

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2019-118

TITLE: Resolution Celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month

AUTHORS: Senator Rebecca Ragan, Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Sneh Patel, Senator Tyler Kendrick

SPONSORS: Senate President Libby Shaw, Senate President Pro-Tempore Emily Dunson, Student Body Vice President Sarah Abraham, Asian American Student Union President Eliana Guerrero, Indian Student Association President Jessica Jesurajan, Volunteers for International Student Affairs President Abhinav Sai Chickakuragodu, APIDA Task Force Chair Cheyenne Cheng, Gators for Israel President Katie Hernandez, Budget and Appropriations Chairman Cooper Brown, Minority Party Leader Ashley Grabowski, Senator Macey Wilson, Jessica Martinez, William Zelin, Senator Jonathan Gant, Senator Nikolas Bindi, Senator Mauricio Perez, Senator Anthony Portugues, Senator Yichen Li, Brianna Adan, Senator Gabi Zlatanoff, Lindsay Kaighin, Shaan Patel

WHEREAS, the month of May is nationally recognized as Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month in the United States of America [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated in 1977 as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week with House resolutions being introduced in the United States Congress and passing in 1978 to recognize the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week [2]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990, another bill was passed by the United States Congress to extend the celebration to the entire month of May, thus creating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen in order to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as to commemorate the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, of which the majority of tracklayers were Chinese immigrants [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida celebrates Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month in the spring in order to demonstrate the power in building a community that embraces connections, as well as understanding and dismantling collective struggles and challenges [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida welcomed two Chinese students, Hsiu Sheng Hua and Len B. Tan in 1922, a time when the U.S. restricted Chinese labor immigration [3]; and,

WHEREAS, University of Florida students led the fight for Asian American resources in the 1990s, which later prompted increased administrative support for student-led initiatives for Asian American resources in the early 2000s, as well as Vietnamese and Korean language programs throughout the years [1] [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the hiring of the first Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs (APIA) director contributed to the development of an Asian American Studies minor, support for the APIA space, and promoting diversity and multicultural awareness at the University of Florida [5]; and,

WHEREAS, students who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander comprise at least 7.65% of the student body at the University of Florida [6]; and,

WHEREAS, APIA at the University of Florida aims to promote a more critical understanding of APIA issues and identity while advocating for the needs of APIA community [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the Asian American Student Union at the University of Florida was created in 1993 to unify Asian American organizations on campus, and seeks to promote Asian and Asian American awareness across campus and be the premier source of political and social advocacy [7]; and,

WHEREAS, the Indian Students Association focuses on raising awareness of the Indian culture and providing a community for individuals to discover their identity [8]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Government strives to be diverse, inclusive, and representative of students from all backgrounds; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month as a time to celebrate and reflect on the contributions made to the United States by the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates diversity and aspires to make all voices heard, including those of historically marginalized populations.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of educating the student body about the variety of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American issues, history, and culture.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate proclaims May 1 through May 31 as National Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month and encourages the University of Florida student body to unite in celebrating the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community and their accomplishments throughout history.

- [1] <https://apia.multicultural.ufl.edu/initiatives/asian-pacific-heritage-month/>
- [2] <https://apaics.org/events/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month/>
- [3] https://www.alligator.org/news/the-past-present-and-future-of-uf-s-asian-american/article_622c7dd4-5764-11e9-8cbd-af97786ff064.html
- [4] https://www.alligator.org/news/korean-language-program-to-return-to-uf-after-years/article_d74f5b10-5113-11e9-a998-77b4541463e3.html
- [5] <https://asiatrend.org/event/ufs-24th-annual-asian-american-student-assembly-ascend/>
- [6] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/uffacts/enrollment-1/>
- [7] <http://www.ufaasu.com/>
- [8] <https://orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/Organization/Indian-Students-Association>

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Senior Director Will Atkins, Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs Jack Nguyen, and Student Body President Michael Murphy.



Libby Shaw
Senate President

6-13-19

Date