**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 648**

**WHEREAS**, May 2019 has been set aside as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to recognize the accomplishments and wide-ranging contributions of individuals who trace their ancestry to Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, In 2013, the Pew Research Center released a report highlighting the tremendous progress that has been made by Asian Americans; the study noted that a century ago, most were low-skilled, low-wage laborers subject to official discrimination; today, however, Asian Americans rank as the racial group with the highest levels of income and education in the nation; since approximately 2000, Asian Americans have also constituted the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, largely because of immigration; in addition, Asians who have recently arrived in this country are about three times more likely than other immigrants to be sponsored for permanent residency by an employer; the Pew report further noted that over 60 percent of new Asian immigrants age 25 to 64 held at least a bachelor's degree; and

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize May 2019 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Paxton, Alvarado

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     President of the Senate     I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2019.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_     Secretary of the Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_      Member, Texas Senate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_      Member, Texas Senate