

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 23

By: Floyd of the Senate

and

Pae of the House

AS INTRODUCED

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

1 WHEREAS, the Chinese were the first Asian group to settle in
2 Oklahoma, living in the Guthrie Territory after the Land Run of
3 1889; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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