



RESOLUTION NO. 20C
BEFORE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF FILIPINO HISTORY MONTH:
THE HISTORY OF FILIPINO AMERICAN ACTIVISM**

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 Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship; and

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; and

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 our country; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American community is the third-largest Asian-American and Pacific Islander group in the United States, numbering approximately 4,000,000; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 20,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015, which awarded Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress; and

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

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor; and

WHEREAS, nine Filipino Americans have received the 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

WHEREAS, the late Peter Aquino Aduja of Hawaii became the first Filipino American elected to public office and the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt of Alaska became 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; and

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 Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans play an integral role in the health care system of the United States as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the landscape of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans make up approximately five percent (or 2,630 students) of the District's student population, and account for over four percent (or 7,344 students) of the county's K-12 population according to the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Contra Costa Community College District does hereby declare October 2020 as Filipino American History Month to acknowledge the long and proud advancement of Filipino Americans. This Resolution provides an opportunity to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States, and renews efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about Filipino Americans and to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States, and encourage the observation of Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

ADOPTED this 14th day of October 2020, by the Governing Board of the Contra Costa Community College District.

Approved:



Rebecca Barrett, President, Governing Board
Contra Costa Community College District

Attested to:



Andy Li, Vice President, Governing Board
Contra Costa Community College District



Greg Enholm, Secretary, Governing Board
Contra Costa Community College District