

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing the month of October 2025 as Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of October 2025 as Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States.

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Senora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino-American community is the third largest Asian-American and Pacific-Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,600,000;

Whereas, from 2000 to 2023, the Filipino-American community grew 89 percent, and Filipinos are the largest Asian community in Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a long-standing history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas a guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79–301; 60 Stat. 6) and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79–391; 60 Stat. 221), which provided that the wartime service of members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts shall

not be deemed to have been active service, and, therefore, those members did not qualify for certain benefits;

Whereas 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–649; 104 Stat. 4978), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;

Whereas, in 1991, the Filipino American National Historical Society made efforts to recognize October as Filipino American History Month for the first time;

Whereas, in 2009, Congress first recognized October as Filipino American History Month (S. Res. 298; H. Res. 780);

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 115), which established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to compensate Filipino World War II veterans for their service to the United States;

Whereas, since June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has allowed Filipino World War II veterans and certain family members to be reunited more expeditiously than the immigrant visa process allowed at that time;

Whereas, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–265; 130 Stat. 1376) to award Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress;

Whereas, on October 25, 2017, the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Filipino World War II veterans in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Building, a recognition for which the veterans had waited for more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that may be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces, and continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Peter Aquino Aduja of Hawaii and the Thelma Garcia Buchholdt of Alaska became the first Filipino American elected to public office and the first Filipina American elected to a legislature in the United States, respectively, inspiring their fellow Filipino Americans to pursue public service in politics and government;

Whereas Filipino-American farmworkers and labor leaders, such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong, played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement, alongside Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas, on August 3, 1948, Victoria Manalo Draves became the first Filipino American and Asian American to win an Olympic Gold Medal;

Whereas, on April 25, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Lorna G. Schofield to be a United States district judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and she was confirmed by the Senate on December 13, 2012, to be the first Filipina

American in United States history to serve as an Article III Federal judge;

Whereas the Lahaina Filipino Fire Survivors Association found that Filipinos were the largest ethnic group affected by the 2023 Maui wildfires as they represented more than 40 percent of Lahaina's pre-fire population and continue to face challenges recovering from the fire due in part to a lack of language accessible resources;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the healthcare system of the United States as nurses, doctors, first responders, and other medical professionals, and approximately 1 in 4 working Filipino adults in the United States is a frontline healthcare worker;

Whereas Filipino Americans contribute greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, hospitality, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the United States;

Whereas efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino-American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of the history of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have positive role models to instill—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino-American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino-American legacy; and

Whereas it is essential to promote the understanding, education, and appreciation of the history and culture of Fil-

ipino Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be
it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino Amer-
3 ican History Month in October 2025 as—

4 (A) a testament to the advancement of Fil-
5 ipino Americans;

6 (B) a time to reflect on and remember the
7 many notable contributions that Filipino Ameri-
8 cans have made to the United States; and

9 (C) a time to renew efforts toward the re-
10 search and examination of history and culture
11 so as to provide an opportunity for all people of
12 the United States to learn more about Filipino
13 Americans and to appreciate the historic con-
14 tributions of Filipino Americans to the United
15 States; and

16 (2) urges the people of the United States to ob-
17 serve Filipino American History Month with appro-
18 priate programs and activities.