



**San Joaquin County Office of Education**  
James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

## **ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

### **May 2017**

In recognition of the contributions to our nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage, San Joaquin County Office of Education celebrates May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

From the early 1800s to the 21st century, Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States and made lasting contributions in all elements of American society.

#### ***HISTORY:***

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, now officially proclaimed as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month takes place in May and is a celebration of the cultures, traditions, and history 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) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Representatives 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.

#### ***PURPOSE:***

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.

## ***LOCAL EVENTS:***

### **Crocker Art Museum—Asian Art Collection**

**216 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**(916) 808-7000**

The Museum is especially noted for its holdings of Korean ceramics, Chinese tomb furnishings, trade ceramics, and Japanese armor and tea ware. South and Southeast Asia are well represented by Buddhist art from the region extending between Pakistan, the Himalayas, and Southeast Asia, and South Asia by Indian and Persian miniatures. A current exhibit, *Japan America: Points of Contact, 1876–1970*, organized by the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, opened February 12, 2017, and continues through May 21, 2017. <https://www.crockerart.org/exhibitions/japanamerica>

### **Pacific Rim Street Fest—A Celebration of Asian Pacific Rim Heritage**

**Southside Park, between 6th & 8th, and "T" & "V" Streets. (Approximate address: 2115 6th Street, Sacramento, CA)**

The twenty-fourth annual Pacific Rim Street Fest is scheduled to return on Saturday, May 13, 2017. This fest will be celebrating and showcasing all facets of the Asian Pacific Islander cultures at Southside Park, a venue that offers ample room, much-appreciated shade, and convenient parking.

Date: Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

<http://www.pacificrimstreetfest.com/>

**Asian & Pacific Islanders Americans in Historic Preservation** is on Facebook for resources and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/APIAHiP/>

## ***RESOURCES:***

A thrilling and suspenseful tale, *Operation Popcorn* explores the fate of ten Hmong American leaders and a retired U.S. Army officer who are accused of conspiring together to overthrow the communist government of Laos. Seven years in the making, the film sheds light on the fragile relationships between individuals and the American surveillance state.

<http://worldchannel.org/programs/episode/arf-s4-e415-operation-popcorn/>

Featured article on Nippon Hospital, Stockton, San Joaquin County, California and the surrounding Japanese community: [https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/asia/2011/Nippon\\_Hospital.htm](https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/asia/2011/Nippon_Hospital.htm)

### **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Exhibits & Collections**

Items available online have been grouped together into collections, which give the items meaning in a broader context. The following list and groupings are a sampling of the material related to Asian and Pacific American history available from the Library of the Congress and other partner agencies.

<http://asianpacificheritage.gov/collections.html>

### **Executive and Legislative Documents**

The Law Library of Congress has compiled guides to commemorative observations, including a comprehensive inventory of the Public Laws, Presidential Proclamations and congressional resolutions related to Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/asian.php>

### **United States Code**

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: 36 U.S. Code § 102

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/36/102>