

Asian Pacific Heritage Month each year became the law of the land.

The month of May was chosen because of its significance to Asian Pacific American history. In the first week of May in 1843, the first Japanese arrived in America. And on May 10, 1869, Golden Spike Day, the Transcontinental Railroad, built partly with Chinese labor, was completed. Today, 150 years after these historic events, nearly 8 million Asian Pacific Americans can trace their roots to Asia and the islands of the Pacific.

It is astonishing to realize the breadth of diversity among Americans of Asian Pacific heritage. The Asian Pacific community stretches across thousands of miles and encompasses millions of diverse people. In our country the Asian Pacific American community can trace its roots to at least 25 different nationalities, more than 75 different languages, and literally hundreds of different ethnic groups. Now, that's diversity.

And still Asian Pacific Americans have something in common and something to emulate, a commitment to strong families, to community, and to instilling in each new generation a respect for educational opportunity and hard work. These values have been an essential part of success in achieving the American dream, as so many Asian Pacific Americans know.

And while we realize all the rich opportunities America has given to all our people, we are aware also of how much Asian Pacific Americans have given back to this country. Immigrants from Asia and the Pacific helped build our country. Today their descendants are making us even better. They are prominent among our scientists, artists, doctors, teachers, and other professionals who have enriched the lives of all of us in America.

I want to talk for a moment about the importance of education. The Asian Pacific community has demonstrated that a commitment to education is truly the key to bettering our lives. Among Asian Pacific Americans 25 years old and over, 82 percent have had 4 years of high school or more; 39 percent have completed 4 years of college or more. For individuals, education is the key to economic parity and social mobility. But for America, it is the key to our strength and our competitiveness in the global economy.

I want to thank you all again for coming here today to recognize all the achievements and the contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have made to this great Nation. I hope that we can continue to come together as we have today to rejoice in our diversity as we renew the bonds of community that bring all Americans together. I believe that if we embrace those things which we share, if we embrace our common values and our common goals, we strengthen ourselves, our community, and our democracy, and we make ourselves free to celebrate the richness of our diversity.

Therefore, it is with great pride and admiration that I take this opportunity, my first one, to sign the proclamation proclaiming this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

### **Proclamation 6557—Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**

*May 3, 1993*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

This month we honor the heritage and history of Asian and Pacific Americans and the contributions they have made to our country: to its economic development, its cultural wealth, its scientific and medical achievements, its institutes of education, and its government. As we celebrate the diversity of our people and their heritage, we remember that we are one Nation, united in a common quest for freedom and dignity.

Traders from the Asia-Pacific region reached North America as early as the 16th century, but the first significant wave of immigration began during the late 1800s. From China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and the Indian subcontinent they came and found work in America: as miners, railroad workers, farmers, and merchants. These settlers and their children preserved the rich legacy of their homelands while also learning the his-

tory of our Nation and embracing the traditions that define it.

While they found many opportunities in America, immigrants from the Asia-Pacific region also were victims of discrimination. Some were denied the right to buy land or become naturalized citizens solely because of their ethnic origin. Such prejudice often led to segregated community structures. Once thought of as ghettos, these neighborhoods are now vibrant cultural assets and magnets for tourism and trade in the cities of which they are a part.

America has made great progress in advancing civil rights since the days when Asian workers were exploited and labored under crushing hardship. A second significant wave of immigration brought doctors, nurses, engineers, musicians, scientists, and other professionals. Now-familiar names like Yo Yo Ma, Midori, Seiji Ozawa, Amy Tan, Michael Chang, and Kristi Yamaguchi today symbolize the rich heritage that Asian and Pacific Americans have added to our culture.

Today Asian and Pacific Americans represent a large portion of our population. The region from which they migrated is now one of the world's most dynamic areas of economic growth. America's trade with Asian and Pacific countries totals more than \$300 billion, a greater amount than any other region in the world. The United States maintains alliances with countries from the Pacific such as Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. We will continue to promote economic cooperation and the expansion of free markets there. The security of our allies and the advancement of human rights in Asia and the Pacific benefit both our country and the countries of that region.

America is an ongoing experiment, an unfinished work. It is important that we continually strive to fulfill the ideals that attracted the Asian/Pacific peoples and other immigrants to our shores. The next century will present many challenges, but the ethnic diversity that binds us as a Nation will provide us with the energy and hope we need to build a more peaceful and more prosperous world. To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, has designated the month of

May of each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1993 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also call upon all Americans to rededicate themselves to the principles of inclusion, mutual respect, and social justice.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:41 a.m., May 4, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 5.

### **Memorandum on Funding for Sanctions Against Serbia and Montenegro**

*May 3, 1993*

Presidential Determination No. 93-20

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Transfer of \$5 Million in FY 1993 Foreign Military Financing Funds to the Peacekeeping Operations Account for Enforcement of Sanctions Against Serbia and Montenegro

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 610(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary for the purposes of the Act that \$5 million of funds made available for section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act for fiscal year 1993 for the cost of direct loans be transferred to, and consolidated with, funds made available for section 551 of the Act.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(1) of the Act, I hereby determine that it is important to the security inter-