

By: Wong

H.R. No. 1451

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, Americans of Asian and
2 Pacific Islander descent have played an instrumental role in
3 shaping this nation's cultural, educational, artistic, and
4 economic future; in recognition of these many outstanding
5 contributions, the U.S. Congress has designated each May as Asian
6 Pacific American Heritage Month, and this year the Texas House of
7 Representatives takes great pleasure in joining with Americans
8 across the country in celebrating this very special and meaningful
9 occasion; and

10 WHEREAS, The month of May was originally chosen for this
11 distinction in commemoration of two important events in American
12 history: the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United
13 States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad,
14 which was built in large part by Chinese immigrant laborers, was
15 completed on May 10, 1869; the driving of this final railroad spike
16 occurred only four years after the end of the Civil War, the first
17 of many armed conflicts in which Asian Pacific Americans would
18 serve with great valor; and

19 WHEREAS, Since the middle of the 19th century, the size and
20 influence of the Asian and Pacific American population has
21 continued to grow, and today there are an estimated 12.5 million
22 Americans who trace their ethnic heritage, in full or in part, to
23 Asia or the Pacific Islands; a significant percentage of that
24 population is proud to call the Lone Star State home, and the

1 Houston-based Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA)
2 has garnered widespread acclaim for its work in promoting cultural,
3 educational, and economic development within the South Texas area;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, This year, the national theme for May has been
6 designated a "Salute to Liberty," and, to celebrate, APAHA is
7 hosting numerous entertaining and informative events in
8 cooperation with the Houston Independent School District, the
9 Houston Art Institute, the Houston Dragon Boat Festival, and the
10 Children's Museum of Houston, as well as local officials and
11 businesses, civic groups, and cultural organizations; these
12 exciting performances, exhibits, and workshops have added greatly
13 to Houston's vibrant social and cultural scene, and Texans of all
14 ages are joining in the festivities; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize May 2003 as Asian Pacific American
17 Heritage Month and pay special tribute to the countless
18 contributions made to the Lone Star State by Texans of Asian and
19 Pacific Islander descent; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the officers and members of the Asian/Pacific American
22 Heritage Association as an expression of high regard by the Texas
23 House of Representatives.