

Asian Pacific Americans

Each May, Americans pause to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

Its beginnings started in June 1977, when Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

However, it was in May 1990, under the direction of President George H.W. Bush, that the holiday was expanded further. He designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to memorialize the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

NMFS along with NOAA and other federal agencies celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students.

As NMFS celebrates our Asian Pacific American community, we do so with the following goals:

- Address the underrepresentation and underutilization of Asian Pacific Americans at all levels of NMFS.
- Create a workplace environment where Asian Pacific employees are valued.
- Ensure that prospective Asian Pacific American applicants are aware of NMFS as an employer of choice and of the opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans at NMFS.
- Ensure that Asian Pacific employees are fully developed and prepared to assume positions of greater responsibility.
- Ensure that the NMFS is aware of the culture, concerns, and issues of its Asian Pacific American employees and the community it serves

National Information and Conferences

<http://www.fapac.org>

For more information on this and other Affirmative Employment Programs within NMFS, please contact Natalie Huff, the NMFS Program Manager for EEO and Diversity.

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