

**Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Facts of the Day 2014**



DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
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Run Date	Fact	Source
1-May	This May, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center theme for Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is “I Am Beyond.” The phrase captures the aspirations of the American spirit and how Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have always sought to excel beyond the challenges that have limited equal opportunity in America.	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">http://www.whitehouse.gov</a>
2-May	In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration.	<a href="http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html">http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html</a>
3-May	The Asian American/Pacific Islander American designation encompasses over 50 ethnic or language groups, including Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. There are now more Asian and Pacific Islander groups than in the past, with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Islander subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures.	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/observances/AAPI.html">http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/observances/AAPI.html</a>

4-May	Asian Americans are the highest-income, best-educated, and fastest-growing racial group in the United States. They are more satisfied than the general public with their lives, finances, and the direction of the country, and they place more value than other Americans do on marriage, parenthood, hard work, and career success, according to a comprehensive recent nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center.	<a href="http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/">http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/</a>
5-May	According to the 2011 Census, the estimated number of U.S. residents who said they were Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, either alone or in combination with one or more additional races, was 1.4 million.	<a href="#">U.S. Census Bureau</a>
6-May	On May 7, 1990, President George H. W. Bush issued a proclamation designating May 1990 as the first Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, changing the observance from a week to a month.	<a href="http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html">http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html</a>
7-May	On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States.	<a href="http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html">http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html</a>
8-May	Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC. The gift and annual celebration honor the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and the continued close relationship between the two countries.	<a href="http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about/history/">http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about/history/</a>

9-May	Over the years, the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation & Access has funded numerous preservation projects that emphasize the cultural contributions of the diverse peoples of Asia and the Pacific Islands. These projects include cataloging and preserving rare cultural and religious artifacts, digitizing fragile textiles and art, and working to preserve endangered languages.	<a href="http://asianpacificheritage.gov/index.html">http://asianpacificheritage.gov/index.html</a>
10-May	On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed with significant contributions from Chinese pioneers.	<a href="http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html">http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html</a>
11-May	In 2013, Democrat Mazie Hirono became the country's first Asian-American female senator. She was also Hawaii's first-ever female U.S. senator. In addition, she's the first senator born in Japan.	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi">http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi</a>
12-May	Asian immigrants first came to the U.S. more than 150 years ago—mainly as low-skilled male laborers, who mined, farmed, and built the railroads. They endured generations of officially sanctioned racial prejudice—including regulations that prohibited the immigration of Asian women; the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which barred all new immigration from China; the Immigration Act of 1917; and the National Origins Act of 1924, which extended the immigration ban to include nearly all of Asia; and the forced internment of Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor.	<a href="http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/">http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/</a>

13-May	<p>The 113th Congress is the most diverse group of representatives in history. There are 98 women, 43 African Americans, 31 Latinos, 12 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and 7 gay and bisexual people who are now new members of the House and Senate. Rep. Tammy Duckworth said, “It is good to see Congress starting to look more like the rest of America.” Duckworth, a double-amputee veteran, is one of the historic numbers of Asian-Americans elected.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.alipac.us/f9/meet-113th-congress-more-diverse-than-ever-269642/">http://www.alipac.us/f9/meet-113th-congress-more-diverse-than-ever-269642/</a></p>
14-May	<p>The nation’s Indian American population has exploded over the past decade, outpacing the growth of other Asian groups, according to the 2010 Census data. Indians have surpassed Filipinos as the second-largest Asian population, following the Chinese population.</p>	<p><a href="#">U.S. Census Bureau</a></p>
15-May	<p>The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is conducting outreach efforts to include all Pacific Islander Americans, including Native Hawaiians, Chamoru, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraen, and others in the Micronesian, Melanesian, and Polynesian Pacific Islander groups.</p>	<p><a href="http://ed.gov/about/inits/list/asian-americans-initiative/what-you-should-know.pdf">http://ed.gov/about/inits/list/asian-americans-initiative/what-you-should-know.pdf</a></p>
16-May	<p>The Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reported that 16.6 million Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) reside in the U.S., comprising 5.4 percent of the U.S. population. By 2050, AAPIs will make up 9.7 percent of the total United States population—over 40 million people. AAPIs represent over 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/data/critical-issues">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/data/critical-issues</a></p>

17-May	<p>Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japan occupied Guam. The island was renamed "Omiya Jima," or "Great Shrine Island." Throughout the occupation, Guamanians remained loyal to the United States. In fact, hundreds of Guamanian men have served in the U.S. armed forces.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guamanian-Americans.html">http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guamanian-Americans.html</a></p>
18-May	<p>While the first Asian Indian immigrants were agricultural and manual laborers, today, significant numbers of Asian Indians are engaged in professions such as medicine, accounting, and engineering. A recent study indicated that a higher percentage of Asian Indians are engaged in managerial positions today than any other ethnic group in the United States.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Asian-Indian-Americans.html">http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Asian-Indian-Americans.html</a></p>
19-May	<p>On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, ordering the removal of Japanese immigrants and their descendants en masse to relocation camps for the duration of the war. On December 27, 1944, the U.S. War Department ended the interment of Japanese Americans.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/roosevelt-signs-executive-order-9066">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/roosevelt-signs-executive-order-9066</a></p>
20-May	<p>This year marks 40 years since the Lau v. Nichols decision, a landmark ruling that expanded the rights of non-English speaking students in America. Language access remains a critical civil rights issue today for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other immigrant communities. Over 25 million individuals—about 9 percent of the U.S. population over age 5—reported having limited English proficiency. English is not spoken at home for over two-thirds of Asian Americans and nearly one-third of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=1">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=1</a></p>

21-May	<p>One of the first Chinese American woman pilots, Maggie Gee received her flight licenses and joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). Since women were not allowed to regularly serve in combat at the time, she trained male pilots and also copiloted military planes for simulated dogfights. In 2010, she and other WASP pilots would receive the Congressional Gold Medal for their contributions.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/50-important-dates-in-asian-american-history--2">http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/50-important-dates-in-asian-american-history--2</a></p>
22-May	<p>Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women are doing extraordinary things to create a more equal, safe, and prosperous future. In business, the arts, civil rights, health, and many other fields, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women are helping to improve the lives of their fellow Americans. This May, during AAPI Heritage Month, the White House Office of Public Engagement, White House Council on Women and Girls, and White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will honor a group of AAPI women as Champions of Change.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions">http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions</a></p>
23-May	<p>The observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month is an occasion to remember the patriotism of AAPIs who have served, and are currently serving, in the United States Military. The first recorded instance of Asian Americans fighting on behalf of the United States was in 1815, when General Andrew Jackson recorded that “Manilamen” had fought alongside him in defense of New Orleans, under the command of Jean Baptiste Lafitte.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=2">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=2</a></p>

24-May	<p>Korean Americans have played a vital role in the shaping of the United States. Senate Resolution 185 stated, <i>“For the past century, Korean immigrants and their descendants have helped build America's prosperity, strengthened America's communities, and defended America's freedoms. Through their service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars, Korean Americans have served our Nation with honor and courage, upholding the values that make our country strong.”</i></p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/korean-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/korean-americans</a></p>
25-May	<p>The history of Vietnamese Americans is very different from that of most other Asian Americans. Immigration to the U.S. from Vietnam was virtually non-existent before the 1970s. The fall of Saigon in 1975 started an exodus from Vietnam that would eventually see the resettlement of 900,000 Vietnamese refugees in the United States.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/vietnamese-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/vietnamese-americans</a></p>
26-May	<p>The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) reported that the AAPI community is projected to grow another 134 percent to more than 35.6 million over the next 40 years.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/infographic_1.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/infographic_1.pdf</a></p>
27-May	<p>In 2012, Asians surpassed Hispanics as the largest group of new immigrants in the United States. A record 18.2 million Asians were recorded to be living in the U.S., making them the fastest-growing racial group in the country.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.us-immigration.com/asian-american-history-timeline/">http://www.us-immigration.com/asian-american-history-timeline/</a></p>



28-May	<p>The Bataan Death March is one of the most horrific events in Filipino history. Beginning on April 9, 1942, over 70,000 Filipinos and Americans were forced to endure the march to prisoner of war camps. The Filipino and American troops, already injured and starving, were forced to march over 65 miles through sweltering, disease-infested jungle. On the march, they were starved, subjected to random beatings, and tortured. Many were executed along the way.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bataan-death-march">http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bataan-death-march</a></p>
29-May	<p>In a Gallup poll, 30–31 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) surveyed reported incidents of employment discrimination, the largest of any group, with African Americans constituting the second largest group at 26 percent. Yet, AAPIs only filed about 2–3 percent of the total employment discrimination complaints received by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against private employers.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/data/critical-issues">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/data/critical-issues</a></p>
30-May	<p>Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month offers us an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have made to our nation, reflect on the challenges still faced by AAPI communities, and recommit to making the American Dream a reality for everyone. AAPIs comprise many ethnicities and languages, and their myriad achievements embody the American experience. Many AAPI communities continue to fight prejudice and struggle to overcome disparities in education, employment, housing, and health care.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/observances/AAPI.html">http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/observances/AAPI.html</a></p>

31-May	In February 2014, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center opened <b>Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation</b> , a groundbreaking exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History. The exhibition will explore the heritage, daily experience, and numerous, diverse contributions that Indian immigrants and Indian Americans have made to shaping the United States.	<a href="http://apanews.si.edu/future/">http://apanews.si.edu/future/</a>
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