

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4619, by Representative Chandler

1 WHEREAS, The State of Washington has recognized the proud history
2 of Filipino Americans since 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in
4 the continental United States is October 18, 1587, when the first
5 "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

6 WHEREAS, The Filipino American National Historical Society
7 recognizes that the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United
8 States was established in 1763 in Saint Malo, Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Washington State contributed to this history by
10 recognizing the 1888 documents listing a "Manilla" as an employee of
11 Port Blakely on Bainbridge Island, which was the largest lumber mill
12 in the world at that time, this is the first known employee from the
13 Philippines in the Pacific Northwest; and

14 WHEREAS, These events set in motion a focus on the story of our
15 nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the
16 economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that
17 Filipino Americans have made in the development of the United States;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino American youth to have
20 positive role models who instill in them the importance of education,
21 the richness of their ethnicity, and the value of their legacy; and

1 WHEREAS, Filipinos are one of the largest Asian/Pacific Islander
2 communities in Washington State and are the third largest in the
3 United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Several historic Filipino American communities are
5 located in the State of Washington, including Wapato, Bainbridge
6 Island, Seattle, Auburn, Bremerton, Tacoma, Pateros, and others; and

7 WHEREAS, Filipino Americans living in Washington who have made
8 contributions to American culture and society include: Carlos
9 Bulosan, Roy Baldoz, Harry Bucsit, Jose Calugas, Fred and Dorothy
10 Cordova, Pio DeCano Sr., Trinidad Rojo, Box Santos, Delores Sibonga,
11 Silvestre Tangalan, Bernie Reyes Whitebear, Velma Veloria, Rey
12 Pascua, and others; and

13 WHEREAS, Filipinos have served with distinction in all branches
14 of the United States military, as exemplified by the 2017 United
15 States Congressional Gold Medal, awarded for their valor and
16 sacrifices during World War II; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1988, The Filipino American National Historical
18 Society established October as Filipino American History Month;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
20 encourage all citizens to join in celebrating the culture and
21 heritage of Filipino Americans in October, the Filipino American
22 National Historical Society's designated Filipino American History
23 Month, and the four hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the first
24 documented presence of Filipinos in continental North America; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
26 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives to Rey Pascua, President of the Filipino-American
28 Community of the Yakima Valley for further distribution to the
29 Filipino American National Historical Society, to Asian and Pacific
30 Islander organizations, to other historical societies and government
31 entities, and to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

--- END ---