

**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2012  
Facts of the Day**

Dawn Smith

Directorate of Research



DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH

Dr. Richard Oliver Hope Human Relations Research Center  
Directed by Dr. Daniel P. McDonald, Director of Research

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## **Author Biography**

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	<p>"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a vast and diverse community, some native to the United States, hailing from Hawaii and our Pacific Island territories. Others trace their heritage to dozens of countries. All are treasured citizens who enrich our Nation in countless ways, and help fulfill the promise of the American dream which has drawn so many to our shores." —President Barack Obama</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month">http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month</a></p>
2-May	<p>In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history, including the arrival in the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants and the contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad.</p>	<p><a href="#">US Census Bureau</a></p>
3-May	<p>The "Asian/Pacific American" designation encompasses over 50 ethnic or language groups including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. There are now more Asian and Pacific Islander groups than in the past—with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Island subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures.</p>	<p><a href="#">Army.mil</a></p>
4-May	<p>According to the 2010 Census, the estimated number of U.S. residents of Asian descent was 17.3 million, comprising 5.6 percent of the population.</p>	<p><a href="#">US Census Bureau</a></p>
5-May	<p>According to the 2010 Census, the estimated number of U.S. residents who said they were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander was 1.2 million, comprising 0.4 percent of the total population.</p>	<p><a href="#">US Census Bureau</a></p>
6-May	<p>On May 7, 1990, President George H.W. Bush issued a proclamation designating May 1990 as the first Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, changing the observance from a week to a month.</p>	<p><a href="#">Library of Congress</a></p>

7-May	The first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843.	<a href="#">Library of Congress</a>
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's orders. These lifesaving documents allowed thousands of Jews to leave Austria and escape death during the Holocaust.	<a href="#">Scholastic</a>
9-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 the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for training as military translators.	<a href="#">Women's Memorial</a>
10-May	On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed with significant contributions from Chinese pioneers.	<a href="#">Library of Congress</a>
11-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.	<a href="#">Women's Memorial</a>
12-May	The 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act repealed laws that excluded Asians from the U.S. and from becoming American citizens. However, this law only allotted each Asian country a small number of visas (as few as 100) each year. The visa quotas were based on race, not on nationality. A person with an Asian parent, regardless of where outside of the U.S. they were born, would be counted against the quota of the country of their ethnicity.	<a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/laws-affecting-asian-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/laws-affecting-asian-americans</a>

13-May	The projected percentage increase between year 2008 and 2050 in the population of people who identify themselves as Asian is estimated to be 161 percent. This compares with a 44 percent increase in the population as a whole over the same period of time.	<a href="http://www.asian-nation.org/14-statistics.shtml">http://www.asian-nation.org/14-statistics.shtml</a>
14-May	The nation's Indian American population has exploded over the past decade, outpacing the growth of other Asian groups, according to the 2010 Census data. Indians have surpassed Filipinos as the second-largest Asian population after Chinese.	<a href="#">US Census Bureau</a>
15-May	During World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a unit made up 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.	<a href="#">Go For Broke National Education Center</a>
16-May	Born to Japanese immigrant parents, Norman Y. Mineta served in Congress for more than 20 years. First, he served as Secretary of Commerce under President 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 the injustices endured by Japanese-Americans during World War II.	<a href="#">Smithsonian Institute</a>
17-May	Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Japan occupied Guam. The island was renamed "Omiya Jima," or "Great Shrine Island." Throughout the occupation, Guamanians remained loyal to the United States. In fact, hundreds of Guamanian men have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.	<a href="http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guamanian-Americans.html">http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guamanian-Americans.html</a>
18-May	In October 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order that restored the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to address issues concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi">http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi</a>

19-May	On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 ordering the removal of Japanese immigrants and their descendants en masse to “relocation camps” for the duration of the war. On December 27, 1944, the U.S. War Department ended the interment of Japanese Americans.	<a href="http://www.history.com">History.com</a>
20-May	In April 2012, the Ford, W.K. Kellogg, and Kresge foundations pledged \$1 million to support Asian American/Pacific Islander communities at a White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders briefing. “This effort is historic in that it is the first time the White House is bringing together foundation leaders, federal officials and community experts to discuss the needs of this often-overlooked group,” said Chris Lu, co-chair of the initiative and assistant to the president.	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi">http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi</a>
21-May	On January 21, 2009, former Army Chief of Staff and now retired Army General Eric K. Shinseki was sworn in as the Nation’s Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1965.	<a href="http://www.va.gov">Dept of Veteran Affairs</a>
22-May	The economic profile of Asian Indians has changed dramatically. While the first immigrants were agricultural and manual laborers, today, significant numbers of Asian Indians are engaged in professions such as medicine, accounting, and engineering. A recent study indicated that a higher percentage of Asian Indians are engaged in managerial positions today than any other ethnic group in the U.S.	<a href="http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Asian-Indian-Americans.html">http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Asian-Indian-Americans.html</a>

23-May	From 1943-1945, U.S. Army recruiters entered the Japanese internment camps seeking volunteers for an entirely Japanese-American combat unit in Europe (the 442nd RCT) and for military intelligence linguists who could interrogate prisoners, translate, and decode Japanese language documents in the jungles of the Asian-Pacific theater.	<a href="http://www.the442.org/">http://www.the442.org/</a>
24-May	Korean Americans played a vital role in the shaping of the United States. Senate Resolution 185 stated: “For the past century, Korean immigrants and their descendants have helped build America's prosperity, strengthened America's communities, and defended America's freedoms. Through their service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars, Korean Americans have served our Nation with honor and courage, upholding the values that make our country strong.”	<a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/korean-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/korean-americans</a>
25-May	The history of Vietnamese Americans is very different from that of most other Asian Americans. Immigration to the U.S. from Vietnam was virtually non-existent before the 1970s. The fall of Saigon in 1975 would start an exodus from Vietnam that would eventually see the resettlement of 900,000 Vietnamese refugees in the United States.	<a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/vietnamese-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/vietnamese-americans</a>
26-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. He then served three terms in the U.S. Congress.	<a href="#">Scholastic</a>

27-May	<p>In 2010, there were 258,183 single-race Asian military veterans. About one in three Asian veterans were 65 years or older. Additionally, there were 30,110 single-race Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander military veterans. One in five of these veterans were 65 years or older.</p>	<p><a href="#">US Census Bureau</a></p>
28-May	<p>In 1898, the Philippines officially became a U.S. colony when the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War. The islands of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands were sold to the United States for \$20 million dollars. Filipinos would continue to struggle for independence until the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act in 1935. This act made the Philippines a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/filipino-americans">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/filipino-americans</a></p>
29-May	<p>For Hawaiians, <i>aloha</i> is more than a greeting. For many Hawaiians aloha is a way of life. Aloha literally means to “share the breath of life.” When people greet one another by saying aloha, they are saying that they belong to each other in a common humanity, with mutual love and respect for one another. To live “aloha” is to live joyously and in spiritual harmony with fellow human beings.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/pacific-islander-americans-and-native-hawaiians">http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/pacific-islander-americans-and-native-hawaiians</a></p>
30-May	<p>Maya Lin rose to fame in 1981. Just 21-years-old and an architectural student at Yale University, Lin won a contest to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Her design beat out more than 1,400 entries. The memorial's 594-foot granite wall features the names of the more than 58,000 U.S. soldiers who died during the Vietnam War.</p>	<p><a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm">http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm</a></p>

31-May	<p>A native of Taiwan, Jerry Yang came to America at age 10, knowing a single English word—shoe. Although he admits to having had a short attention span in school, he aced his studies and was accepted to Stanford University. As a graduate student, Yang and classmate, David Filo, created Yahoo! the Internet navigational guide in April 1994. He served as chief executive officer of the company from June 2007 to January 2009.</p>	<p><a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm">http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm</a></p>
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