

AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. #22-23:27

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY
“ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH”**

WHEREAS, California has one of the largest AANHPI populations in the United States with more than half a million AANHPI in the San Gabriel Valley alone; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of AANHPI is broad and there is no singular AANHPI experience, but includes the experiences of Asian Indian, Bengali, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Malayan, Okinawa, Pakistani, Samoan, Thai, Vietnamese immigrants, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage month originated in June 1977, when Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California called upon President Jimmy Carter to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. In October 1978, President Carter expanded the observance as an annual celebration; and, 12 years later, President George H.W. Bush extended the week-long celebration to a month; and

WHEREAS, the official designation of May as AAPI Heritage Month was signed into law in 1992. The month of May was chosen to observe AAPI for several reasons, including to commemorate the first Japanese who came to the country in May of 1843, and to mark the May 1869 completion of the Transcontinental Railroad which involved the labor of many Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI communities continue to face challenges, many of which are rooted in the United States history of exclusion, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia against the AANHPI population who have endured a long history of injustice — including the Page Act of 1875, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the assaults against Filipino farmworkers in the 1930s by white mobs, the forced internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II in the 1940’s, the targeting of South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh, after the national tragedy of 9/11, and hate crimes against them as a result of the COVID pandemic; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI people continue to make the United States more vibrant through diversity of cultures, language and religions by contributing to the arts, education, law, science and technology, sports and public service; and

WHEREAS, highly accomplished AANHPI leaders hold elected positions at the local, state and federal level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education that May is designated as Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Azusa Unified School District, this 9th day of May, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

I, Gabriela Arellanes, Clerk of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by said Board of Education at a regularly called and conducted Board of Education meeting held on said date.

Gabriela Arellanes,
Clerk of the Board of Education