

By: Button

H.R. No. 1593

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, May 2017 has been set aside as Asian American and  
2 Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize the accomplishments  
3 and wide-ranging contributions of individuals who trace their  
4 ancestry to Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

5           WHEREAS, Originally established by the United States  
6 Congress as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week, the observance  
7 celebrates the diverse culture, traditions, and history of people  
8 from the Asian continent and the islands of Melanesia, Micronesia,  
9 and Polynesia in the Pacific; it was officially expanded into a  
10 monthlong celebration in 1992; and

11           WHEREAS, The month of May was chosen for this commemorative  
12 period because of two key events in our nation's history; on May 7,  
13 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived, and on May 10, 1869, a  
14 workforce largely composed of Chinese laborers completed the  
15 Transcontinental Railroad; and

16           WHEREAS, In 2013, the Pew Research Center released a report  
17 highlighting the tremendous progress that has been made by Asian  
18 Americans; the study noted that a century ago, most were  
19 low-skilled, low-wage laborers subject to official discrimination;  
20 today, however, Asian Americans rank as the racial group with the  
21 highest levels of income and education in the nation; since about  
22 2000, Asian Americans have also constituted the fastest-growing  
23 racial group in the United States, largely because of immigration;  
24 in addition, Asians who have recently arrived in this country are

1 about three times more likely than other immigrants to be sponsored  
2 for permanent residency by an employer; the Pew report further  
3 noted that more than 60 percent of new Asian immigrants age 25 to 64  
4 held at least a bachelor's degree; and

5 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is home to generations of  
6 Americans who take great pride in their family roots in Asia and the  
7 Pacific Islands, and this annual observance provides a welcome  
8 opportunity to celebrate their significant contributions to the  
9 prosperity and cultural vibrancy of our nation; now, therefore, be  
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby recognize May 2017 as Asian American and Pacific  
13 Islander Heritage Month.