



## ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HISTORY MONTH – MAY 2021

National Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month began as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. It was first observed in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter.

The organizers selected to observe Asian heritage in May in recognition of May 7, 1843, the date the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States and in recognition of May 10, 1869, which marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad, made possible with the contributions of Chinese-Americans.

In 1990, under President George H.W. Bush's administration the observation expanded the celebration to cover the entire month of May.