

MAY is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

THEME:

Leadership to Meet the Challenges of the Changing World

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to America on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. Congress later voted to expand it from a week long to a month long celebration.

Facts for Features: Source: US Census Bureau

Asian Demographics

15.2 million

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2007 who said they were Asian alone or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised about 5 percent of the total population.

Languages

2.5 million

The number of people 5 and older who spoke Chinese at home in 2007. After Spanish, Chinese was the most widely spoken non-English language in the country. Tagalog, Vietnamese and Korean were each spoken at home by more than 1 million people.

Education

50%

The percentage of single-race Asians 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. This compared with 28 percent for all Americans 25 and older.

Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders Demographics

1 million

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2007 who said they were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, either alone or in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised 0.3 percent of the total population.

Age Distribution

30.2

The median age of the single-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in 2007. The median age was 36.6 for the population as a whole.

Education

15%

The percentage of single-race Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders 25 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree. This compared with 28 percent for the total population.

Leadership



Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce. He is the first Chinese American Secretary of Commerce. He was also the Governor of Washington from 1997 to 2005. He remains the only Chinese American to serve as governor of a state in the United States.

National Organization Meeting the Challenges

Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC)

Mission Statement: FAPAC is an organization that promotes equal opportunity and cultural diversity for APAs within the Federal and District of Columbia Governments. FAPAC encourages the participation and advancement of APAs in the Government work force.

Website: www.fapac.org

