
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 278 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA,
DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FARINA, GINGRICH, GOODMAN,
GROVE, HENNESSEY, KAVULICH, KIRKLAND, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY,
MAJOR, MARSICO, MATZIE, McCARTER, McNEILL, MILLARD, O'BRIEN,
O'NEILL, C. PARKER, READSHAW, SABATINA, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER,
THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Asian-Pacific American
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1783, Filipinos deserted a Spanish ship in New
4 Orleans and established the first Filipino community in
5 Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, The first Japanese emigrated to the United States on
7 May 7, 1843; and

8 WHEREAS, The majority of the workers who laid the tracks on
9 the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869, were
10 Chinese immigrants; and

11 WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific Americans have contributed to the
12 growth of America in every walk of life for more than 200 years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Asia Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent
15 and the Pacific Islands of Japan, Melanesia (New Guinea, New

1 Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia
2 (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati,
3 Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New
4 Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa,
5 American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia
6 and Easter Island); and

7 WHEREAS, The Asian-Pacific heritage celebration originated
8 with a Joint Resolution passed by the Congress of the United
9 States and signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Twelve years later, President George H. W. Bush
12 signed an extension turning the week-long celebration into a
13 month-long celebration; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1991, Public Law 102-42, which requested that the
15 President proclaim May 1991 and May 1992 as Asian/Pacific
16 American Heritage Months, was passed unanimously by Congress and
17 signed by President George H. W. Bush on May 14, 1991; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1992, the permanent designation of May as "Asian-
19 Pacific American Heritage Month" was signed into law; and

20 WHEREAS, On April 29, 2014, the House of Representatives
21 unanimously adopted House Resolution No. 736, which designated
22 the month of May 2014 as "Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month"
23 in Pennsylvania; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of May 2015 as "Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month" in
26 Pennsylvania and encourage participation in national, State and
27 local observances celebrating the contributions of Asian
28 Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States.