

# Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month 2001

Asian Pacific Americans Emerging Together

Equal Opportunity is for Everyone

機会平等はすべての人のもの

Japanese

人人机会均等

Chinese

MỌI NGƯỜI ĐỀU CÓ CƠ HỘI  
BÌNH ĐẲNG

Vietnamese

Ang Pantay-pantay na  
Pagkakataon ay para sa Lahat

Tagalog

ทุกคนมีโอกาสเท่ากัน

Thai



## **PREACE**

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## **SCOPE**

The Topical Research Intern Program selects Service members and Department of Defense or Transportation civilian employees for the opportunity to work on diversity/equal opportunity projects while on a 30-day tour of duty at the Institute. During their tour, the interns use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to compile research or review data pertaining to an issue of importance to leadership, supervisors, and equal opportunity (EO) or equal employment opportunity (EEO) specialists throughout the Services. The resulting publications (such as this one) are intended as resource and educational materials and do not represent official policy statements or endorsements by the DOD, DOT, or any of their agencies. The publications are distributed to EO/EEO personnel and senior officials to aid them in their leadership and diversity management duties.

May 2001

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## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS EMERGING TOGETHER**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Ofentimes, works focused on Asian Pacific Americans are faced with the inevitable and difficult task of defining the term “Asian Pacific American.” What once was an explicitly political term coined in opposition to the phrase “Oriental American” (41:iii) has now become a common way to “refer to the collective set of Asian American and Pacific Islander American populations.” (32:227) However, a general, all-encompassing term like “Asian Pacific American” can only be used in conjunction with the understanding that this term represents over fifty ethnic groups. In short, although many Asian Americans may share some similar cultural and historical experiences, the Asian Pacific-American community is extremely heterogeneous.

Executive Order 13125, signed by President Clinton, defines Asian American as including the “persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.” (19:para. 12) It also defines Pacific Islanders as including “the aboriginal, indigenous, native peoples of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands within the jurisdiction of the United States.” (19:para. 13) L.H. Shinagawa and M. Jang write that “Asian Americans include, but are not limited to, Chinese, Filipino, Koreans, Asian Indians, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Hmong, and Thai. Pacific Islanders include Hawaiians, Samoans, Guamanians, and Tongans among others.” (49:41) *Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.* says, “An Asian American, then, is someone living in the United States having some sort of ‘roots’ in Asia.” (6:2)

While many of these definitions are overlapping, D. Wilinson’s statement that “[t]here is no complete consensus on who is Asian” (56:21) is accurate. Pointing out some of the ethnic groups represented by the term Asian Pacific Islander is a first step in defining Asian Pacific Americans, but it is important to realize that each ethnic group has a unique set of ‘roots’ that can be broken down in categories such as “migration history, population, language, religion, education level, occupation, income, degree of acculturation, preferred residential location, [and] political involvement.” (32:227) It makes little sense to lump all Americans with an Asian origin into a single entity (6:2), and this thought will be reinforced by the 2000 Census which will disaggregate information on more Asian Pacific-American ethnic groups than in the past. While the term Asian Pacific American is used throughout this publication, it is with the awareness and sensitivity towards the heterogeneous make-up of the Asian Pacific-American ethnic groups in the United States today.

### **HISTORY OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

In 1977, two important pieces of legislation emerged, marking the first step towards a full month-long recognition of Asian Pacific Americans. Rep. Frank Horton and Rep. Norman Mineta presented House Resolution 540 which called upon the President to dedicate the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific-American Heritage Week. (39:para. 3)

In the Senate, Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga introduced similar legislation. (12:para. 1) In October 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Joint Resolution, and in May 1979, the first Asian Pacific-American Heritage Week was celebrated. (12:para. 2) On October 23, 1992, with unanimous approval by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 102nd Congress, President George Bush signed legislation declaring May as the annual Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month. (39:para. 9)

The month of May is significant in the history of Asian Pacific Americans in that Japanese immigrants first arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and May 10, 1869 marks the day that the transcontinental railroad was completed, connecting the East to the West. (12:para 2) More than 12,000 Chinese worked on the railroad when White workers were unwilling to undertake the dangerous, and oftentimes, deadly task of laying railroad tracks throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains. (50:2.07) The web page for the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Commerce says that the goal of the heritage month is “to nurture an appreciation and understanding of Asian and Asian-American culture and to recognize the rich contributions of Asian Pacific Americans. It also serves as an opportunity to promote diversity and to foster cooperation and better understanding among groups within the Commerce workforce.” (39:para. 1) David Montoya, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Workforce Diversity, wrote that the heritage month “provides a time to reflect on how [Asian Pacific Americans] have immeasurably enriched the quality and character of our country.” (36:para. 2)

The 2001 theme for Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month is “Asian Pacific Americans Emerging Together.” In this publication, this theme will be addressed in two aspects. First, it will highlight some of the current issues that may hinder or prevent Asian Pacific Americans from emerging together. Issues such as Asian Pacific Americans in the media, stereotyping, the model minority myth, and hate crimes will be addressed. In addition, Executive Order 13125, President Clinton’s recent proclamation that called for the development of an Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, will be discussed as a positive step towards awareness of issues pertinent to the Asian Pacific-American community (Part I). Second, this publication will focus on some of the recent achievements of Asian Pacific Americans in various disciplines such as military service, politics, entertainment, literature and photojournalism, and athletics (Part II). Through these two avenues, it will be possible to see the progress Asian Pacific Americans have made as well as the long road that still lies before them.

## ***CURRENT ISSUES FOR ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS*** ***(Part I)***

### **A BRIEF SUMMARY OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Asian Pacific American population was at 10.9 million in March 1999. (25:1) Asian Pacific Americans “remain the fastest growing racial/ethnic population in the U.S., increasing 95% from 1980 to 1990 and another 43% from 1990 to July 1999.” (46:3) By the year 2050, the Asian Pacific American population is expected to reach 37.6 million people, making up 9% of the total population. (46:3)

Eighty percent of Asian Pacific Americans live in 10 states (California, New York, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts) (46:3). However, the fastest growing populations of Asian Pacific Americans is occurring in Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Nebraska, Arizona, Delaware, and New Mexico (46:3). In 1990, 95% of Asian Pacific Americans were residing in metropolitan areas compared to 75% of non-Hispanic Whites. (49:45)

In 1999, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 29% of Asian Pacific Americans were under the age of 18, and 7% of them were 65 years old or older, indicating a relatively young population. Among people 25 and older, 42% of Asian Pacific Americans held a bachelor’s degree compared to 28% of non-Hispanic Whites; however, in this same category, 8% of Asian Pacific Americans were more likely to have less than a ninth grade education when compared to 5% of non-Hispanic Whites. Also, 46% of Asian Pacific-American men were more likely to have a bachelor’s degree when compared to 39% of Asian Pacific-American women. (25:3) In the 1990 Census, the sub-groups that had the lowest percentages of bachelor degrees were the Tongans, the Cambodians, the Laotians, and the Hmongs, each with less than 6%. (49:48) Finally, Pyong Gap Min, in her introduction to *Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends and Issues* says that “[a]lthough Asian Americans account for only 3% of the U.S. population [in 1995], they constitute over 30% of the students at several University of California campuses, including UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Irvine, and over 15% in many prestigious state and private universities, including Columbia, Cornell, and Harvard.” (35:2)

In 1998, 33% of Asian Pacific American families made over \$75,000 or more when compared to 21% of non-Hispanic Whites. (25:4) With regard to families making less than \$25,000, Asian Pacific Americans were at 21% while non-Hispanic Whites were at 19%. (25:4) Thirty-seven percent of Asian Pacific Americans were more “concentrated in managerial and professional specialty occupations” when compared to 33% of non-Hispanic Whites. Overall, “in 1998, 1.4 million Asians and Pacific Islanders (about 13%) and 15.8 million non-Hispanic Whites (about 8%) were poor.” (25:5)

In 2000, Asian Pacific Americans made up 3.6% of the active duty Armed Forces with 49,890 military members, indicating a slight increase over the last four years. (16:2) In 1997, Asian Pacific Islanders made up 3.1% of the 45,035 military members. (15:16) In 1998 and 1999, respectively, Asian Pacific Americans made up 3.3% and 3.4% of the Armed Forces. (14:12, 13:12)

## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN THE MEDIA**

### **1. Access for Asian Pacific Americans**

After the 13th Annual Asian-American Journalist Association Conference in August 2000, it was noted that Asian Pacific-American representation in newspapers, movies, magazines, and television was not keeping pace with the growing percentages of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. (26:para. 6) A 1993 survey by the American Society of Newspaper Editors indicated that “newsroom minorities had risen to slightly over 10 percent of total employees for the first time.” (22:596) But, some, like Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman William E. Kennard indicate that the road to diversity will be a long one. A recent ruling issued in January 2001 by the D.C. Circuit Court held that the FCC’s EEO rule was unconstitutional. (21:para.3) The EEO rules had “required broadcast licensees to widely disseminate information about job openings to all segments of the community to ensure that all qualified applicants, including minorities and women, have sufficient opportunities to compete for jobs in the broadcast industry.” (21:para. 4) Kennard responded to the ruling, saying, “Today’s decision is a defeat for diversity. At a time when many Americans are outraged at the lack of minorities in prime time and in the boardrooms of America, the broadcasters have once again used the courts to strike down even a modest outreach effort.” (21:para. 1)

The effect of cultural biases and the lack of diversified representation in the media continues to impact Asian Pacific Americans. One such example was the 1992 riots in Los Angeles. The Chapter on Media in *The Asian American Almanac* states that “[a]lthough more than 11 percent of the area population [of Los Angeles] is Asian American, their perspective was grossly overlooked, a direct result of nonintegrated newsrooms that are unaware of different cultures and attitudes.” (22:596) One organization that helps promote the “professional advancement” of Asian Pacific Americans in journalism is the Asian-American Journalists Association (AAJA). Their three prong mission is to 1) encourage young Asian Pacific Americans to enter the ranks of journalism, 2) work for fair and accurate coverage of Asian Pacific Americans, and 3) increase the number of Asian Pacific-American journalists and news managers in the industry. (3:paras. 1-2) In 1994, several minority journalist associations, to include AAJA, teamed up for a combined convention, Unity 94, which “marked the first time the journalists from all four minority groups met to share views on the status of minorities in the media.” (22:596)

A study in 1998 by the Screen Actors Guild found that between 1994 and 1997, Asian Pacific-American roles represented less than one half of their proportion of the population. (27:para 14) A minority coalition including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Latino Media Council, the National Asian

Pacific-American Media Coalition, and American Indians in Film issued a report card of the major television networks in 2000. (8:para. 2) The highest grade given was a 'D.' The coalition cited reasons for the low marks, mentioning the lack of representation of various ethnic groups in acting, writing and directing fields. (8:para. 2) Some of the leaders asserted that the problem is "just as bad or worse than last year when the group criticized the lack of diversity on prime-time shows premiering in the 1999-2000 season." (8:para. 11)

Currently, Asian Pacific Americans have television roles on *Ally McBeal*, *Bette*, *ER*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Gideon's Crossing*, *Deadline*, and *DAG*. (1:para. 2) Recently, more Asian Pacific Americans have made a name in Hollywood, but whether long term improvements are being made will take more time to tell. The lack of opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans in the entertainment industry, especially in non-stereotypical roles, has come under great scrutiny by agencies such as the Media and Arts Panel, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, and the National Asian Pacific-American Media Coalition. These organizations are working towards a more proportional representation of Asian Pacific Americans in the entertainment industry, and they continue to battle both the negative and positive stereotypes that continue to hurt the Asian Pacific-American community.

## 2. Stereotypes

In the media, Asian Pacific Americans currently find themselves represented by several prevailing stereotypes that are often applied to the Asian Pacific-American community as a whole. William Wei, in *The Asian American Movement* writes that "[w]hether negative or positive, stereotypes are essentially false images that obscure the complexity and diversity that is an inherent feature of Asian Americans as well as other people." (55:50) The media has sometimes "portrayed Asians as faceless, fanatic, maniacal, or willing to die because they do not value life." (20:422) According to *The Asian American Almanac*, "Chinese Americans are often associated with laundries whereas Korean Americans are usually depicted as grocery store owners. These images reflect a lack of knowledge on the part of writers who resort to stereotypes to present their ideas." (22:595) *The Asian American Almanac* also points out the fact that South Asian immigrants are often shown as "turbaned Maharajas or New York City taxi drivers with strong accents." (22:595) Some stereotypes suggest that all Asian Pacific Americans are foreigners, inarticulate, unassertive, kung fu fighters, brainiacs, and, particularly for Asian-American women, subservient homemakers or exotic dragon ladies. (37:para. 2, 18:para. 3, and 59:45) One such example is Lucy Liu's character, Ling, on the popular television show *Ally McBeal*.

Steve Johnson, a television critic with the *Chicago Tribune* notes that Ling "is a definite foreign presence, markedly different from the show's White characters; a paragon of the overreaching 'model minority' myth; and one more erotic fantasy object." (27: para 3) In a similar appraisal, Kimberly Chun writes that Ling "resembled a modern-day, stereotypical dragon lady...some kind of leggy, comic, minor-league Madame Mao." (9: para. 1) She also suggests that Liu's role on *Charlie's Angels*, with

her leather pants suit and horse whip, adds to this image. Robert Yoshioka explains that “[w]hen the erotic art and literature of China and Japan became known to Americans, the erotic aura associated with women in Asia was transferred to Asian-American women.” (59:45)

The tendency to create one-dimensional Asian Pacific-American characters (43:para. 7) and the overall lack of an Asian Pacific-American presence in the media contribute to the stereotypical roles generally given to Asian Pacific Americans. Lisa Ko considers one option Asian Pacific Americans face because of stereotypes. (31:para. 2) She says, “we can either be assimilated, ‘honorary Whites’ or perpetual aliens who can’t speak English.” (31:para. 2) The “foreigner” stereotype remains a real hurdle for the Asian Pacific-American community. Although most stereotypes apply to Asian nationals, Americans demonstrate an inability or unwillingness to distinguish between Asian Pacific Americans and Asian nationals. As a result, stereotypes of Asian nationals “have been readily transferred to Asian Americans.” (55:50)

Some of the more common racial slurs are evidence of this stereotype. For instance, “[s]tereotyped images, such as the ‘evil Jap’ of World War II and the ‘Communist gook’ in China, Korea, and Vietnam, were created primarily by White Americans and have been recycled as U.S. foreign policy has changed from decade to decade.” (20:422) When Chinese immigrants first arrived in the United States, they were referred to with racial slurs such as “coolies,” heathen,” “mice-eaters,” and “Chinks.” (20:422) In addition, the foreigner image also brings with it a question of loyalty and suspicion. (11:para. 9) Although Asian Pacific Americans have suffered from negative stereotypes, they also suffer from a “positive” stereotype known as the “model minority myth.”

### **MODEL MINORITY MYTH**

The ‘model minority myth,’ fueled by journalists in the 1960s, stereotypes all Asian Pacific Americans as diligent, high-achieving, and successful, and this label continues to cause difficulties for Asian Pacific Americans. An article in the *Orlando Sentinel* reads, “The hard drive and hard work are still there, but more and more Asians are rejecting the groups label of ‘model minority.’ Many Asians are eager to break the image cemented over the years of Asians being superachievers, high earners, and straight-A students.” (42:para 1-2) In 1978, after the Bakke case, the Asian and Pacific-American Federal Employee Council issued a statement, saying, “The implication that Asian Americans have ‘made it’ is a myth...We are not a model minority. We have not assimilated. We have a long, documented and continuing history of societal, systemic, and legislated discrimination supported and encouraged by judicial process.” (4:2) Although many areas are affected by the model minority myth, affirmative action and the glass ceiling as well as the lack of information on Asian Pacific-American sub-groups are perhaps the hardest hit by the myth.

Because the model minority myth maintains that all Asian Pacific Americans have high levels of education, high incomes, professional occupations, and stable families, (6:12) it also suggests that Asian Pacific Americans are in no need of affirmative action.

But in 1978, the Asian Pacific American Federal Employee Council thought otherwise. It says, “The unfortunate assumption too often made because Asian Pacific Americans are now beginning to enter into a few select occupations is that all doors have been opened and that entry into an occupation provides automatic success.” (4:2) In fact, many people believe that Asian Pacific Americans are discriminated against because they do not qualify for affirmative action, (6:12) but the reason they do not qualify, some would say, is because of the model minority myth that they are doing so well. Many use this same reasoning to argue against the existence of a glass ceiling, but when the data is accurately analyzed with comparable comparisons, Asian Pacific Americans still endure many disadvantages. One way to prove that the model minority myth is actually a myth is to look at the disaggregation of information on Asian Pacific Americans.

Because very little information has been broken down or disaggregated by Asian Pacific-American sub-groups, the results of survey data that point towards a model minority may be misleading. The President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders says, “Data about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, when available at all, are contradictory or self-canceling when aggregated or misanalyzed.” (46:8) The following are some statistics that show how particular subgroups have serious needs that are easily overlooked when people only look at survey averages.

- While Southeast Asians make up 13% of the Asian Pacific-American population, they account for 87% of all Asian Pacific Americans on welfare. (47:para. 8)
- The poverty rate in the United States (1990) was 10% compared to the rate of the following groups—Hmong American (66%), Cambodian Americans (47%), Laotian American (67%), and Vietnamese American (34%). (46:8)
- “Less than 6% of Tongan Americans, Cambodian Americans, Laotian Americans and Hmong Americans have completed college.” (46:8)

Pyong Gap Min makes the point that, “[s]tatistically speaking, Asian Americans have a bipolar distribution, with proportionally far more people both above and below the average.” (35:42) When the survey numbers are disaggregated, research that addresses the needs of particular sub-groups as well as state and Federal awareness will increase. (54:para. 6) Among many of the areas where this damaging effect is evident are health care and education. The article “Toward Improved Health: Disaggregating Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Data” suggests that the ‘invisibility’ of Asian Pacific American sub-groups has “obscured our understanding of the sociocultural and ecopolitical factors that influence their health and quality of life.” (51:para. 2) And then, referring to children with educational needs, M. T. Padilla mentions one view that believes “Asians who need help aren’t going to get it as long as society believes Asians have no problems.” (43:para 18) It is the members of these “uncounted” sub-groups who suffer most from the model minority myth in areas such as education and health care.

## HATE CRIMES AGAINST ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Another ongoing battle for Asian Pacific Americans is the steady rise in hate crimes committed against this minority group. According to the National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, the number of reported hate crimes against Asian Pacific Islanders in 1999 was 454, up 25 from 1998. (52:para. 2) According to *The New Jersey Jewish News*, “nearly 8,000 hate crime incidents were reported in 1998, the latest year for which such figures are available. In other words, a hate crime is committed almost every hour of every day.” (34:para. 8) In 1995 alone, there was a 35% increase in reported hate crimes against Asian Pacific Americans. (23:para. 1) Most likely, the actual numbers are higher because many crimes are classified incorrectly (22:340) or go unreported (52:para. 3), possibly as many as half in some areas. (20:425)

In *Racial and Ethnic Relations*, reasons for the unreported crimes may include cultural and language barriers, poor results from the court system, distrust of police, and unfamiliarity of personal rights under the law. (20:425) The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium’s (NAPALC) 1994 report, “Audit of Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans,” cites four other possible causes: 1) “Decreases in social services attributable to the recessionary economy but blamed on recent immigrants” 2) “Abrupt racial integration of neighborhoods and schools, leading to ‘move-in’ violence” 3) “Deep-seated racial hatred, exacerbated by organized hate group activities and scapegoating by politicians” and 4) “Insensitive media coverage of minority groups and issues, leading to the perpetuation of stereotypes, instead of the recognition that Asian Pacific Americans are just as American as their neighbors.” (38:para 10)

The Consortium defines hate violence as “including any verbal or physical act that intimidates, threatens, or injures a person or person’s property because of membership in a targeted group,” (23:para 29) and, like it or not, many Asian Pacific Americans have had to face the often fatal perpetrators of hate crimes. Surrounded by 25 men, Nguyen Phan Luyen was attacked and brutally murdered while he was home on break from the University of Miami. At age 19, after the beating that caused a brain hemorrhage, he never regained consciousness before his death the next day. Neighbors from a nearby apartment said they heard the blows, and they heard the racial epithets. (17:paras. 1-4) Of the seven men arrested for the murder, one was acquitted and the others received prison sentences ranging from 13 to 50 years. (17:18)

In 1982, two White auto workers, frustrated by their perception of Japan’s role in U.S. economic problems, murdered Vincent Chin, a Chinese American. (35:52) The two men, Ebens and Nitz beat Chin with a baseball bat in the head, chest, and knees. Because they lacked a prior record, the judge fined them \$3,780 and gave them three years probation. Neither man ever served any time for the brutal slaying. (22:365) The most recent example is Joseph Iletto, a Filipino-American postal worker, who was gunned down by White supremacist, Buford Furrow, Jr. Furrow pled guilty and is expected to spend the rest of his life in prison. (5:3A) Names like Thona Huynh, Ming Hai “Jim” Loo, or Dr. Kaushal Sharan may not be familiar names, but they are listed among the victims of hate crimes. (22:337-338)

The NAPALC offered several recommendations on what could be done to address hate crime activity. The complete list is located at Appendix 1.

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 13125**

### **1. President’s Advisory Committee on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the Interagency Working Group on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

The Executive Order 13125 that President Clinton signed on June 7, 1999 is proving to be very beneficial to Asian Pacific-American communities. Executive Order 13125 consisted of two prongs. First, it established the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. According to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the “mandate of the Executive Order is to improve the quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by increasing participation in Federal programs; fostering research and data collection for Asian American and Pacific Islander populations and subpopulations; and, increasing public and private sector community involvement to improve the health and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide.” (45:para. 10) Martha Choe was named commission chair, and before presenting the committee’s interim report on January 17, 2001, she said, “This historic Executive Order has given our communities a new avenue of access to the federal government—*our* government—and we carry the mandates of that order with a great sense of responsibility and purpose.” (44:para. 8)

The second prong of Executive Order 13125 was the establishment of an Interagency Working Group on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. It calls for Federal departments to mobilize the resources that might meet the needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The group was set to look at available Federal programs for Asian Pacific Americans and their respective funding levels as a first order of business.

### **2. Committee Findings**

The President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders released its interim report in January 2001. In an attempt to provide a context for understanding the difficulties Asian Pacific Americans face, the Committee provides four themes that are inherently related to all of their findings and recommendations. They are as follows: (46:5-6)

- “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been ‘MIH’ – ‘Missing In History’ – as taught in classrooms, as reflected in the media and the arts, and as understood by government policymakers and program planners.” (46:5)
- “Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders often remain a footnote or asterisk as part of the broad ‘Asian American and Pacific Islander’ category, ignoring their importance and dignity as diverse, indigenous peoples.” (46:5)

- “Asian Americans are stereotyped as a ‘model minority’: passive, compliant, overachieving and without problems or needs.” (46:6)
- “Asian Americans continue to be viewed as perpetual foreigners, forever ‘aliens’ whose loyalty and place in America will always be questioned.” (46:6)

The Commission addressed five major, crosscutting issues that it felt held the most weight in terms of improving the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. A list of these five broad issues follows:

- “Improve data collection, analysis and dissemination for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.” (46:10)
- “Ensure access, especially linguistic access and cultural competence for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.” (46:10)
- “Protect civil rights and equal opportunity for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.” (46:10)
- “Strengthen and sustain Asian American and Pacific Islander community capacity.” (46:10)
- “Recognize and include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in federal programs and services.” (46:10)

After soliciting information from several Federal agencies, the Committee found that many agencies engage in outreach programs and that many are committed to increase recruiting and promotion of Asian Pacific Americans. However, the report does state that “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Federal workforce face a ‘glass ceiling’ limiting promotions to senior, supervisory and managerial levels.” (47:21) In addition, few Federal agencies disaggregate employment data into Asian Pacific-American sub-groups as they are not required to do so by law. (46:21)

### **3. Recommended Actions Presented by the Committee**

For each of the five major issues addressed in the report, the Committee has offered several pages of interim recommendations to Federal agencies. For a complete listing of these recommendations, see Appendix 2.

## ***SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS (Part II)***

### **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN MILITARY SERVICE**

#### **RECENT MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

Before June 21, 2000, only nine Asian Pacific Americans among 2,439 recipients had received the prestigious Medal of Honor, but after President Clinton's May 12th approval, 21 Distinguished Service Crosses previously awarded to Asian Pacific Americans were upgraded to Medals of Honor. (48:6). According to Rudi Williams of the American Force Press Service, "The upgrading of the medals stems from the efforts by Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, who authored the provisions of the 1996 Defense Authorization Act mandating a review of the service records of Asian Pacific Americans who received the Distinguished Service Cross." (57:para. 6) The Army reconsidered 104 records of Asian Pacific Americans awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to include 47 Japanese-Americans, 1 Korean American, 1 Hawaiian-Chinese-American, 54 Filipinos, and 1 Filipino-American. (28:para. 4)

After being reviewed by the Secretary of the Army, approximately 20 names were forwarded to Defense Secretary William Cohen and then to President Clinton. Nineteen of the Asian Pacific Americans selected as Medal of Honor recipients were Japanese Americans who fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team or 100th Infantry Battalion (28:para 3). Capt Francis Wai was of Chinese-Hawaiian ancestry, and recipient Rudolph Davila was of Filipino and Spanish ancestry. (28:para 4) Sen Akaka said, "The bias, discrimination and hysteria of that time unfortunately had an impact on the decision to award the military's highest honor to Asian and Pacific Islanders." (58:para 10) But now, the feeling among Asian Pacific-American veterans is that the 21 Medals of Honor "validate a long drive for justice." (28:para. 6) Shisuya Hayashi felt that the heroic actions of Asian Americans in WW II was a good thing for Asian Pacific Americans. Specifically, he said, "We've made it easier for them [Asian Pacific Americans] to live here." (48:para. 18)

Citations for Private Joe Hayashi, Second Lieutenant Rudolph B. Davila, Captain Francis B. Wai, and First Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye are listed below followed by a list of the other 17 recipients who received the Medal of Honor on 21 June, 2000. (10)

#### **1. Private Joe Hayashi**

"Private Joe Hayashi distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 20 and 22 April 1945, near Tendola, Italy. Ordered to attack a strongly defended hill that commanded all approaches to the village of Tendola, Private Hayashi skillfully led his men to a point within 75 yards of enemy positions before they were detected and fired upon. After dragging his wounded comrades to safety, he returned alone and exposed himself to small arms fire in order to direct and adjust mortar fire against hostile

emplacements. Boldly attacking the hill with the remaining men of his squad, he attained his objective and discovered that the mortars had neutralized three machine guns, killed 27, and wounded many others. On 22 April 1945, attacking the village of Tendola, Private Hayashi maneuvered his squad up a steep terraced hill to within 100 yards of the enemy. Crawling under intense fire to a hostile machine gun position, he threw a grenade, killing one enemy soldier and forcing the other members of the gun crew to surrender. Seeing four enemy machine guns delivering deadly fire upon other elements of his platoon, he threw another grenade, destroying a machine gun nest. He then crawled to the right flank of another machine gun position where he killed four enemy soldiers and forced the others to flee. Attempting to pursue the enemy, he was mortally wounded by a burst of machine pistol fire. The dauntless courage and exemplary leadership of Private Hayashi enabled his company to attain its objective. Private Hayashi's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army." (10)

## **2. Second Lieutenant Rudolph B. Davila**

"Second Lieutenant Rudolph B. Davila distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 28 May 1944, near Ardena, Italy. During the offensive that broke through the German mountain strongholds surrounding the Anzio beachhead, (then) Staff Sergeant Davila risked death to provide heavy weapons support for a beleaguered rifle company. Caught on an exposed hillside by heavy fire from a well-entrenched enemy force, his machine gunners were reluctant to risk putting their guns into action. Crawling 50 yards to the nearest machine gun, Staff Sergeant Davila opened fire on the enemy. In order to observe the effect of his fire, Sergeant Davila fired from the kneeling position ignoring the enemy fire that struck his tripod and passed between his legs. Ordering a gunner to take over, he crawled forward to a vantage point and directed the firefight with hand and arm signals until both hostile machine guns were silenced. Bringing his three remaining machine guns into action, he drove the enemy to a reserve position 200 yards to the rear. When he received a painful wound in the leg, he dashed to a burned tank and, despite the crash of bullets on the hull, engaged a second enemy force from its turret. Dismounting, he advanced 130 yards in short rushes, crawled 20 yards and charged into an enemy-held house to eliminate the defending force of five with a hand grenade and rifle fire. Climbing to the attic, he straddled a large shell hole in the wall and opened fire on the enemy. Although the walls of the house were crumbling, he continued to fire until he had destroyed two more machine guns. His intrepid actions brought desperately needed heavy weapons support to a hard-pressed rifle company and silenced four machine gunners, forcing the enemy to abandon their prepared positions. Staff Sergeant Davila's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army." (10)

### **3. Captain Francis B. Wai**

“Captain Francis B. Wai distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 20 October 1944, in Leyte, Philippine Islands. Captain Wai landed at Red Beach, Leyte, in the face of accurate, concentrated enemy fire from gun positions advantageously located in a palm grove bounded by submerged rice paddies. Finding the first four waves leaderless, disorganized, and pinned down on the open beach, he immediately assumed command. Issuing clear and concise orders and disregarding heavy enemy machine gun and rifle fire, he began to move inland without cover through the rice paddies. The men, inspired by his cool demeanor and heroic example, arose from their positions and followed him. During the advance, Captain Wai repeatedly determined the locations of enemy strong points by exposing himself deliberately and drawing their fire. In leading an assault upon the last remaining Japanese pillbox in the area, he was killed by its occupants. Captain Wai's courageous, aggressive, and inspiring leadership infused the men, even after his death, with the desire to advance and destroy the enemy. His intrepid and determined efforts were largely responsible for the speed with which the initial beachhead was secured. Captain Wai's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.” (10)

### **4. First Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye**

“First Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 21 April 1945, in the vicinity of San Terenzo, Italy. While attacking a defended ridge guarding an important road junction, First Lieutenant Inouye (then Second Lieutenant) skillfully directed his platoon through a hail of automatic weapons and small arms fire in a swift enveloping movement that resulted in the capture of an artillery and mortar post and brought his men to within 40 yards of the hostile force. Emplaced in bunkers and rock formations, the enemy halted the advance with crossfire from three machine guns. With complete disregard for personal safety, First Lieutenant Inouye boldly crawled up the treacherous slope to within five yards of the nearest machine gun and hurled two grenades, destroying the emplacement. Before the enemy could retaliate, he stood up and neutralized a second machine gun nest with a burst from his submachine gun. Although wounded by a sniper's bullet, he continued to engage other hostile positions at close range until an exploding grenade shattered his right arm. Despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation and continued to direct his platoon until enemy resistance was broken and his men were again deployed in defensive positions. In the attack, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and eight others captured. By his gallant, aggressive tactics and by his indomitable leadership, he enabled his platoon to advance through formidable resistance, and was instrumental in the capture of the ridge. First Lieutenant Inouye's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.” (10)

- Pvt. Barney F. Hajiro, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions in October 1944, at Bruyeres and Biffontaine, France.

- Pvt. Mikio Hasemoto, 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on Nov. 29, 1943, at Cerasuolo, Italy (posthumous).
- Pvt. Joe Hayashi, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions in April 1945, at Tendola, Italy.
- Tech. Sgt. Yeiki Kobashigawa, 100th Infantry Battalion, for action on June 2, 1944, at Lanuvio, Italy.
- Staff Sgt. Robert T. Kuroda, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on Oct. 20, 1944, at Bruyeres, France (posthumous).
- Pfc. Kaoru Moto, 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on July 7, 1944, at Castellina, Italy (posthumous).
- Pfc. Kiyoshi K. Muranaga, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on June 26, 1944, at Suvereto, Italy (posthumous).
- Pvt. Masato Nakae, 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on August 19, 1944, at Pisa, Italy (posthumous).
- Pvt. Shinyei Nakamine, 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on June 2, 1944, at La Torreto, Italy (posthumous).
- Pfc. William K. Nakamura, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on July 4, 1944, at Castellina, Italy (posthumous).
- Pfc. Joe M. Nishimoto, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on Nov. 7, 1944, at La Houssiere, France (posthumous).
- Sgt. (later Staff Sgt.) Allan M. Ohata, 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions in November 1943 at Cerasuolo, Italy.
- Tech. Sgt. Yukio Okutsu, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on April 7, 1945, at Mount Belvedere, Italy.
- Pfc. Frank H. Ono, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on July 4, 1944, at Castellina, Italy (posthumous).
- Staff Sgt. Kazuo Otani, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on July 15, 1944, at Pieve di S. Luce, Italy (posthumous).
- Pvt. George T. Sakato, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on Oct. 29, 1944, in Biffontaine, France.
- Tech. Sgt. Ted T. Tanouye, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on July 7, 1944, at Molina a Ventoabbto, Italy (posthumous).

## **RECENTLY RETIRED SENIOR RANKING ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN MILITARY MEMBERS**

### **1. Major General (ret) William Shao Chang Chen**

Maj Gen (ret) William Shao Chang Chen is known in the history books as the first Chinese-American major general in the armed forces of the United States. He was born in Shanghai, China on November 11, 1939 (60:44-46), but because of the United States' involvement in WWII, Chen's American father relocated the family to Ohio. After growing up in Washington D.C., Maj Gen (ret) Chen attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Mathematics in 1960 and a Master's Degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering in 1961. Maj Gen (ret) Chen was in the Reserve Officer Training Corps and was eventually commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After his first assignment to Fort Meade, Maryland,

in Army air defense, he was stationed at Redstone Arsenal, a location where he would have many assignments. He began the project management of weapon systems, and throughout his career, he was responsible for the engineering, production, testing, development, and support of different systems. Maj Gen (ret) Chen worked on the Hercules surface-to-air missile, the SAM-D system, and the Sergeant York, an air defense gun. He served overseas assignments in Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos, but the highlight of his career was his assignment as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Missile Command. With regards to heritage and career, Maj Gen (ret) Chen “believes it is incumbent upon Americans, nearly all of whom are descendant from immigrants, to acknowledge the impact ethnic cultures have had on American society.” (60:45) Maj Gen (ret) Chen retired in September of 1993. (60:44-46)

## **2. Major General (ret) Vernon Chong**

Maj Gen (ret) Vernon Chong “commanded three Air Force medical centers, served as command surgeon of two major air commands, and was Commander of the Joint Military Command, San Antonio.” (7:para. 2) He was also a “surgeon/flight surgeon member of the DOD launch site recover team for 15 space launches during the Apollo, Skylab, and Apollo-Soyuz programs.” (7:para. 2) Maj Gen (ret) Chong was born in Fresno, California on November 13, 1933, and he received his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University in 1955. (60:57-58) He finished Stanford University School of Medicine in 1958 and received his board qualifications in general surgery in 1963, the same year he entered the United States Air Force. He has been a member of many organizations such as the Pan Pacific Surgical Association, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, the Aerospace Medical Association, and the Society of NASA Flight Surgeons, to name a few. Maj Gen (ret) Chong retired on November 1, 1994. His last duty assignment was Command Surgeon, Headquarters U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. (7:para 1)

## **3. Major General (ret) John L. Fugh**

Maj Gen (ret) John L. Fugh holds the distinct honor of being the first Chinese American to be promoted to the rank of general in military history. (61:79-81) Born September 12, 1934 in Beijing, China, Maj Gen (ret) Fugh fled with his family to the United States prior to the victory of communist leader, Mao Zedong in China. After obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations from Georgetown University, he received his law degree from George Washington University Law School in 1960. (53:160) In 1961, he was commissioned as an officer in the Judge Advocate General Corp. Maj Gen (ret) Fugh was promoted to brigadier general in 1984, and he served as the Judge Advocate General of the Army from 1991-1993. Some of his work involved the publication of the *War Crimes Report*, “the first documentation of worldwide war crimes since World War II,” and litigation on issues such as promotion, homosexual exclusion, and conscientious objector policies. (60:84) Outside of the Army, Maj Gen (ret) Fugh received the following awards: Chinese American Planning Council, Honoree of the Year (1994), Asian Pacific Heritage Council, Outstanding Asian Pacific American

Award (1992), and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Exemplary Leadership & Dedicated Service to U.S. Government (1989). (53:160)

## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN POLITICS**

### **1. Julia Chang Bloch**

Julia Chang Bloch was the first Asian Pacific-American ambassador. She was born in China in 1942 but came to the United States at the age of nine. (60:19-20) She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1964 and her master's degree from Harvard University in 1967. Bloch has a long and distinguished career in the Peace Corps and public service. Throughout her career, she was a congressional staffer for the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs (1971), Deputy Director of the Office of African Affairs of the International Communication Agency (1977), and Assistant Administrator of the Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance Bureau (1981). In 1988, Bloch returned to Harvard University for some post-graduate work in U.S.-Japan Relations. In 1989, President George Bush appointed Julia Chang Bloch as the ambassador to Nepal. Bloch has been recognized as the National Institute for Women of Color, Outstanding Women of Color (1982), Organization of Chinese American Women, Woman of the Year (1987), Asian American Leadership Award (1989), and the National Association of Professional Asian Pacific American Women, Distinguished Public Service Award (1989). (53:26) In 1993, Bloch left public service and became a group executive vice-president for corporate relations at BankAmerica. (60:19-20)

### **2. Benjamin J. Cayetano**

Benjamin J. Cayetano, "Hawaii's fifth governor and first of Filipino ancestry," (24:para 1) was born on November 14, 1939 in Honolulu. (60:26-28) Cayetano received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1968. He received a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School in 1971. When Cayetano returned to Hawaii, he was determined to make a difference. An appointment to the Hawaii Housing Authority thrust him into public life. He won all eight of his elections between 1974 and 1998, and "he served twelve years in the Hawaiian State Legislature – two terms in the House from 1975 to 1978 and two terms in the Senate from 1979 to 1986." (24:para. 2) Cayetano is currently serving his second term as governor of Hawaii. Throughout his political career, he has addressed issues such as the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam Veterans, automobile insurance, and the Hula Mae loan program to provide low-interest housing loans. (24:para. 6) Some of Cayetano's many awards include the Edward A. Dickson Alumnus of the Year Award, UCLA (1998), the Aloha Council Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizens Award (1997), and the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health Excellence in Leadership Medallion (1991). (24:para. 5)

### **3. Norman Y. Mineta**

Norman Y. Mineta, the recently confirmed Transportation Secretary under the Bush administration, was born in 1931 to parents who were denied citizenship based on the Oriental Exclusion Law of 1924. (60:259-260) At the age of 10, dressed in a Cub Scout uniform, Mineta and his family were put in internment camps. After getting his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1953, he served in the U.S. Army for three years. Mineta's interest in the community through organizations like the Japanese American Citizen League, the Rotary Club, and the San Jose Chamber of Commerce eventually led to public service. In 1967, he became San Jose's first minority councilman. When he became mayor in 1971, he was the first Japanese-American mayor of a large city. Throughout his time in the House, beginning in 1974, he served on the Budget Committee, the Policy and Steering Committee, and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Mineta served in the House until 1995. (60:259:260) Afterwards, he became a vice president at Lockheed Martin. He returned to public service when President Clinton named him Commerce Secretary in 1999. Most recently, President Bush named Mineta as Transportation Secretary. According to *USA Today*, "Mineta, President Bush's lone Democratic Cabinet member, was confirmed unanimously by the Senate even before the committee finished questioning him." (33:B1) But to date, Mineta may best be known for the work he did to redress the injustices that were imposed on people of Japanese descent in this country during WWII. As a result of his efforts, eventually the U.S. government would issue an apology and a \$1.2 billion award to the descendents of those who were interned. (60:259-260)

## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN BUSINESS**

### **1. Phoebe Eng**

Phoebe Eng was born in 1961 to second-generation immigrants from Hong Kong and Taiwan. (60:74-75) She received a law degree from New York University School of Law in 1989, and at 32, was an established "corporate and securities attorney with the international law firm of Coudert Brothers." (60:74) In law, Eng was often faced with racial stereotypes, and eventually issues of race were a factor in her career change to publishing. (60:74) In 1992, Eng joined the staff at *A. Magazine* as a publisher. *A. Magazine* is a quarterly magazine targeted towards second and third-generation Asian Americans between 18 and 40. It mixes "hard news with profiles of Asians in the arts and business...It also reports on mainstream media and how it portrays, or avoids portraying, Asian Americans, calling attention to especially offensive stereotyping." (60:75) In 1993, Eng was honored with the Arthur T. Vanderbilt Medal and the New York City Mayor's Innovator Award for outstanding young businesswoman while the circulation of *A. Magazine* continued to increase. (60:74-75) In November of 1999, the magazine's circulation had increased to over 180,000 readers. (58:para. 9)

## **2. Andrew Byongsoo Kim**

Andrew Byongsoo Kim was born in Seoul, Korea on September 12, 1936. (60:152-153) After the Korean War, Kim graduated from high school in 1955. Kim traveled to the United States to study at Adelphi University where he received his bachelor's degree in 1960. Later, in 1963, he obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. Kim's career in the financial arena began in 1963 when he became a financial analyst for a brokerage firm, Francis I. duPont. In 1965, he moved to another brokerage firm, F. Eberstadt and Company. The magazine *Institutional Investor* named him a member of the All American Team for investment research for 12 straight years. In 1977, Kim was made Director of Research followed by Executive Vice President. In 1985, he left the firm to work in various places on Wall Street. In 1987, Kim founded his personal company, Sit/Kim International Investment. In the field of finance, Kim noted that it might have been easier for Asian Americans in the 60s and 70s because now they may be seen as a threat. (60:153) In 1992, Kim was put on the board of trustees of the Asia Society which works to educate all people about all Asian cultures. (60:152-153)

## **3. An Wang**

An Wang was an inventor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist who was born in 1920 and died at the age of 70 in 1990. (62:355-357) Wang was born in Shanghai, China on February 7, and as he was growing up and beginning to study, China was undergoing some very tumultuous times. The struggle for power between groups like the nationalists, the communists, and the Japanese made life in China very difficult at that time. Although Wang was safe at the University in Shanghai, he lost both his parents and a sister because of war. In 1945, Wang, already an engineer, applied to be sent to the United States to study management and technology. Wang received a master's degree in 1946 and a doctorate in applied physics in 1947 from Harvard. From 1948 to 1951, in the Harvard Computation Lab, Wang worked with Howard Aiken, a leader in the field of computer science at the time. Here, Wang discovered a way for a machine to "record and access large amounts of information without mechanical motion" (62:356) through the use of a magnetic memory core. Wang Laboratories began in 1951, and it had great success until 1985 when it was affected by the economic depression. The company marketed desktop calculators, typewriters with memory, and the computer monitor, to name a few. But more notable than his success is Wang's generosity to his community. Some projects and organizations he contributed to include the Boston Performing Arts Center, a factory in Boston's Chinatown that was built to create jobs, Harvard and Wellesley College, and the Wang Institute of Graduate Studies in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. In 1984, *Forbes* magazine thought Wang to be the fifth-richest person in America. (62:355-357)

## ASIAN AMERICANS IN LITERATURE AND PHOTOJOURNALISM

### 1. Amy Tan

Amy Tan's novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, catapulted the then relatively new fiction author to instant success when it remained on the *New York Times* best-seller list from April of 1989 to November of that same year. (60:370-372) *The Joy Luck Club* was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Award. In 1987, Tan took an influential trip to China with her mother which allowed her to "connect with her Chinese heritage, something she had not been exposed to in her family, which wanted to become Americanized." (62:332) After her return, she completed *The Joy Luck Club* in 1989. With a background in English/Linguistics plus a popular novel translated into over 17 languages, Tan felt great pressure related to the expectation of her second novel. With the thought that some might label her early success as a fluke, Tan agonized over her second novel which would be published as *The Kitchen God's Wife*. Eventually, based largely on her mother's own experiences, she writes about the coming of age in China before, during, and after WWII. *The Kitchen God's Wife*, like *The Joy Luck Club*, won the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award and critics commended it as equal to or better than *The Joy Luck Club*. The film version of *The Joy Luck Club*, directed by Wayne Wang, was released in 1993. According to *Asian American Biography*, "The movie was true to the spirit of the novel-an accomplishment in itself-and marked a sort of milestone in being the first major Hollywood production starring a nearly 100 percent Asian American cast." (62:333) Tan continues to write. (60:370-372)

### 2. Laurence Yep

Laurence Yep is a highly respected author, especially in the genre of young adult literature. (62:390-393) Yep, a third-generation Chinese American, was born on June 14, 1948. He grew up in a predominantly African-American neighborhood, but he commuted to Chinatown for school. Later, he attended a private high school where one of his teachers encouraged him to write. Yep received his Bachelor's Degree in Literature from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1970. Five years later, he earned his Ph. D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Yep's early work was primarily in the science-fiction genre; however, "his first-person narrative about strangers and aliens from a faraway world facing a totally foreign culture, he was actually exploring his own feelings of being caught between his two worlds, China and America." (60:435) Two of his books, *Dragonwings* and *Dragon's Gate* were named Newberry Honor books, the highest recognition for children's literature. *Dragon's Gate* is about the Chinese immigrants that worked on the transcontinental railroad while *Dragonwings* is a true story about a Chinese-American aviator in 1909. Many of his other novels, short stories, and plays relay Chinese-American experiences. Yep's work is commonly used in multi-cultural curriculums. (62:390-393)

### 3. Huynh Cong Ut

Huynh Cong Ut was born March 29, 1951 in Long An Province, southwest of Saigon. (62:347-349) Following the footsteps of an older brother who was killed on the job, Ut, at the age of 14, began working in the darkroom at the Associated Press bureau in Saigon. Despite severe reservations by his boss, in 1966 the fifteen-year-old Ut became a combat photographer. He traveled to places such as Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and North and South Vietnam while covering the Vietnam War. He was unafraid of his hostile workplace, one of the many hazards of a combat photographer. In fact, Ut was injured twice, once in the stomach and once in the chest. Ut's claim to fame came in 1972 with the unforgettable photo of a nine-year-old girl, Kim Phuc, running from her village after it had been accidentally hit by napalm. She ran with "her naked body seared and nearly smoldering from the incendiary defoliant dropped on her home." (60:389) For this photograph, Ut was awarded the "Pulitzer Prize for photography, the World Press Photo Award, [and] the George Polk Memorial Award." (60:389) Through his photography, Ut highlighted the horror of the Vietnam War and fueled the anti-war movement in the United States. (60:388-389, 62:347-349)

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN ENTERTAINMENT

### 1. Tia Carrere

Of primarily Filipino descent, Tia Carrere was born Althea Janairo in 1969 in Hawaii. (60:24-26) After being spotted in Honolulu by a movie producer's mother, her acting career began. Early on, she had movie roles in *Aloha Summer*, *Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man*, and *Showdown in Little Tokyo*. Also, she played the role of a nursing student, Jade, on the soap opera *General Hospital*. The year 1992 brought two major movie roles for Carrere where she played Cassandra in *Wayne's World* and Sean Connery's main love in *Rising Sun*. Although Carrere found success in the acting arena, she is also interested in pursuing her singing career. She contributed two cuts on the *Wayne's World* platinum sound track album and is continuing to work on her solo style. Tia was her childhood nickname, and her last name was chosen to affect a "more erotic image." (60:24)

### 2. Margaret Cho

A second-generation Korean American, Margaret Cho, born December 5, 1968, was in her early twenties "when she became known as the reigning Asian-American funny woman." (60:53) Although Cho initially pursued a career in acting, she became "discouraged by the lack of serious roles available to Asian women." (61:59) At a friend's suggestion, Cho began to explore stand-up comedy and quickly found her niche. Primarily, she draws from generational and cultural conflicts, gender, and ethnicity as the source of her comedy. According to the biography in *Asian American Biography*, "Many in the Asian-American community view her popularity as mainstream acceptance of an Asian in a nonstereotypical role," (61:59) and Cho believes that "comedy offers an opportunity to spotlight Asian Americans." (60:54) Cho has appeared on the *Bob Hope*

*Special, Evening at the Improv, the Aresenio Hall Show, and Star Search.* After becoming the West Coast division champion of the U.S. College Comedy competition in 1991, she appeared on MTV's *Half-Hour Comedy Hour*, Lifetime's *Six Comics in Search of a Generation*, and Fox's *Comic Strip Live*. Cho created and starred in the first Asian-American sitcom *All American Girl* featuring a Korean-American family. However, the show was cancelled after the first season. (61:58-60)

### **3. Ang Lee**

Ang Lee, born in 1954, recently brought home the coveted Golden Globe Award for best director for his Chinese-language film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. This same film is currently nominated for several Oscars for the 73rd Academy Awards. Born in Taiwan, Ang Lee immigrated to the United States after failing the annual college entrance examinations in Taiwan. He studied at the University of Illinois and later at New York University film school where he was a classmate of Spike Lee. He won the best student film award with his thesis *Fine Line*. After several dead-ends, Lee entered two of his "screenplays in the Taiwanese government's annual screenplay competition," (60:181) winning both first and second place. As a result, he received \$500,000 to fund his film. Films that Lee has directed include: *Pushing Hands, The Wedding Banquet, Sense and Sensibility, The Ice Storm, and Eat Drink Man Woman.* (2:para. 2) In Taiwan, *The Wedding Banquet* earned \$4 million which was the best any movie had ever done in Lee's native Taiwan. (60:180-181)

## **ASIAN PACIFIC-AMERICAN ATHLETES**

### **1. Michael Chang**

On February 22, 1972, professional tennis player Michael Chang was born to Joe and Betty Chang, both immigrants from Taiwan. (60:35-37) Seventeen-year-old "Chang became the youngest male tennis player in the world to win a grand slam tennis tournament and the first American man in 34 years to win the French Open." (61:35) In 1989, when Chang unexpectedly won the French Open, he was ranked 19th. Although the victory over Ivan Lendl in the semi-finals of the French Open was one of Chang's most difficult and spectacular victories, he "became the victim of blatant racism" (61:38) when three publications printed racial slurs or negative references to his ethnicity. However, Chang remained focused on the final round where he defeated the predicted winner, Stefan Edberg. Shortly following that momentous victory, Chang suffered a broken hip during practice in 1990, but in 1992 and 1994, he was ranked fourth and seventh, respectively. Since turning professional at age 16, Michael Chang has won over \$4.5 million. (61:35-39)

### **2. Eugene Chung**

Eugene Chung, a Korean American, was born in Maryland on June 14, 1969. (61:69-71) At 6 feet 5 inches and 295 pounds, Chung shatters the stereotype that all Asians are small in stature. (22:604) After winning district and regional awards, Chung went on to

play football at Virginia Tech “where he was a first team All-American and All Big East after his senior year.” (61:69) In 1992, Chung became the first Asian American drafted in the first round of the National Football League where he was picked up by the New England Patriots. Chung was only the third Asian American to play in the NFL, although today a few more players have joined him. After his first year, though plagued by injury and the death of his father, Chung was named to the All-Rookie team. Chung felt that his time in the NFL would benefit the Korean-American community, (61:70) and “in 1992, he was presented with the Sports Award of the Mainstream American Award for Excellence by the Asian Pacific Coalition. (22:604) Chung was eventually picked up by the Kansas City Chiefs.

### **3. Kristi Yamaguchi**

Kristi Yamaguchi, born July 12, 1971, reached for the gold and got it. (60:423-425) This Japanese-American figure skater made history on many fronts. In 1989, Yamaguchi was the first woman in thirty-four years to win two medals at the U.S. National Championships with a silver medal in the singles competition and a gold medal in the pairs competition. She continued her climb to the top with a second-place finish in the 1990 U.S. National Championships and a fourth-place finish in the 1990 World Championships. Eventually, Yamaguchi was to win the gold medal at the 1991 World Championships followed by her life’s dream, a gold medal at the Olympic Games held in Albertville, France. Although many business media experts thought that her Japanese-American ancestry would hinder endorsements often offered to Olympic winners, she became the only athlete featured on a Special K cereal box. She also signed contracts with Hoechst Celanese Corporation, DuraSoft contact lenses, and Wendy’s. In September of 1992, Yamaguchi turned professional. Although both her parents and grandparents were relocated to Japanese internment camps during WWII, they are proud of how she has represented the United States. (60:423-425) Additionally, Yamaguchi was recognized with the following awards: the Taiwanese American Citizens League, Outstanding Asian American (1989), the Japanese Americans Citizens League, Japanese American of the Biennium (1990-92), the Nikkei Foundation of America, Outstanding Japanese American Award (1991), and the United States Pan Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, Excellence 2000 Award. (53:669)

## **CONCLUSION**

As the fastest growing minority in the United States, Asian Pacific Americans can no longer be overlooked, forgotten, or dismissed. President Clinton’s Proclamation declaring May 2000 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month reads, “[w]hether recent immigrants or descendants of families who have been here for generations, Asian American and Pacific Islanders embody many of our Nations core values, including devotion to family, commitment to hard work, and pride in their heritage.” (40:para. 1) Asian Pacific Americans can boast in a long line of contributions in every field whether it be science, sports, business, politics, or literature. However, this progress has not come without the overcoming of many obstacles that are more real today than ever. Asian Pacific Americans continue to fight the model minority myth, hate crime activity,

stereotypes, the lack of disaggregated information on Asian Pacific-American sub-groups, and the glass ceiling effect on upper management positions, to name a few. Martha Choe, Chairman of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, said the following at the end of a recent speech, "With a keen sense of yesterday and both eyes focused on tomorrow...we [Asian Pacific Americans] are a people looking forward." (44: para 31) And as Asian Pacific Americans look towards the future, they continue in the hope and the determination that they will also be emerging together.

## **APPENDIX 1: THE NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CONSORTIUM'S (NAPALC) 1994 REPORT**

### **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS (38:para 11)**

- Hate crimes should be swiftly and completely condemned by political, religious, business, community, and education leaders.
- All suspected hate crimes should be thoroughly investigated.
- All federal, state, and local agencies charged with the collection of hate crime statistics under the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act and similar local laws should collect those statistics promptly and completely, with the threat of economic disincentives for noncomplying jurisdictions.
- More funding should be given to the Justice Department's Community Relations Service and other efforts to bring communities together before explosive incidents result in injuries and property damage.
- Greater attention on all levels of government should be paid to increasing economic redevelopment in our impoverished inner cities.
- The Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act should be reauthorized and funded, and the Penalty Enhancement Act and Bias Crimes Compensation Act should be passed and funded.
- State statutes and regulations to address issues of data collection, civil rights protections, and penalty enhancement for bias crimes should be passed and enforced.
- Multicultural communication, collaboration, and dispute-resolution training for judges, lawyers, caseworkers, and others involved in the legal system should be implemented with dispatch in every court system.
- More Asian-language interpreters should be hired in courts and police stations located near Asian Pacific American communities.
- Ethnically and linguistically diverse police officers on federal, state, and local levels should be recruited, screened, and given multicultural communication, collaboration, and dispute-resolution training.
- Independent prosecutors should be appointed when local prosecutors are not adequately addressing suspected anti-Asian animus.
- Specialized hate crime units for prosecutor and law enforcement offices should be established where appropriate.

- Civilian review boards to oversee police misconduct cases should be created and given adequate funding.
- Community policing should be encouraged and funded.
- Asian Pacific American victims should be more vigilant about identifying and reporting hate crimes.
- Finally, and most importantly, education efforts among youth should be encouraged and funded, so that multicultural communication, collaboration, and dispute-resolution skills can be taught in schools and other appropriate settings.

## **APPENDIX 2: PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

### **INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES (46:22-26)**

“Based on our preliminary review of the extensive testimony and information we have received from the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and the detailed federal agency responses, the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders makes the following interim recommendations to the federal agencies as they implement their Fiscal Year 2001 Plans and begin development of their Three Year Implementation Plans under the Executive Order:” (46:22)

#### **INSTITUTIONALIZE EACH FEDERAL AGENCY’S IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS INITIATIVE**

- Adopt specific, measurable objectives related to this Initiative as part of each agency’s Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) plans and objectives.
- Establish specific goals for increasing funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander programs and services.
- Support formalization of agencies’ Asian American and Pacific Islander advisory bodies.
- Support formalization of agencies’ Asian American and Pacific Islander employee organizations.
- Support designation and funding of staff positions dedicated to the implementation of this White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- Collect and analyze employee data further disaggregated by Asian American and Pacific Islander subgroups, pay and service levels, geo-graphic location and gender; and develop and implement focused and coordinated recruitment, training, retention and promotion strategies to increase the number of underrepresented Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the federal workforce.
- Increase interagency coordination of Asian American and Pacific Islander activities.
- Institutionalize mechanisms to improve communication, collaboration and coordination between the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the Office of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the Interagency Working Group and the Coordinating Committee.

## **IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION FOR ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

- In order to meet the 2003 deadline, immediately formulate a plan to implement the 1997 Office of Management and Budget Standards in all federal data collection, analyses and dissemination.
- Conduct systematic review of all federal data collection instruments, and all sampling and analytical methods in order to maximize the inclusion of disaggregated Asian American and Pacific Islander subpopulations.
- Increase data collection, analyses and dissemination about under-represented Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- Develop and implement ongoing mechanisms for identifying, training and funding Asian American and Pacific Islander researchers working with the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, including researchers at non-academic institutions.

## **ENSURE ACCESS, ESPECIALLY LINGUISTIC ACCESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE, FOR ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

- Commit specific program and personnel resources to the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Executive Order 13166 increasing access for individuals with Limited English Proficiency.
- Identify and maximize the utilization of coordinated federal and community resources for culturally competent translation and interpretation.
- Develop and use multiple formats and media to increase linguistic access.
- Increase utilization of Asian and Pacific Islander language radio, print and television media for community outreach and education.
- Commit research and programmatic resources to develop standards and implement cultural competence in all programs and services.
- Include consideration of linguistic access and cultural competence in all federal funding and reviews of funding applications.
- Increase the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on all federal grant review panels.
- Proactively seek and create opportunities to integrate and preserve Asian and Pacific Islander cultures in all programs and services where appropriate.

## **PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS**

- Address issues of racial profiling against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by law enforcement; provide full disclosure and accounting of the investigations and prosecutions of Asian American employees at the Department of Energy and in other national security positions.
- Support enforcement and strengthening of hate crimes legislation and ensure vigorous monitoring and prosecution of violations of federal civil rights laws.
- Support domestic violence prevention and service programs focused on Asian American and Pacific Islander women, children and elders.
- Proactively enforce equal employment opportunity, wage and hour and occupational health and safety laws.
- Increase access to federal education and training programs and increase federal support for bilingual and other educational programs that support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- Ensure that Asian American and Pacific Islander women are included in all relevant programs and services and have equal opportunities for access and participation.
- Proactively reduce barriers to participation in federal programs and services by persons with disabilities.
- Include issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in diversity activities and nondiscrimination efforts as well as in the administration of federal programs and services.
- Improve customer service, reduce delays and address inequities in the administration of U.S. immigration laws.
- Analyze the impacts of the welfare and immigration reform laws of 1996.
- Ensure the provision of full and equitable benefits to Filipino American World War II veterans.
- Support the provision of bilingual ballots and other methods for increasing civic participation among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

## **STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

- Increase outreach, education and funded partnership agreements with Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations and businesses.
- Increase coordination of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander programs for minorities, women, the disabled, veterans, and small business interests.
- Fund targeted technical assistance programs that increase the participation of Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations in federal grant programs.
- Support the organizational development and sustainability of Asian American and Pacific Islander community-based organizations and businesses.
- Support housing development and promotion of home ownership in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
- Reduce the “digital divide” for underrepresented Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, especially individuals with lower incomes, lower literacy and Limited English Proficiency.
- Establish a designation of “Asian American and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and Organizations” as the focus for outreach, recruitment, research and program development, implementation and evaluation activities.

## **RECOGNIZE AND INCLUDE NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

- Continue coordination of this Initiative with other federal initiatives and activities focused on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
- Support reconciliation with Native Hawaiians.
- Support the self-determination of Chamorros and Samoans.
- Support the return of lands held by the U.S. government and military to Native Hawaiians and the people of Guam.
- Improve the collection, analyses and dissemination of data about Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders while respecting Pacific Islander cultures.
- Reduce the housing, health, education and economic disparities among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

- Support capacity-building activities for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities both in the Pacific Islands and in the continental U.S.
- Support the perpetuation and integration of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures in all relevant federal programs and services.
- Reduce the “digital divide” for Pacific Islanders.

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