

# OBSERVANCE

MAY



*We Answered  
the Call!*

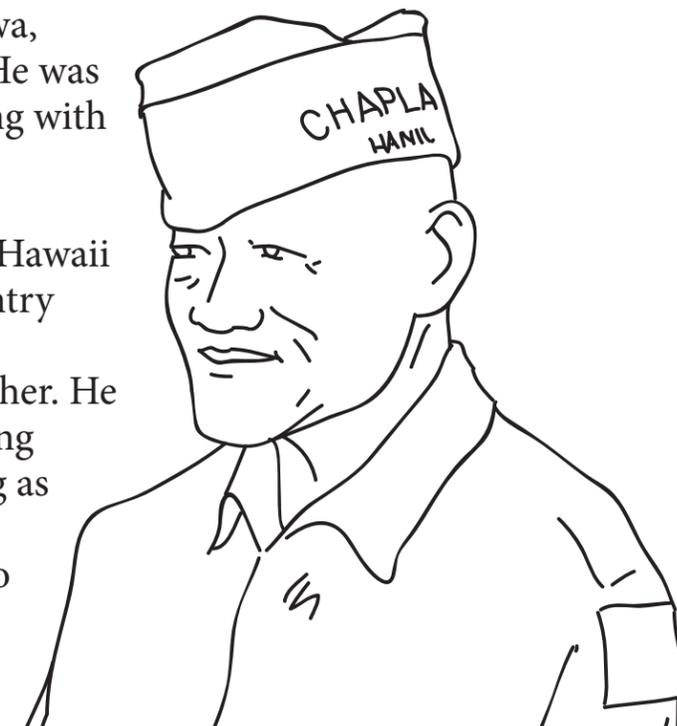
*Sergeant Domingo Los Banos, Jr.  
1st Filipino Infantry Regiment*

**HONORING THE PAST,  
SECURING THE FUTURE.**

**Domingo Los Banos, Jr.** was born in Wahiawa, before Hawaii officially entered into statehood. He was raised on Kauai's pineapple plantation fields along with his siblings.

Los Banos became part of the 300 recruits from Hawaii that made up the First and Second Filipino Infantry Regiments.

After serving in the war he became a school teacher. He worked his way up the ranks, eventually becoming Hawaii's first Filipino principal, and then serving as a Hawaii State Department of Education district superintendent for Leeward – the first Filipino to hold this position.

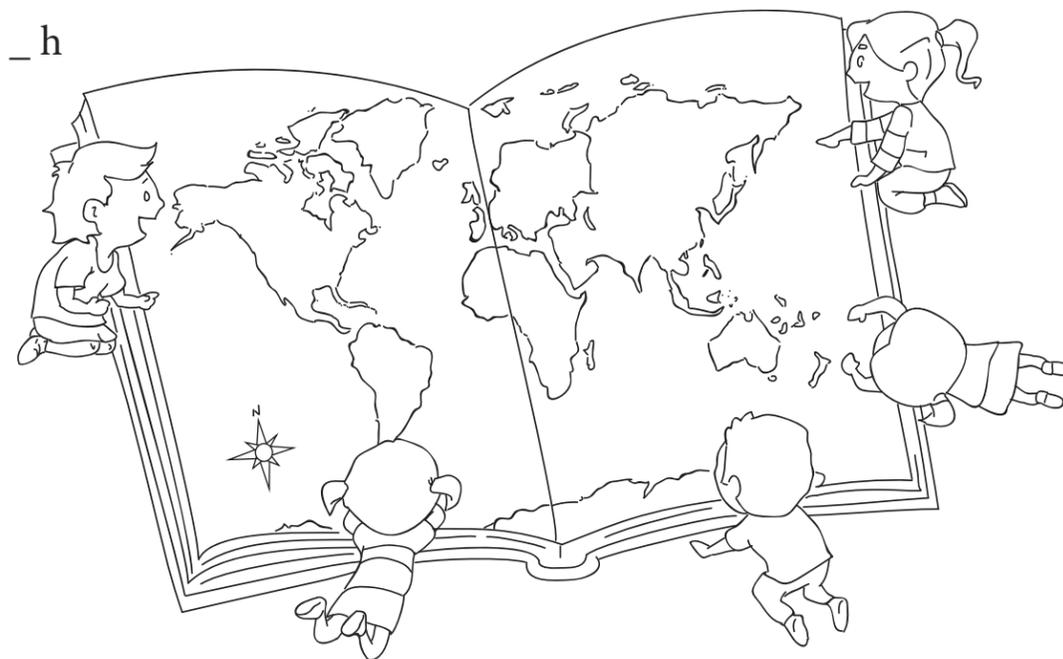


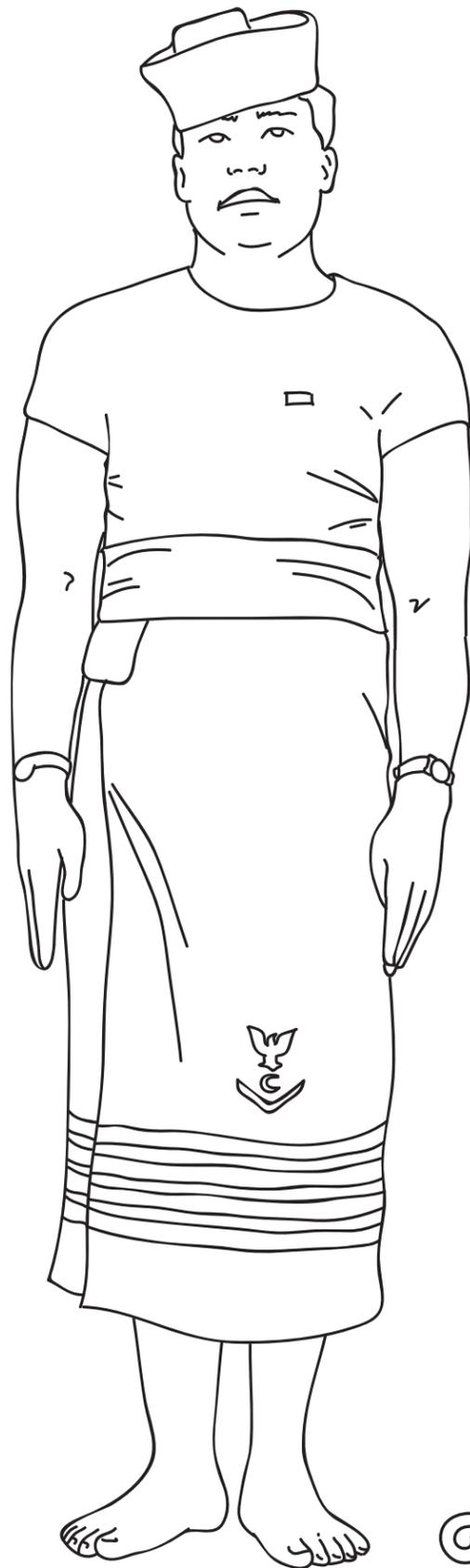
**Did you know,** Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders come from over fifty cultures and speak just as many languages? Chinese is the third most popular language in America after English and Spanish.

### Can you unscramble some of these countries?

1. pjnaa J  \_
2. aioonlmg  \_ g \_ \_ i \_ \_
3. gbnahlades \_ \_ \_ \_ l \_ \_  \_ h
4. eoakr \_ \_  e \_
5. dnaii \_ n \_  \_
6. abidcaom  \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ a
7. osal L  \_ \_
8. navetim \_ \_ \_ t  \_ \_

Write in the circled letters here.  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_





**In 1899**, U.S. Navy Commander Benjamin F. Tilley came to Pago Pago Harbor in Samoa to become the first commandant of the new naval station. One of his first requests to the Navy Department was for permission to enlist Samoans as landsmen in the U.S. Navy. He was authorized to enlist 58 men for four years. By World War II the Fita Fita (Samoan for soldier) counted 100 men in its ranks. Samoans regarded the Fita Fita as an elite group, and the men served with pride and dignity. Most reenlisted, making the Navy their career. They served as seamen aboard the station ship, radiomen, crews for small boats, on guard and orderly duty. When the Navy left American Samoa after WW II, most of the Fita Fita transferred to Hawaii.

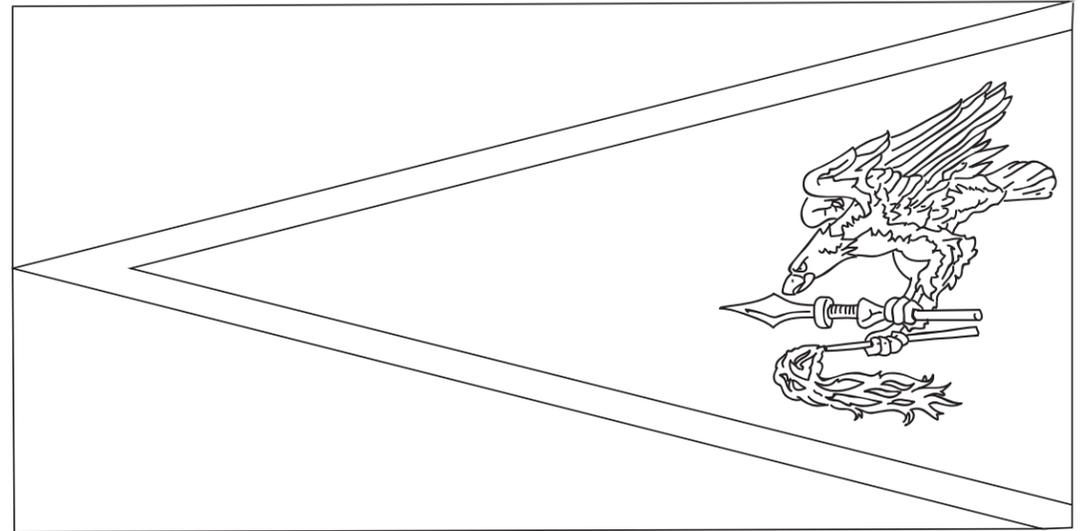
***Do you know where Samoa is located?***

Samoa is located in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand. American Samoa is an unincorporated overseas territory of the United States. It is the only American territory south of the equator. Samoa shares maritime borders with Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau.

Officers Cook, 3rd Class Forsia. He was the first Native Samoan to be decorated in World War II.

He received the Purple Heart after being wounded when a Japanese submarine shelled Samoa on January 11, 1942.

*When the Fita-Fita Guards were dressed in uniform, they wore a red hat on their heads, a white cotton t-shirt, often called a skivvy, a Samoan kilt they call a "Lava Lava", and they wore no shoes.*



**Answer key**

1. Japan
2. Mongolia
3. Bangladesh
4. Korea
5. India
6. Cambodia
7. Laos
8. Vietnam

Circled letters spell "AMERICAN"