

**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)
Facts of the Day 2013**



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Dr. Richard Oliver Hope Human Relations Research Center
Directed by Dr. Daniel P. McDonald, Executive Director
366 Tuskegee Airmen Drive Patrick AFB, FL 32925
321-494-2747



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Run Date	Fact	Source
1-May	President Obama said in his Presidential Proclamation, "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise many ethnicities and languages, and their myriad achievements embody the American experience. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have started businesses, including some of our nation's most successful and dynamic enterprises. Asian Americans and Pacific Islander men and women are leaders in every aspect of American life—in government and industry, science and medicine, the arts and our Armed Forces, education and sports."	http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month
2-May	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.	U.S. Census Bureau
3-May	The "Asian/Pacific American" designation encompasses over fifty 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 twenty-eight Asian and nineteen Pacific Islander subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures.	Army.mil
4-May	According to the 2011 Census, the estimated number of U.S. residents who were Asian, either alone or in combination with one or more additional races, was 18.2 million.	U.S. Census Bureau

5-May	According to the 2011 Census, the estimated number of U.S. residents who said they were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, either alone or in combination with one or more additional races, was 1.4 million.	U.S. Census Bureau
6-May	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.	Library of Congress
7-May	On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States.	Library of Congress
8-May	In 2012, the White House commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese cherry blossom trees planted in Washington, D.C., an enduring symbol of the friendship shared between the United States and Japan and a reminder of America's standing as a Pacific nation.	http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/01/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-m
9-May	On March 21, 2013, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) hosted a women's roundtable. The roundtable brought together AAPI women leaders and advocates from across the U.S. and Pacific Islands to engage in a dialogue with senior administration officials about the challenges and concerns facing the AAPI women's community. Their issues related to immigration, domestic violence, human trafficking, working conditions (especially in nail salons), small business opportunities, health care, and equal pay.	http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog
10-May	On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed with significant contributions from Chinese pioneers.	Library of Congress

11-May	<p>“When any of our citizens are unable to fulfill their potential due to factors that have nothing to do with their talent, character, or work ethic, then I believe there's a role for our government to play.” —President Barack Obama</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi</p>
12-May	<p>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. he or she was born, would be counted against the quota of the country of his or her ethnicity.</p>	<p>http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/laws-affecting-asian-americans</p>
13-May	<p>The 113th Congress is the most diverse group of representatives in history. There are 98 women, 43 African-Americans, 31 Latinos, 12 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and 7 gay and bisexual people who are now new members of the House and Senate.</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/</p>
14-May	<p>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, following the Chinese population.</p>	<p>U.S. Census Bureau</p>
15-May	<p>The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is conducting outreach efforts to include all Pacific Islander Americans, including Native Hawaiians, Chamoru, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraen, and others in the Micronesian, Melanesian, and Polynesian Pacific Islander groups.</p>	<p>http://ed.gov/about/inits/list/asian-americans-initiative/what-you-should-know.pdf</p>

16-May	<p>The Census Bureau reported in 2011 that 16.6 million Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) reside in the U.S., comprising 5.4 percent of the U.S. population. By 2050, AAPIs will make up 9.7 percent of the total United States population—over 40 million people. AAPIs represent over 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages.</p>	<p>U.S. Census Bureau</p>
17-May	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Du-Ha/Guamanian-Americans.html</p>
18-May	<p>While the first Asian Indian 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 United States.</p>	<p>http://www.everyculture.com/multi/A-Br/Asian-Indian-Americans.html</p>
19-May	<p>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.</p>	<p>History.com</p>

20-May	<p>Though it's been nearly 40 years since the <i>Lau v. Nichols</i> (1974) decision, a landmark ruling that expanded the rights of non-English speaking students in America, language access still remains a critical civil rights issue today for Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other immigrant communities. In 2010, over 25 million individuals—about 9 percent of the U.S. population over age 5—reported having limited English proficiency. English is not spoken at home for over two-thirds of Asian Americans and nearly one-third of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=1</p>
21-May	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.the442.org/</p>
22-May	<p>Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women are doing extraordinary things to create a more equal, safe, and prosperous future. In business, the arts, civil rights, health, and so many other fields, AAPI women are helping to improve the lives of their fellow Americans. This May, on the occasion of AAPI Heritage Month, the White House Office of Public Engagement, White House Council on Women and Girls, and White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will honor a group of AAPI women as Champions of Change.</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog</p>

23-May	<p>In December 2012, for the fourth year, the White House celebrated Diwali, a holiday observed annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists throughout India and across the world. Known as the “festival of lights,” Diwali offers time for both reflection and celebration. Its stories and rituals focus on the triumph of light over darkness and compassion over hatred. The day signifies the renewal of life and the promise of prosperity for the year to come.</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/blog?page=2</p>
24-May	<p>Korean Americans have 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.”</p>	<p>http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/korean-americans</p>
25-May	<p>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 started an exodus from Vietnam that would eventually see the resettlement of 900,000 Vietnamese refugees in the United States.</p>	<p>http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/vietnamese-americans</p>
26-May	<p>The U.S. Census Bureau reported that between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, there was a 40 percent growth of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination population. The percentage of growth of the Asian alone or in combination population in the same time frame was 46 percent, which was more than any other major race group.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff09.html</p>

27-May	<p>According to the Census Bureau in 2011, there were 264,695 single-race Asian military veterans. About one in three veterans was 65 and older. Additionally, there were 27,469 single-race Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander military veterans. One in five of these veterans was 65 years or older.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff09.html</p>
28-May	<p>The Philippines officially became a U.S. colony in 1898, after the United States defeated Spain in the Spanish-American War. 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, making the Philippines a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.</p>	<p>http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights/public-information-and-education/diversity-booklets/asian-and-pacific-island-heritage-in-new-mexico/filipino-americans</p>
29-May	<p>In a Gallup Poll, 30-31 percent of Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) surveyed reported incidents of employment discrimination, the largest of any group, with African Americans constituting the second largest group at 26 percent. Yet, AAPIs only filed about 2–3 percent of the total employment discrimination complaints received by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against private employers.</p>	<p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/aapi/data/critical-issues</p>
30-May	<p>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.</p>	<p>Go For Broke National Education Center</p>

31-May	According to a study undertaken by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, one in five Asian American Pacific Islanders (APIs) experienced discrimination in the rental and home buying process. APIs have suffered the largest percentage decline in homeownership of any racial group.	http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/notables.htm
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