

1 [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2021]

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3 **Resolution recognizing and celebrating May 2021 as Asian Pacific American Heritage**
4 **Month in the City and County of San Francisco and honoring the significant**
5 **contributions of the 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 now recognized
12 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;

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, Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the Shelter-in-Place
18 order in San Francisco and throughout California, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
19 celebrations are postponed or are being done virtually; and

20 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors suspended Special Commendations during the
21 Shelter-in-Place;

22 WHEREAS, The celebration of the Asian Pacific American community is important now
23 more than ever given the rise of anti-Asian sentiment nationwide due to xenophobia and
24 racism related to the global COVID-19 health pandemic; now, therefore, be it
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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates the month of
2 May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the City and County of San Francisco; and

3 FURTHER RESOLVED; That the Board of Supervisors will participate and support
4 events and campaigns that highlight the achievements and contributions of the Asian Pacific
5 community to elevate cross-cultural understanding and promote cross-racial solidarity; and,
6 be it

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

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the work of the
12 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Committee and the APA Heritage Foundation for
13 making these events possible; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the Center for
15 Asian American Media (CAAM), Asian Art Museum, and the San Francisco Public Library for
16 their partnership in producing and promoting the activities to celebrate Asian Pacific American
17 Month; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends their highest
19 commendation to the 2021 honorees of the APA Heritage Celebration Committee for their
20 remarkable impact serving the Asian Pacific community in San Francisco, including:

- 21 • SF - Seoul Sister City Committee on the occasion of their 60th anniversary
- 22 • SF - Manila Sister City Committee on the occasion of their 45th anniversary
- 23 • The National Japanese American Historical Society on the occasion of their 40th
24 anniversary

1 with special recognitions to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (70
2 years) and World Journal (45 Years).

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