

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, May 2021 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, According to a 2017 U.S. Census Bureau estimate,  
17 Asian Americans represent approximately 5 percent of the country's  
18 population, while about 1.5 million Americans trace their origins  
19 to Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands; among U.S.  
20 states, Texas has the third-largest Asian American population and  
21 the fourth-largest Pacific Islander population; and

22           WHEREAS, In 2017, the Pew Research Center released a factual  
23 analysis highlighting the growth and progress of the Asian American  
24 community; the study established Asian Americans as the

1 fastest-growing of all the major racial or ethnic groups in the  
2 United States in recent years, with a population increase of 72  
3 percent between 2000 and 2015; the Pew analysis further noted that  
4 the Asian American population as a whole had higher than average  
5 levels of economic well-being and that more than half of Asian  
6 Americans age 25 and older held at least a bachelor's degree; and

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

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby recognize May 2021 as Asian American and Pacific  
15 Islander Heritage Month.

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H.R. No. 551

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 551 was adopted by the House on April 16, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House