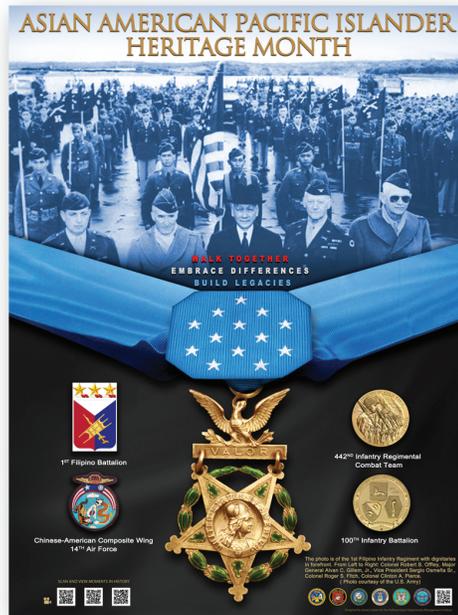


CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

Asian American Pacific
Islander Heritage Month



Facts

For the 2016 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) has chosen the theme, *“Walk Together, Embrace Differences, Build Legacies.”*

Since 1977, the month of May has been designated to recognize the achievements and contributions to the American story by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

We celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among more than 56 ethnic groups (speaking over 100 languages) from Asia and the Pacific Islands who live in the United States.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843. And to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad by mainly Chinese immigrants on May 10, 1869.

Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have helped develop and defend the United States, often in the face of tremendous racial and cultural prejudice.

Presently, 33 Asian American Pacific Islanders have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

This observance gives us the opportunity to honor, recognize, and celebrate the rich diversity, leadership, and enduring empowerment of all Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and their dedicated service and contributions to the betterment of our nation.

“With courage, grit, and an abiding belief in American ideals, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have challenged our Nation to be better.”

—President Barack Obama



SCAN AND VIEW
MOMENTS IN HISTORY

