



DIVERSITY INCLUSION

# Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is **Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month** – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).



# LSA Observance Events



## May/Lei Day 5K - 1 May - 0700

Come out in your finest Hawaiian shirt and join us for our kick-off 5K Run/Walk. The first 100 finishers will receive a lei!

**POC: MSgt Julynn Gonzalez, SrA Erika Aguilar, A1C Charles Araiz**

## Movie Month - Every weekend - Movie tent

All month long, the movie tent will show special AAPI related movies.

**POC: TSgt Sommay Chantivong, SSgt Glen Fontanilla, SSgt Julius Castillo**

## AAPI Luau - 28 May - 1300 @ Black Rock Park

**POC: MSgt Mark Eyman, SSgt Jared Binoya**

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### Did you know...

In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 72. Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 1007. This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become Public Law 95-419 (PDF, 158kb). This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’”

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

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### First Japanese immigrant arrives in U.S.

Called the U.S.'s first ambassador to Japan, was then a 14-year-old fisherman by the name of Manjiro and is considered America's first Japanese immigrant, arriving in the country on May 7, 1843, by way of a whaling ship. According to the National Endowment of the Humanities, the boy and his crew were caught in a violent storm, with their ship eventually washing up on a desert island 300 miles away from their coastal Japanese village. American Capt. William Whitfield renamed him John Mung and brought him back to the states to his home in Massachusetts.



(Manjiro)





# History Highlight



**José B. Nisperos** was a member of the Philippine Scouts who received the Medal of Honor during the Philippine-American War. He was the first Asian to be awarded the medal.

On September 24, 1911, at Lapurap, Basilan, Philippines, Nisperos, a member of the U.S. Army's 34th Company of the Philippine Scouts, defended his unit's position against natives armed with spears despite being severely wounded. Nisperos became the first Filipino and Asian to receive the medal of honor; the medal was presented by Brigadier General Bell in February 1913.

His Medal of Honor citation reads:

“Having been badly wounded (his left arm was broken and lacerated and he had received several spear wounds in the body so that he could not stand) continued to fire his rifle with one hand until the enemy was repulsed, thereby aiding materially in preventing the annihilation of his party and the mutilation of their bodies.”



**Katherine Cheung** received her pilot's certificate in 1932 as the first licensed Asian-American female pilot in the U.S. In 1935, she obtained an international airline license and flew as a commercial pilot. She flew aerobatics in an open cockpit Fleet and regularly entered competitive air races including the Chatterton Air Race in 1936. Born in China in 1904, Katherine came to the U.S. to join her father, a Los Angeles businessman. In 1931, a pilot-cousin invited her to take an airplane ride where her love for flying began.

She was disturbed at the news that women were not allowed to enroll in Chinese flying schools in her homeland. Katherine received her certificate in 1932, at a time when only 1% of licensed pilots in the U.S. were women. Katherine then began her aerobatics/air show career. From 1933 to 1937, she entered numerous competitive air races and continued her aerobatics career. In 1935, she was invited to become a member of the International Association of Women Pilots, the Ninety-Nines, and became friends with Amelia Earhart. Following the Japanese invasion of China and the disappearance of Amelia Earhart in 1937, Katherine declared her intention to return to China and participate in the war effort by opening a flying school to teach Chinese volunteers to fly. However, a male friend was soon killed while flying her airplane. Katherine's father, who was seriously ill and near death at the time of the accident, worried that something similar might happen to his daughter and secured a promise from her to give up flying. She is listed in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum as the nation's first Asian aviatrix. The Beijing Air Force Aviation Museum calls her "China's Amelia Earhart." She died in 2003 at the age of 98.



## Diversity & Inclusion Mission & Vision

**Mission:** Build upon an environment where all Red Tails can thrive, develop, and rise to their maximum potential.

**Vision:** Develop and take care of Warfighters by embracing equality through removing barriers and developing pathways that allow Red Tails to rise to their maximum potential.

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### Upcoming Special Observances

Women's Equality Day: 26 August  
National Hispanic Heritage Month: 15 Sept - 15 Oct  
National Disability Employment Awareness Month: 1 - 31 October  
National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month: 1 - 31 November

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*Right click links below, copy online link location for more*

### Resources



[CSAF on Diversity & Inclusion](#)  
[Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.](#)



[Recipe: Chả Giò: More than the "Vietnamese Spring Roll"](#)



[Asian American Milestones: Timeline](#)



**AF Instruction, Policy Directives:**  
[Diversity & Inclusion: AFI 36-7001](#)  
[Diversity & Inclusion: APD 36-70](#)

### Perspective

**Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.,  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force**

"I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead, participate in, and listen to necessary conversations on racism, diversity and inclusion. I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead those willing to take committed and sustained action to make our Air Force better."



**JoAnne S. Bass, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force**

"Our Air Force is on the right side of history. We are creating not only historic moments ... we are focused on setting a foundation for all Americans to see themselves in this great institution."