

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Peace
2007

Preface

Chief Librarian, Karen Olender, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), created this document that provides background and reference material information for Asian Pacific Heritage Month 2007. This document is posted on the Internet at: <https://www.deomi.org>. Additionally, there are various materials on the web site that support other national observances.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author, and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, or the Department of Defense.

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Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2007

Theme: Pursuing Excellence through Leadership, Diversity, and Unity

A joint congressional resolution established Asian Pacific American Heritage week in 1978 to coincide with two important events in American history—the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States, May 7, 1843, and the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the building of the transcontinental railroad which was completed May 10, 1869. The observance was expanded in 1992 to include the entire month of May.

Looking through the reference book, **Extraordinary Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**, revised edition, authored by Susan Sinnott in 2003, one can see the diversity of ethnic heritages represented within the Asian Pacific American community. These groups include Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Hmong Americans, Indian Americans, Japanese Americans, Pacific Islander Americans, and Vietnamese Americans. The members of Congress, Nobel Prize winners, award-winning writers, social activists, musicians, athletes, and Olympic team members profiled, achieved great success, and provide excellent leadership models.

Listing of Suggested Books and Audiovisual Resources

Asian Heritage

Asian American Experiences in the United States: Oral Histories of First to Fourth Generation Americans from China, the Philippines, Japan, India, the Pacific Islands, Vietnam and Cambodia

Lee, Joann Faung Jean (1991)

Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc.

- Over 40 people of Asian heritage tell about their lives and experiences in America.

Asian American Issues

Danico, Mary Yu and Franklin Ng (2004)

- This book looks at contentious issues of concern for Asian Americans. Each issue contains background information on the topic, pro and con viewpoints, and questions for discussion.

Asian Americans: Contemporary Trends and Issues

Edited by Pyong Gap Min (2006) 2nd edition

Thousand Oaks, CA.: Pine Forge Press

- This book serves as an introduction to the diversity, economic accomplishments, and obstacles faced by Asian Americans.

Chinese Heritage

Chinatown: Strangers in a Strange Land

A&E Television Networks, the History Channel, 2000 (VHS, 100 minutes)

- An in-depth look into how Chinese immigrants prospered, yet preserved their traditions and embraced the opportunities North America provided them.

The Chinese in America: A Narrative History

Chang, Iris (2003)

New York: Viking

- Chang chronicles the epic story of Chinese immigrants who built America's railroads, searched for gold, and lived on the western frontier. Their descendants found success in America, despite racist and exclusionary laws.

Filipino Heritage

Home Bound: Filipino American Lives across Cultures, Communities, and Countries

Espiritu, Yen Le (2003)

Berkeley, CA.: University of California Press

- Based on the author's interviews with more than 100 Filipinos in California, the book discusses the meaning of community, home, and intergenerational relations, and how Filipinos have integrated into the American workplace.

Hmong Heritage

Hmong and American: Stories of Transition to a Strange Land

Mote, Sur Murphy (2004)

Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company

- Twelve Hmong immigrants from Laos tell their stories about their struggles adapting to life in America. An appendix is also provided that explains Hmong language and names.

Indian Heritage

New Roots in America's Sacred Ground: Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in Indian America

Joshi, Khyati Y. (2006)

New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press

- The author interviews 41 second-generation Indian Americans and analyzes their experiences, especially focusing on religion, race, and ethnicity.

Japanese Heritage

And Justice for All

Tateishi, John (1984)

New York: Random House

- The author, who was interned when he was three, provides an oral history of 30 Japanese Americans who tell about their personal feelings and experiences of being confined in a detention camp.

Nisei: The Quiet Americans

Hosokawa, Bill (1969)

New York: William Morrow & Company

- Hosokawa recounts the Japanese American immigrant experience, the ordeals faced and conquered, including internment during WWII.

Korean Heritage

Korean Americans

Hurh, Won Moo (1998)

Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press Series: The New Americans

- Divided into four parts: Part 1 introduces the history of Korea and ethnic heritage of Korean Americans; Part 2 provides information about the immigrant experience; Part 3 covers the adjustment and adaptation to the United States; and Part 4 details the unique characteristics of Korean Americans and their impact on American society.

Korean Americans: Past, Present, and Future

Edited by Ilpyong J. Kim (2004)

Elizabeth, N.J.: Hollym International Corp.

- This book is a review of the history of Koreans in America, providing an introduction to the Korean American experience. Various authors write on such topics as Korean-owned businesses, family dynamics, and the role of religion in Korean American lives.

Pacific Islander Heritage

Hawaiian Journey

Mullins, Joseph G. (1978)

Honolulu, Hawaii: Mutual Publishing Company

- This book is an illustrated pictorial history of Hawaii, featuring the information on the rulers of Hawaii, culture, immigrant history, and the transition to modern Hawaii as known today.

Oceania: An Introduction to the Cultures and Identities of Pacific Islanders

Strathern, Andrew; Pamela J. Stewart; Laurence M. Carucci; Lin Poyer; Richard Feinberg & Cluny Macpherson (2002)

Durham, North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press

- This textbook presents readers who want to learn more about peoples from the Pacific with a survey of the history, cultural patterns, and problems of this region.

Vietnamese Heritage

A Sense of Duty: My Father, My American Journey

Pham, Quang X. (2005)

New York: Ballantine Books

- A personal account of the author and his father's experiences. The author fled Vietnam as a refugee in 1975. After graduating from UCLA and gaining his citizenship, he enlisted in the U.S. Marines, became a helicopter pilot, and served

in the first Gulf War. His father, a pilot in the South Vietnamese Air Force, was unable to escape after the fall of Saigon and was imprisoned for over 12 years before he was allowed to emigrate to join his family in America.

Military History

Beyond Barbed Wire

Kit Parker Films, c2001 (DVD, 3 hours, 45 minutes)

- This DVD has stories from members of the 442nd Division, one of the most highly decorated Army units, whose families were interned while they fought for America. The movie, *Go for Broke*, is based on the exploits of the 442nd; and two documentary studies of internment camps are provided--*Japanese Relocation* and *Challenge to Democracy* are included.

Brief Flight: Hazel Ying Lee and the Women Who Flew Pursuit

LAWAS Productions, c2002 (VHS, 56 minutes)

- Ming-Na narrates this video about Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for the U.S. military.

From Pearl Harbor to Saigon: Japanese American Soldiers and the Vietnam War

Whelchel, Toshio (1999)

New York: Verso

- Over one hundred Japanese American veterans who served in Vietnam tell about their lives before joining the military, and their experiences in Vietnam.

Go For Broke: A Pictorial History of the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team

Tanaka, Chester (1982)

Novato, CA.: Presidio Press

- This book contains photographs of 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The unit earned seven Presidential citations, while individual members earned one Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars and 9,486 Purple Hearts during World War II.

Japanese Americans in WWII: Going for Broke

Distributed by New Dimension Media, 2006 (DVD, 25 minutes)

- Discusses the thousands of young men of Japanese American ancestry who volunteered to fight in WWII despite the imprisonment of their families in internment camps.

Just Americans: How Japanese Americans Won a War at Home and Abroad

Asahina, Robert (2005)

New York: Gotham Books

- This book is about Japanese American participation in WWII, and focuses on military combat units. The 100th Battalion soldiers were mostly from Hawaii while the 442nd Regiment Combat Team were mostly from internment camps.

Serving Our Country: Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II

Moore, Brenda L. (2003)

New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press

- Dr. Moore provides firsthand accounts of the experiences of Japanese American women who joined the Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Web Sites of Interest

Asian and Asian American Organizations

http://awib.org/content_frames/directory/asian

- Lists Asian and Pacific Islander organizations by state. Includes culture, resource, professional, legal, health, etc., links.

Asian-Nation

<http://www.asian-nation.org/heritage.shtml>

- Includes historical articles, statistics, and famous National Museum of American History

Asian/Pacific Americans in the U.S. Army

<http://www.army.mil/asianpacificsoldiers/resources.html>

- Provides links to news stories, posters/wallpaper, etc.

Asian Pacific Americans

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/events/programdetail.cfm?newskey=38>

- Provides both historical and current information on Asian Pacific Americans. Events, programs, and exhibitions are listed.

Hawaii

http://www.smithsonianglobalsound.org/cultural_heritage_05.aspx

- Features online exhibits, video clips, and music of Hawaii.

Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation Inc.

- <http://womensmemorial.org/Education/APA.html>
This link features Asian Pacific American servicewomen's accomplishments.

PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/>

- Check your local PBS station for special programming.