

By: Button

H.R. No. 551

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.