The Department of Defense pays tribute to the generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who have enriched our nation’s history and who continue to be pivotal to our success as a nation as we move into the future.

AAPI encompass a diverse group of cultures, ethnicities, races, and languages. They include all Americans who trace their ancestry back to the Asian continent and the many Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.
The National Cherry Blossom Festival is a spring celebration in Washington, D.C.,

Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo City donated the trees to enhance the growing friendship between the United States and Japan and also celebrate the continued close relationship between the two nations.

The first two of the 3,000 trees were planted on March 27, 1912, by first lady Helen Taft and the wife of the Japanese ambassador.

Today, 100 years later, hundreds of thousands of people come each year to walk under the gently arching branches of the Yoshino, Akebono, and Kwanzan trees.

For more information:
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/history-of-the-cherry-trees.htm