7 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing May as  
8 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; recognizing  
9 the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in  
10 Oklahoma; and celebrating the contributions of Asian  
11 Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of  
12 Oklahoma and the United States.

12 WHEREAS, May is recognized by the United States Congress as  
13 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, honoring the contributions  
14 and paying tribute to generations of Asian Americans and Pacific  
15 Islanders (AAPI) who have made our state and nation their home; and

16 WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in  
17 May to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to  
18 the United States in May of 1843; and

19 WHEREAS, May also marks the anniversary of the completion of the  
20 transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of those  
21 who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

22 WHEREAS, the Chinese were the first Asian group to settle in  
23 Oklahoma, living in the Guthrie Territory after the Land Run of  
24 1889; and

1       WHEREAS, the Japanese population quickly grew in Oklahoma in the  
2 1920s and 1940s, and during World War II, several fought for the  
3 United States including four sons of Kutaro Nishimuta, a farmer in  
4 Payne County. His sons served in the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental  
5 Unit, an all-Japanese outfit and one of the most decorated units in  
6 the war; and

7       WHEREAS, nearly three percent of all Oklahomans identify as  
8 Asian American or Pacific Islander, citing origins in Cambodia,  
9 China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines,  
10 Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands;  
11 and

12       WHEREAS, Oklahoma City is home to an Asian District made up of  
13 the state's largest population of Asian descendants, predominately  
14 Vietnamese. Visitors flock to the district each year to experience  
15 the international cuisine, culture, and shopping; and

16       WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens have made  
17 a tremendous impact on our state and nation, serving in vital roles  
18 as state and national leaders, starting businesses, making  
19 breakthroughs in science and technology, serving in our military,  
20 excelling in sports, arts, education, and more.

21       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
22 OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
23 CONCURRING THERIN:  
24

THAT the month of May is recognized by the Oklahoma State Legislature as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of Oklahoma and the United States.

Adopted by the Senate the 2nd day of May, 2024.

---

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2024.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives