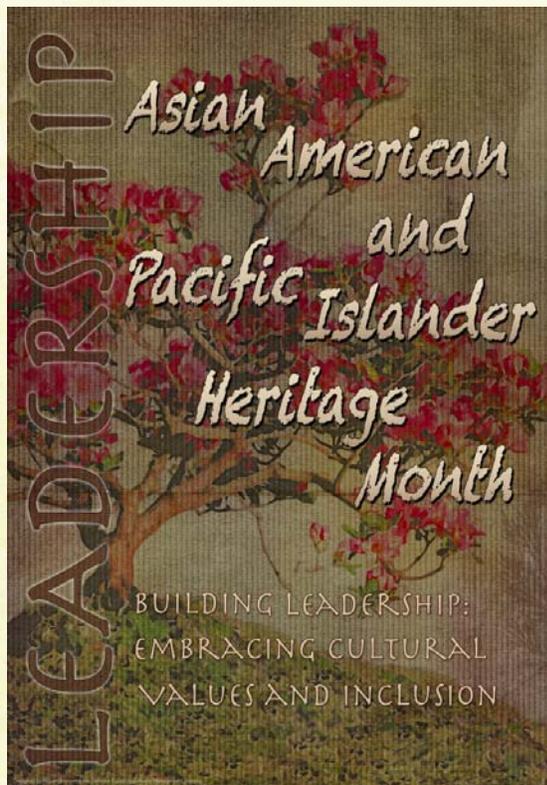


## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

### Building Leadership: Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion

May 2013



*May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.*

A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) In addition, Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island) are included.

Like most commemorative months, Asian-Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

*Special Emphasis Programs are implemented and observed primarily to ensure that minorities, women, people with various disabilities, and people with various sexual orientations are provided an equal opportunity in employment and program delivery activities. These programs improve the workplace environment by promoting and fostering diversity in the workplace through awareness, and to educate others to appreciate, value, understand, and celebrate social and cultural similarities and differences.*

## Websites/Additional Links\*

[fapac.org/](http://fapac.org/)

[asianpacificheritage.gov/teachers.html](http://asianpacificheritage.gov/teachers.html)

[whitehouse.gov/aapi](http://whitehouse.gov/aapi)

[census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts](http://census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts)

[nps.gov/history/nr/feature/asia/](http://nps.gov/history/nr/feature/asia/)

[asian-nation.org/index.shtml](http://asian-nation.org/index.shtml)

[loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-asianpacific.html](http://loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-asianpacific.html)

[infoplease.com/spot/immigration1.html](http://infoplease.com/spot/immigration1.html)

[infoplease.com/spot/apahmfirsts.html](http://infoplease.com/spot/apahmfirsts.html)

[mn.gov/capm/pdf/StateoftheAsianPacificMinnesota.pdf](http://mn.gov/capm/pdf/StateoftheAsianPacificMinnesota.pdf)

[mmb.state.mn.us/may-hist](http://mmb.state.mn.us/may-hist)

[deomi.org/SpecialObservance/presentations.cfm?CatID=4](http://deomi.org/SpecialObservance/presentations.cfm?CatID=4)



*\*The Diversity Council is not responsible for the content or accuracy of information on the given websites.*