

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 23

By: Floyd of the Senate

and

Pae, Munson, and Fugate of
the House

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Japanese population quickly grew in Oklahoma in the 1920s and 1940s, and during World War II, several fought for the United States including four sons of Kutaro Nishimuta, a farmer in

Payne County. His sons served in the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental Unit, an all-Japanese outfit and one of the most decorated units in the war; and

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

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

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

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

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 2nd day of May,
2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____