

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 20

By: Floyd

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A resolution recognizing May as Asian/Pacific
9 American Heritage Month; recognizing the Asian
10 American and Pacific Islander community in Oklahoma;
11 and celebrating the contributions of Asian Americans
12 and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United
13 States.

14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has dedicated the month of
15 May to honor the contributions of and pay tribute to the generations
16 of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who have made
17 Oklahoma and the United States their home; and

18 WHEREAS, the month of May was selected to celebrate Asian
19 American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first
20 Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States in May of 1843, and
21 the first transcontinental railroad was completed in May of 1869
22 with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

23 WHEREAS, nearly 3 percent of all Oklahomans identify as Asian
24 American or Pacific Islander, citing origins in Cambodia, China,
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1 India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands,
2 Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands; and

3 WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is a
4 diverse population, comprised of over 45 distinct ethnicities and
5 over 100 language dialects; and

6 WHEREAS, Oklahoma City is home to the state's vibrant Asian
7 District, created in the 1970s by an influx of Vietnam immigrants,
8 and known for its Asian fusion cuisine and commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens have made
10 a tremendous impact on our state and nation, serving in vital roles
11 as state and national leaders, starting businesses, making
12 breakthroughs in science and technology, serving in our military,
13 excelling in sports, arts, education and more.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
15 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

16 THAT the month of May is hereby recognized by the Oklahoma State
17 Senate and the State of Oklahoma as Asian/Pacific American Heritage
18 Month.

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