

1 [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May 2026]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating May 2026 as Asian American and Pacific**
4 **Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco, honoring the**
5 **significant contributions of the AAPI Community, and elevating AAPI cultures.**

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

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

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

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

5 WHEREAS, In 2005, Mayor Gavin Newsom embraced the idea of an annual official
6 celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in San Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, To kick off the month of May, the APA Heritage Foundation hosts the APA
8 Heritage Awards and reception to honor exceptional AAPI organizations and individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 22nd year of the annual celebration of AAPI Heritage
10 Month in San Francisco, with this year's theme being "Elevating Cultures," spotlighting the
11 diverse cultural vibrancy in performance, arts, literature, food and drink, and more; and

12 WHEREAS, This year's theme emphasizes the importance of strengthening community
13 connectivity and resilience through elevating the vibrant AAPI immigrant diaspora in San
14 Francisco; and

15 WHEREAS, The APA Heritage Foundation curates the AAPI Heritage Month
16 Celebration Guide is thoughtfully curated to showcase AAPI events, activities, and
17 educational opportunities from official celebration partners happening in Districts across San
18 Francisco; and

19 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors honors notable AAPI residents
20 and organizations for their service, leadership, contributions, and achievements during a
21 Board of Supervisors Special Commendation Ceremony in the month of May; now, therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates the month of
24 May 2026 as AAPI Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors is committed to highlighting
2 achievements and contributions of the AAPI community to elevate cross-cultural
3 understanding and promote multi-racial solidarity; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the APA
5 Heritage Celebration Committee and the APA Heritage Foundation for creating these
6 invaluable opportunities for the community to experience the rich diversity of our AAPI
7 communities in San Francisco.

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