

1 [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2023]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating May 2023 as Asian Pacific Heritage Month in**  
4 **the City and County of San Francisco, and honoring the significant contributions of the**  
5 **Asian Pacific American community.**

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7 WHEREAS, The month of May carries significance to Asian Pacific Americans because  
8 of two historic events that occurred on May 7, 1843, the date of the first recorded arrival of  
9 immigrants from Japan to the United States, and May 10, 1869, the completion of the  
10 Transcontinental Railroad, a monumental project made possible by primarily Chinese laborers  
11 despite discriminatory, unsafe conditions and without acknowledgement and is now  
12 recognized as Transcontinental Chinese Railroad Workers Day; and

13 WHEREAS, The origin of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month came from a  
14 former Capitol Hill staffer, Jeanie Jew, who illuminated the need for the recognition of this  
15 important community in highlighting her own story as a great granddaughter of a Chinese  
16 Transcontinental worker and Ruby Moy, the chief of staff of Representative Horton who  
17 worked to make the commemoration possible; and

18 WHEREAS, Congressional representatives dating back to 1977, most notably  
19 Congressmembers Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, introduced Resolutions to designate  
20 official recognition for Asian Pacific Heritage, which eventually recognized the first week of  
21 May as Asian/Pacific American Week; and

22 WHEREAS, On March 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential  
23 proclamation for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week to recognize the significant  
24 contributions of the Asian Pacific community; and

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1           WHEREAS, In 1991, United States President George H.W. Bush signed into law a  
2 Joint Resolution adopted by the Congress of the United States, declaring that the month of  
3 May be celebrated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the United States; and in  
4 1992, it was declared that the celebration would take place in May in perpetuity; and

5           WHEREAS, San Francisco has a significant Asian Pacific population and has  
6 celebrated Asian Pacific Heritage Month annually; and

7           WHEREAS, In 2005, Mayor Gavin Newsom embraced the idea of an annual official  
8 celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in San Francisco with festivities  
9 coordinated and organized by a diverse group of community representatives serving on the  
10 Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Celebration Committee; and

11           WHEREAS, Since 2005, San Francisco’s annual celebration event of Asian Pacific  
12 American Heritage Month historically took place on the first Monday of May; and

13           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors also honored notable Asian  
14 Pacific residents and organizations in each of the eleven Supervisorial Districts for community  
15 service, contributions, and achievements during a Special Commendation Ceremony for  
16 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at an official Board Meeting in May; and

17           WHEREAS, The celebration of the Asian Pacific American community is important now  
18 more than ever given the rise of anti-Asian sentiment nationwide due to continued xenophobia  
19 and racism related to the global COVID-19 health pandemic; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 recognizes and celebrates the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the  
22 City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
24 Francisco will participate and support events and campaigns that highlight the achievements  
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1 and contributions of the Asian Pacific community to elevate cross-cultural understanding and  
2 promote cross-racial solidarity; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will continue to support the  
4 Asian Pacific community, especially with language access and culturally responsive services,  
5 during this time of crisis to ensure that basic services and protection are provided during this  
6 health emergency; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
8 Francisco commends the work of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Committee  
9 and the APA Heritage Foundation for making these events possible; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
11 Francisco commends the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Asian Art Museum, the  
12 San Francisco Public Library, and over 100 Publicity Partners including API Council, Chinese  
13 Cultural Center, Chinatown Community Development Center, Filipina Women’s Network,  
14 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival, Korean Center Inc., Samoan Community  
15 Development Center, and many more for their partnership in producing and promoting the  
16 activities to celebrate Asian Pacific American Month; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends their highest  
18 commendation to the 2023 honorees of the APA Heritage Celebration Committee for their  
19 remarkable impact serving the Asian Pacific community in San Francisco, including:

- 20 • Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation on the occasion of their 40th  
21 Anniversary
- 22 • Asian Pacific Fund on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary
- 23 • Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California on the occasion of  
24 their 50th Anniversary.

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