

May Facts of the Day

Dawn Smith

Directorate of Research



DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH

Directed by Dr. Daniel P. McDonald, Director of Research

Observance Report Number 07-11

Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

Run Date	Fact	Source
1-May	Today, we remember the victims of the Holocaust and the lessons this tragedy teaches us. Lessons about man's capacity for evil and indifference and the necessity to remain vigilant in the face of hatred and injustice are as relevant now as they were then.	http://www.ushmm.org/museum/press/archives/detail.php?category=07-general&content=2011-01-21
2-May	The theme for the 2011 observance has been designated, "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?" The theme was chosen in recognition of the 65th anniversary of the verdicts at the first Nuremberg trial, and the 50th anniversary of the trial of Adolf Eichmann.	http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/
3-May	In 1945, the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany held 22 top Nazi leaders accountable for atrocities they commanded and perpetrated. Who was prosecuted was more telling than how many stood trial. No one, regardless of official position, was above the law.	http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/
4-May	Subsequent proceedings at the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg between 1946 and 1949 prosecuted another 183 persons. This total represented only a tiny fraction of those responsible for the Holocaust, but established important precedents.	http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/
5-May	The argument that individuals involved in the Holocaust were just following orders was no longer a valid defense. Not only were the shooters at mass executions and the guards at gas chambers tried, but physicians and business leaders, government officials, and civil servants also were required to take responsibility for their actions.	http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/
6-May	Each of the four Allied countries that formed the International Military Tribunal—the United States, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—provided one judge and one alternate for the court that convened in the fall of 1945.	http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/nuremberg/peopleevents/p_judges.html
7-May	After Nuremberg, a new understanding of international responsibility for human rights emerged, as the world began to fully understand the atrocities of the Holocaust, spurring on a process to create a new legal vehicle that criminalized attempts to destroy any entire group of people - the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.	http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/years/2011/theme-nolinks.pdf

8-May	In 1938, while serving as the Chinese General Consul in Vienna, Dr. Feng Shan Ho began issuing Austrian Jews visas against his boss' orders. A true hero, these lifesaving documents allowed thousands of Jews to leave Austria and escape death during the Holocaust.	http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm
9-May	May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Asian-Pacific encompasses the entire Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.	asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html
10-May	The theme for this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage month is: Leadership, Diversity, Empowerment, and Beyond.	http://www.deomi.org/
11-May	In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed.	http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/asian.php
12-May	In 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.	http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/asian.php
13-May	During World War II, more than 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were placed in internment camps. Even though many did not speak Japanese or have close ties to Japan, they were nonetheless regarded as wartime threats. Although the U.S. was also at war with Germany and Italy, Americans with ancestors from those countries did not face internment.	http://www.factmonster.com/spot/immigration1.html
14-May	Born to Korean immigrants, Young Oak Kim was drafted at the start of WW II and assigned to the Army's 100th Infantry Battalion. One of two Koreans in a Japanese-American outfit, he declined a transfer, saying all the soldiers were Americans. He led a mission where he and another soldier crawled across a field to capture German soldiers. They secured intelligence that helped capture Rome.	http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1551820/posts

15-May	Thailand-born Ladda "Tammy" Duckworth is Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for public and intergovernmental affairs. She is also a National Guard soldier, Black Hawk pilot, and an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. In 2004, her helicopter was shot down during a combat mission in Iraq, resulting in the loss of both legs and partial use of one arm.	Army.mil
16-May	During World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a unit made up of Nisei-American born sons of Japanese immigrants. The 442nd was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the entire history of the U.S. military.	Go For Broke National Education Center
17-May	Asian Pacific American women first entered military service during World War II. The Women's Army Corps (WAC) recruited 50 Japanese-American and Chinese-American women to send them to the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for training as military translators.	Women's Memorial
18-May	Filipino-American women worked with the underground resistance movement to help American forces in the Philippines throughout the 3-year period of Japanese occupation during WW II. These courageous women smuggled food and medicine to American POWs and carried information on Japanese deployments to Filipino and American forces.	Women's Memorial
19-May	Born in Hawaii, Ellison Onizuka entered active duty with the U.S. Air Force in January 1970. He was an aerospace flight test engineer before becoming a mission specialist on the Discovery and Challenger Space Shuttles. Onizuka died on January 28, 1986 when the Challenger exploded.	Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
20-May	On December 15, 1943, Wilbur Carl Sze was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and the first Chinese-American officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.	Chinese Historical and Cultural Project
21-May	Juan T. Salas was the first Chamorro (Asian Pacific Islander from Guam) to graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (Class of 1968). He was also the first Chamorro to reach the rank of commanding officer. Salas was also the first cutterman to be Captain of the Port, Marine Safety Office Guam, 1992 to 1994.	U.S. Coast Guard
22-May	The first Asian Pacific American line officer to achieve flag rank was Rear Admiral Gordon Chung-Hoon, recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star for actions in World War II. An Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyer was named in his honor.	NAVOCEANO Ocean Frontier

23-May	Dalip Singh Saund made history in 1956 when he became the first Asian elected to Congress. Born in India in 1899, Saund came to the U.S. in 1920 to study at the University of California, Berkeley. Due to anti-immigrant feelings in the U.S. he ended up working in farming for the next 20 years before becoming a U.S. citizen in 1949, then he served three terms in the U.S. Congress.	Scholastic
24-May	Korean-American Herbert Choy previously a 1st Lieutenant in the Army became the first Asian-American federal judge in 1971.	Chinese Historical and Cultural Project
25-May	A native of Taiwan, Jerry Yang came to America at the age of 10. In April 1994, he co-created Yahoo! the Internet navigational guide with David Filo. He went on and co-founded Yahoo! Inc. in April 1995. He served as chief executive officer of the company from June 2007 to January 2009.	Yahoo! Press Room
26-May	On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 ordering the removal of Japanese immigrants and descendants en masse to "relocation camps" for the duration of the war. On December 27, 1944, the U.S. War Department ended interment of Japanese Americans.	History.com
27-May	According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 <i>Facts for Features</i> , fifty percent of single-race Asians 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. This compared to with 28 percent for all Americans 25 and older.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb10-ff07.html
28-May	Norman Y. Mineta served in Congress for more than 20 years during his career, first, as Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton and then as Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush. Mineta was the driving force behind passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese-Americans during WW II.	Smithsonian Institute
29-May	Thirty-one Asian-Pacific Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor.	Medal of Honor
30-May	26,810- The number of single-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander military veterans. About one in five are 65 and older.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb10-ff07.html

31-May	President Obama said in his 2010 Presidential Proclamation—"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have persevered and flourished, achieving success in every sector of American life. They stood shoulder to shoulder with their fellow citizens during the civil rights movement; they served proudly in our Armed Forces; and they have prospered as leaders in business, academia, and public service."	http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month
--------	--	---