

# ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May 2004



Freedom  
For All,  
A Nation  
We  
Call  
Our  
Own

HONOR LOYALTY VALOR  
名譽 忠義 勇氣

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Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute  
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PVT KEN OSAKI  
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## **Preface**

Lieutenant Colonel Judith J. Mathewson, State Plans Officer, Headquarters, Alaska Air National Guard, Fort Richardson, Alaska, served as a participant in the Topical Research Intern Program at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) intermittently from mid December 2003 to mid March 2004. She conducted the necessary research to prepare this report. The Institute thanks Lieutenant Colonel Mathewson for her contributions to the research efforts of DEOMI.

## **Scope**

The Topical Research Intern Program provides the opportunity for Service members and civilians of the Department of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Coast Guard to work on a diversity/equal opportunity project while on a 30-day tour of duty at the Institute. During their tour, the interns use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to compile research pertaining to an issue of importance to equal opportunity (EO) and equal employment opportunity (EEO) personnel, supervisors, and other leaders throughout the Services. The resulting publications are intended as resource and educational materials and do not represent official policy statements or endorsements by the DoD, United States Air Force, Air National Guard or any of their agencies. The publications are distributed to EO/EEO personnel and senior officials to aid them in their duties. To reach the widest audience possible, the publications are posted on the Internet at: <https://www.patrick.af.mil/deomi/deomi.htm>.

**The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author and should not be construed to represent the official position of DEOMI, the military Services, Department of Defense, or U.S. Coast Guard.**

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## Introduction

The month of May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asian and Pacific Islanders and their contributions to the United States. The theme for the 2004 Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration is Freedom for All, A Nation We Call Our Own.

This month is significant in that Japanese immigrants first arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843. Additionally, May 10, 1869 is the date when the eastern part of the United States was connected to the west – the day that the transcontinental railroad was completed by thousands of Chinese, enduring harsh conditions and low wages to lay track in record time.

The Asian Pacific American celebration initially began when House Resolution 540, sponsored by Representatives Frank Horton (R-NY) and Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA) called for President Jimmy Carter to designate the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both bills passed. As a result, on October 5, 1978, President Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific American Week in 1979. In 1992, President George Bush signed legislation declaring May as the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (Siasoco, n.d.).

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government and private business-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students and families.

In April 2003, President George W. Bush made the following proclamation in honor of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

America is strengthened by the rich cultural diversity of our people, and we are blessed to be a Nation that welcomes individuals of all races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community -- love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service -- have strengthened us as a Nation. During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and recognize their rich legacy of ingenuity, perseverance, and achievement.

Many Asian/Pacific immigrants came to America to discover the promise of our Nation and to realize their dreams. Their contributions were critical in establishing a robust economy. Asian/Pacific Americans also worked tirelessly to build our national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for our western expansion and growth as a world leader. Generations of Asian/Pacific Americans have proudly served our Nation with honor and courage in wars and conflicts, including most recently in Operation Iraqi

Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Today, as in the past, their dedication and service to advancing peace in a troubled world upholds the values that make our country strong.

Asian/Pacific Americans are also helping to shape America's future. As entrepreneurs, artists, educators, public servants, scientists, and explorers, they challenge the minds of our next generation, expand commerce and innovation, probe the frontiers of space, and search for cures for the world's diseases. Our children are also inspired by the contributions and sacrifices of dedicated individuals such as inventor An Wang, experimental physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, Challenger astronaut Ellison Onizuka, Columbia astronaut Kalpana Chawla, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our Nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and justice. As an integral part of our society, Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage share in the pursuit of this American Dream. I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage every citizen to recognize the role of Asian/Pacific Americans in building and sustaining our Nation. To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress by Public Law 102-450 as amended, has designated the month of May each year as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed to the culture and heritage of our Nation (Diversity Store, n.d.).

In order to truly appreciate and understand this varied and growing group of people, and the importance of a nation that Asians and Pacific Islanders can call their own, it is necessary to look at them from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

As an Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) or Military Equal Opportunity Officer (MEO), there will inevitably be a time when you will be interacting with members of these groups in an official capacity. In addition, an EOA or MEO may live in a community where Asians and Pacific Islanders are arriving in record numbers. This arrival may cause some culture clashes, concerns and resentment from those already established in the community. It is important to identify who these individuals are and to recognize their significant contributions to the political, athletic, educational, entertainment and scientific communities of our country.

There are an estimated 12.5 million Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States, or about 4.4 percent of the total population (compared with African Americans, at 11 percent, and Latinos, at 12 percent) (Schwartz, n.d.).

According to DoD Directive 1350.2, Asians or Pacific Islanders may have origins in any of the original peoples of the Pacific Islands, Far East, Southeast Asia, Philippine Islands, or the Indian subcontinent. Other countries or areas include Laos, Thailand, Fiji, Tahiti, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Cambodia, Samoa, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Marquesa Islands, New Guinea, Tonga and Guam. There are large communities in the United States of Asians and Pacific Islanders from seven different ethnicities, including (in descending order of proportion) Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, and Hawaiian (Cassidy & Greico, 2001).

The “Asian Pacific American” designation encompasses over fifty ethnic or language groups including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. There are now more Asian and Pacific Islander groups than in the past – with 28 Asian and 19 Pacific Island subgroups representing a vast array of languages and cultures (Hendriksson, 2002).

These groups include Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Asian Indian Americans, Laotian Americans, Cambodian Americans, Hmong Americans, Thai Americans, Pakistani, Samoan, Guamanian and many other language groups.

“Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Native Hawaiian,” “Guamanian or Chamorro,” “Samoan,” or “Other Pacific Islander,” or wrote in entries such as Tahitian, Mariana Islander, or Chuukese. “Some other race” was included in Census 2000 for respondents who were unable to identify with the five Office of Management and Budget race categories. Many Asians and Pacific Islanders have ancestry in a number of different cultures (Cassidy & Greico, 2001).

### Origins of Asians and Pacific Islanders

The Asian and Pacific Islander story is one of struggle and courage. Chinese workers eager to escape overpopulation, famine, floods, drought and poverty in China came to the U.S. The Chinese also suffered defeat during the Opium Wars at the hands of the British. Since these Chinese men did not intend to stay, they did not bring families. Almost all Chinese immigrants planned to put in a few years of hard work and accrue enough assets to return to China as wealthy and respected individuals. The railroad and agricultural workers (on sugar and pineapple plantations in Hawaii) and ambitious gold miners of California's “Gam Saan” - Gold Mountain - were predominately Asians and Pacific Islanders.

In the 1800s, Asians and Pacific Islanders faced widespread discrimination, prejudice and government restrictions while living in Hawaii and other parts of the United States. In 1869, (one year before the end of the railroad construction),

12,000 out of 14,000 workers were Chinese immigrants. Strict laws and attacks by white miners forced most Chinese workers to seek other jobs and to live in “Chinatowns.” The Naturalization Act of 1790 (amended in 1870), limited naturalization rights to “free White persons.” Asians and Pacific Islander immigrants were the only group barred from naturalization. The issue of allowing Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants to qualify for citizenship was debated and finally rejected. It was not until the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 that naturalization was extended to all races.

Anti-Chinese violence erupted in the 1880s and Chinese workers were blamed for a shortage of unskilled jobs once the railroads were built. Mobs destroyed Chinese communities in many Western states. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was in effect for ten years, limiting immigration. The Geary Act of 1892 extended the ban for another ten years. In 1904, the ban became permanent. Asian really meant “Chinese” since they were the only Asian group in America in any meaningful number.

Large-scale immigration of Japanese (1885) and Koreans (1903) began, but working conditions were harsh and wages were low for them, as well (Chan, 1991).

A landmark case in 1886 that had a significant impact on civil rights in our country is the *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* case. Lee Yick, a Chinese immigrant, had been operating a laundry facility in San Francisco for many years. At the time, it was against a city ordinance to operate a laundry in a wooden building without a permit. However, the Board of Supervisors had granted permits to all non-Chinese applicants except one, and none to 200 Chinese applicants.

After Lee Yick was arrested and convicted for violating the ordinance, his appeal reached the U.S. Supreme Court, where his conviction was overturned. According to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Matthews, the ordinance was applied in a discriminatory fashion. This decision declared that a law with unequal impact on different groups is discriminatory. This precedent was used in the 1960s in cases seeking to strike down statutes that discriminated against African Americans (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

From 1898 to 1900, the United States took over the Philippines, Hawaii and Samoa. This opened up immigration to the U.S.

At the end of that decade, Angel Island Detention Center served to detain Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants, confining them for months while they waited to enter the U.S. Located in the middle of San Francisco Bay, Angel Island, the “Ellis Island of the West”, was previously a quarantine station during the Spanish American War. From 1910 to 1940, an estimated 175,000 Chinese and 60,000 Japanese immigrants were detained and processed according to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

During the 1900's, Asians and Pacific Islanders struggled for acceptance as U.S. citizens. Yet bigotry and violence were rampant. The Asiatic Exclusion League of 1905 was formed by over 67 labor organizations due to white workers resenting competition from Japanese workers. The League spoke of the "yellow peril" and "Asiatic horde" threatening to invade the United States.

In 1913, the Alien Land Act of California prohibited land ownership by anyone who was ineligible for citizenship. Washington, New Mexico, Idaho and Oregon had similar laws on the books.

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Roosevelt, authorized the Army to evacuate any persons from sensitive areas for reasons of national defense. Lt Gen John DeWitt announced in 1942 the evacuation of persons of Japanese descent from an area bordering the Pacific Ocean. He wrote a memo to Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, detailing his assessment of the Japanese American threat:

The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on U.S. soil, possessed a United States citizenship, and have become 'Americanized,' the racial strains are undiluted... The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.

As part of the Japanese American internment, over 120,000 American citizens of Japanese descent were uprooted from their homes with less than seven days notice, thus forcing families to sell their properties and possessions at a fraction of their true value. They were sent to relocation camps in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. They were officially released on January 2, 1945.

In 1943, the U.S. War Department formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made-up of second generation Japanese Americans (Nisei). They were sent to Europe to fight with the 100th Infantry Battalion, a Nisei team from Hawaii who had already seen action in North Africa and Italy. Nearly half were volunteers from internment camps in the American Southwest. These battalions participated in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.

The 442nd became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. Their many awards include 18,143 individual decorations for bravery; 9,486 Purple Hearts, and 20 Congressional Medals of Honor.

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act. According to the law's provisions, \$38 million was paid out to Japanese Americans for economic losses suffered due to forced internment. In 1959, Hawaii became a state, and Asians and Pacific Islanders entered national politics.

One of the first Asians to run for office was Hiram L. Fong (R-HI). Mr. Fong was the seventh of eleven children born to Chinese immigrants. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he served in the U.S. Senate (1959 - 1977). Mr. Fong was also the first Asian American presidential candidate (1964).

Another prominent political figure is Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI). He was a World War II veteran who served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He became the first Japanese American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Senator Inouye is currently serving his seventh consecutive term in the U.S. Senate. Today, Asians and Pacific Islanders are recognized for their contributions to U.S. culture, but they continue to face discriminatory practices (Chan, 1991).

## Facts and Figures

### *Income and Poverty*

The annual median income of Asian and Pacific Islander households is \$53,635, the highest of any racial group. Their annual income is just under the level reached in 2000 (\$57,313 in 2001 dollars), which matched an all-time high.

While the average Asian and Pacific Islander family enjoys the highest median family income among all racial/ethnic groups, they also have one of the highest rates of poverty in urban and rural areas. For example, in New York City, 43% of Asian and Pacific Islander children are born into poverty. According to the US Department of Agriculture, "The disparity between a high median family income and a poverty rate of 15% suggests a high level of income inequality among Asian families." The Hmong communities in diverse urban areas such as Minneapolis, Minnesota and Anchorage, Alaska also experience high rates of poverty.

### *Education*

- Over 87% of Asians and Pacific Islanders 25 and over are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all adults in this age group is 84%.
- Over 47% of Asians and Pacific Islanders age 25 and over hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Asians and Pacific Islanders had the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group. The corresponding rate for all adults in this age group is 27%.
- 16% of Asians and Pacific Islanders 25 and over have an advanced degree (e.g., master's, Ph.D., M.D., or J.D.). This percent represented 1.3 million Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- \$3.1 million is the estimated work-life earnings for full-time, year-round Asian and Pacific Islander workers with an advanced degree. For Asians

and Pacific Islanders, more education means higher career earnings: those with a bachelor's degree would earn \$1.8 million and those with a high school diploma only \$1.1 million (Bennett & Reeves, 2003).

### *Employment Issues*

Asian and Pacific Islander women (2.1 percent of the total work force) reflect the most progress in attaining higher-level positions over the past decade. The number of female officials and managers more than doubled, with a rate of change of 135 percent. Asian and Pacific Islander women exceed their total representation as professionals, technicians and clerks. Additionally, of the 106 Asian and Pacific Islander broadcasters in the top 25 TV markets, only 20 are men, according to a survey commissioned by the Asian American Journalists Association and conducted by the Annenberg School of Journalism. The largest numbers of Asian and Pacific Islander women are employed in the computer and electronic product manufacturing industry, as well as in some retail industries (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2003).

Since 1975, the representation of Asian and Pacific Islander women as lawyers has increased substantially from 0.5 to 5.3 percent (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2003).

### *Languages*

The number of people who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language at home is over 7 million. Of this number, 5.4 million speak English “well or very well.” The most commonly spoken Asian or Pacific island languages are Chinese (2.0 million speakers), Tagalog (1.2 million), Vietnamese (1.0 million), and Korean (894,000) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

Cultural and linguistic barriers significantly affect Asians and Pacific Islanders access to health care and information. The language differences also prevent some parents from communicating with their children’s schools and teachers.

### *Coming to America*

The number of U.S. foreign-born residents who were born in Asia is 8.3 million. Asian-born residents comprise one-fourth of the nation's total foreign-born population.

- The five largest contributors to the nation's foreign-born population from Asia are China, the Philippines, India, Vietnam and Korea.
- Close to half (46%) of the nation's foreign-born population from Asia live in three metropolitan areas: Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

Where else do the Asians and Pacific Islanders live? Simply put: almost everywhere within the United States. At least 80% of Asians and Pacific Islanders reside in ten states: California, New York, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia and Massachusetts. The fastest growing Asian and Pacific Islander populations are in states such as Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina, Nebraska, Arizona, Delaware and New Mexico.

Asian and Pacific Islander populations are also growing in various regions of Oregon, Alaska, Maryland, Michigan and Minnesota. The following statistics indicate how the Asian and Pacific Islander population impacts the state, community and economy:

- With 4.2 million people, California has the largest Asian and Pacific Islander population of any state in the union.
- The largest Chinatown in the U.S. is in San Francisco, with a population of 14,000.
- More than 220,000 Filipino Americans live in the Los Angeles area, the largest concentration outside the Philippines.
- The three remaining Japantowns (or *Nihonmachi*) of any size in the United States are located in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Jose, California.
- Los Angeles is home to over 160,000 Korean Americans, the largest concentration outside of Korea.
- The City of Westminster in California has more than 152,000 Vietnamese Americans living in the area, the largest concentration in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

It is interesting to note that 48% of the foreign-born population from Asia are naturalized U.S. citizens. The corresponding rate for the foreign-born population as a whole is 37%. Eighty-eight percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders are either foreign-born themselves or have at least one foreign-born parent.

### Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Military

#### *Serving Our Nation*

Asians and Pacific Islanders have served proudly from World War I to the present war in Iraq and in many other locations throughout the world. As depicted by the dedication of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, patriotism runs deep among the Asian and Pacific Islander cultures. There are currently over 284,000 Asian and Pacific Islander military veterans. There were 29,000 veterans who are

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Americans. The largest recent migration streams from/through American Samoa. United States military service enhanced employment and educational opportunities continue to attract Samoans. Reasons for migration from Guam are similar to those from American Samoa.

Approximately 44 percent of Pacific Islanders live in Hawaii, 30 percent live in California, 4 percent in Washington and the remainder in Texas, Utah and other states (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

Asian and Pacific Islander women first entered the military service during World War II. The Women's Army Corps recruited fifty Japanese American and Chinese American women and sent them to Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota to train as military translators. They worked with captured Japanese documents, extracting military, political and economic information that impacted Japan's ability to conduct the war. Other Asian and Pacific Islander women worked with the Chinese, and served as aerial photo interpreters, air traffic controllers, and weather forecasters. These women ferried planes from factories to air bases, tested planes for mechanical problems, and towed targets for aerial gunnery students to practice shooting.

Thirty-eight Women's Air Service Pilots died in the line of duty, one being a Chinese American woman, Hazel (Ying) Lee. Additionally, women worked as nurses, occupational therapists, and in radio communications. Many Filipino American women worked with the underground resistance movement to help American forces in the Philippines through the three year Japanese occupation during World War II. They carried information about Japanese deployments, smuggled food and medicine to American POWs, and worked as spies for the United States. Even today, Asians and Pacific Islanders continue to serve the U.S. military in many career fields and as civilians (Bellafaire, n.d.).

#### *Medal of Honor Recipients*

Asian and Pacific Islander Medal of Honor Recipients include the following:

Rudolph B. Davila, SSgt. (later 2nd Lt.), 7th Infantry, for actions on May 28, 1944, at Ardena, Italy.

Barney F. Hajiro, Pvt., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions in October 1944, at Bruyeres and Biffontaine, France.

Mikio Hasemoto, Pvt., 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep), for actions on November 29, 1943, at Cerasuolo, Italy. (Posthumous)

Joe Hayashi, Pvt., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions in April 1945, at Tendola, Italy. (Posthumous)

Shizuya Hayashi, Pvt., 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep), for actions on November 29, 1943, at Cerasuolo, Italy.

Daniel K. Inouye, 2nd Lt. (later 1st Lt.), 442nd Infantry, for actions on April 21, 1945, at San Terenzo, Italy.

Yeiki Kobashigawa, Tech. Sgt., 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on June 2, 1944, at Lanuvio, Italy.

Robert T. Kuroda, SSgt., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on October 20, 1944, at Bruyeres, France. (Posthumous)

Moto Kaoru, Pfc., 100th Infantry Battalion, for actions on July 7, 1944, at Castellina, Italy. (Posthumous)

Kiyoshi K. Muranaga, Pfc., 442nd Infantry, for actions on June 26, 1944, at Suvereto, Italy. (Posthumous)

Masato Nakae, Pvt., 100th/442nd Infantry, for actions on August 19, 1944, at Pisa, Italy. (Posthumous)

Shinyei Nakamine, Pvt., 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep), for actions on June 2, 1944, at La Torreto, Italy. (Posthumous)

William K. Nakamura, Pfc., 442nd Infantry, for actions on July 4, 1944, at Castellina, Italy. (Posthumous)

Joe M. Nishimoto, Pfc., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on November 7, 1944, at La Houssiere, France. (Posthumous)

Allan M. Ohata, Sgt. (later SSgt.), 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep), for actions in November 1943, at Cerasuolo, Italy. (Posthumous)

James Okubo, Tech. Sgt., Medical Detachment, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions during October and November 1944, at Biffontaine, France. (Posthumous)

Yukio Okutsu, Tech. Sgt., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on April 7, 1945, at Mount Belvedere, Italy.

Frank H. Ono, Pfc., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on July 4, 1944, at Castellina, Italy. (Posthumous).

Kazuo Otani, SSgt., 442nd Infantry, for actions on July 15, 1944, at Pieve di S. Luce, Italy. (Posthumous)

George T. Sakato, Pvt., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for actions on October 29, 1944, in Biffontaine, France.

Ted T. Tanouye, Tech. Sgt., 442nd Infantry, for actions on July 7, 1944, at Molina A Ventoabbto, Italy. (Posthumous)

Francis B. Wai, Capt., 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, for actions on October 20, 1944, at Leyte, Philippine Islands. (Posthumous)

(U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

## Population Distribution

### *Nation*

- A total of 2.7 million Asian and Pacific Islander residents reported as being Chinese in combination with one or more other races or Asian groups, making Chinese the leading Asian group. Filipino (2.4 million) and Asian Indian (1.9 million) follow. The largest Pacific Islander groups were native Hawaiian (401,000) and Samoan (133,000).
- 49% of Asians and Pacific Islanders who live in the western part of the United States. 96% of Asians and Pacific Islanders live in a metropolitan area.

### *States*

- 4.2 million California residents are Asian, making the Golden State the state with the highest number of Asians. New York, Hawaii, Texas, and New Jersey follow, in order. Hawaii had the largest number of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders with 283,000, followed by California with 221,000.
- 58% of Hawaii's population is Asian or Pacific Islander followed by California (12%). For native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Hawaii also was number one, at 23%.

### *Places*

- 68% of Honolulu residents are Asian. Among places with 100,000 or more residents, the only other city with more than one-half of its population being Asian is Daly City, California with 54%. The remaining cities among the top 10 are in California: Fremont, Sunnyvale, San Francisco, Irvine, Garden Grove, Santa Clara, Torrance,

and San Jose. Honolulu also led these places with 16% of its population being Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander.

## Social and Economical Factors

### *Children and Families*

- 2.6 million Asian and Pacific Islander families live in the U.S. Of these, 80% consist of married couples. For the 168,000 Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander families, the corresponding percentages were 67% and 60%.
- 78% of Asian children live in a home maintained by both of their parents. For Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander children, the corresponding percentage is 58%.

### *Housing*

- 2 million Asian and Pacific Islander householders own their home; they represent 55% of all Asian and Pacific Islander householders.

### *Computer Access*

- 73% of the nation's Asian and Pacific Islander households have computers. In addition, 68% of these households have Internet access. Among all households, the corresponding percentages are 57% and 51% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

### *Voting and Political Activism*

- There has been a 17% increase in the number of Asian and Pacific Islander voters between the last two presidential elections. This reflected growth in the voting-age population and in U.S. citizenship of Asians and Pacific Islanders.
- There appears to be a new respect for Chinese Americans' voting power with the upcoming Presidential election. John Kerry, the Massachusetts Senator who will likely win the Democratic Party's nomination as candidate for the White House, is now actively selecting his election mate and assuming the posture of readiness to compete with Bush for the next presidential throne. With continuous increase in the population of Chinese origin in the U.S., Chinese Americans have become a force that cannot be neglected in the election. It is reported that Kerry has set up an election website in Chinese, the first of its kind in American presidential election history. Kerry's website features rich content,

including a detailed list of his views on all topics of discussion on the election contest, in the hope that Chinese American voters can fully understand Kerry's political views (People's Daily Online, 2004).

- Political activism has been an important part of the Asian American Movement in the United States, beginning in the 1960's (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).
- For example, Mr. Gary Locke grew up in Seattle and graduated from Franklin High School in 1968. In 1982, he began his political career when he was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives. In 1996, Gary Locke became the state of Washington's 21st elected governor. He was the first Chinese American governor in the U.S. He is currently serving his second term as Washington's governor.
- In 2000, Norman Y. Mineta was confirmed as Secretary of Commerce, becoming the first Asian to hold a Cabinet post. He was also the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city (San Jose, California). As a member of Congress, he founded the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus. Mr. Mineta currently serves as U.S. Secretary of Transportation.
- In 2001, Elaine L. Chao was confirmed as the 24th U.S. Secretary of Labor, becoming the first Chinese American to serve in the Cabinet. She has also served as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission and Deputy Maritime Administrator in the U. S. Department of Transportation (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

### Contemporary Issues

The “model minority myth” stereotype has damaging effects on the Asian and Pacific Islander – characterizing them as hard working, uncomplaining, diligent and over achievers. This myth leads people to ignore the social and economic problems faced by the Asian and Pacific Islander population and not recognize the needs of poorer Asians and Pacific Islanders and ignore Chinese or Samoan gang problems.

This stereotype may also hide discrimination and may result in pressures on young Asians and Pacific Islanders and can ignore individual talents and preferences. This myth also creates an antagonism against other minority groups, such as Blacks and Hispanic Americans and blames these groups, rather than the social system, for their failure “to succeed” (Kashef, 2003).

Asians and Pacific Islanders are increasingly becoming targets of hate crimes. In the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's "Report on Hate Crimes and Discrimination Against Arab Americans: The Post-September 11 Backlash," the authors noted that among the dozens of instances of discrimination by airlines that occurred between September 2001 and October 2002, "the passenger's name or perceived ethnicity" alone was often sufficient cause for unprovoked removal from a flight.

Discrimination often took place whether or not the passenger was actually Arab or Muslim, resulting in many South Asians and others falling victim to the ignorance of the pilot or another passenger. According to the Anti-Discrimination Committee, one Indian Canadian woman was removed from a plane because her last name was mispronounced as "Attah" and thus perceived as Middle Eastern. Other passengers were prevented from traveling because their names were similar to those on the FBI watch list (Kashef, 2003).

California alone recorded 128 hate crimes, 94 in New York, and 71 in New Jersey. Immigration from Asian countries continues at a very high rate making them targets of anti-immigration backlash. Due to physical characteristics, many are seen as "foreigners" even after generations in the United States. According to the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium Executive Report of 2001, there were 507 documented bias-motivated hate crimes against Asians and Pacific Islanders in 2001, which indicates a 23% increase from 2000. This, researchers claim, is attributable in part to the backlash following our nation's worst attack on September 11<sup>th</sup>. An alarming number of post-September 11<sup>th</sup> hate incidents occurred at schools and work places. These attacks included: 83 documented vandalism incidents; 66 assault and battery cases; 68 threats; and 43 harassment incidents. Physical violence, threats and intimidation occurred as well as incidents of arson and vandalism to businesses owned by Asians and Pacific Islanders.

A large majority of hate incidents targeted Sikh Americans because they looked like the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorists. Yet not all hate crimes are reported, counted or documented, despite the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990. At this time, we cannot know the complete picture about hate crimes against Asians and Pacific Islanders [National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC), 2001].

For many Asians and Pacific Islanders, the murder of Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese American, in Detroit, Michigan in 1982, and the subsequent leniency received by his murderers was a critical rallying point in recognizing the collective vulnerability to continuing prejudice and hate in this country. Competition between Japan and the United States has made many Asians and Pacific Islanders targets of hate. Chin was beaten to death by two unemployed auto workers in Detroit. The two who began the altercation, Eben and White, called Mr. Chin a "Jap" and blamed him for the loss of jobs and economic downturn (Yip, 1997).

Hate crimes against Asians and Pacific Islanders are still prevalent and can be seen in recent news. Siukwo Cheng, an 18-year-old Chinese immigrant, was beaten by a group of African American youths on March 10, 2004, just outside the school he was attending. Cheng could not identify his attackers, but remembered that during the beating, they were shouting racial slurs against him. Earlier that day, Cheng confronted a group of black students who were harassing a teacher. Evidently there has been a long history of racial tension within the school primarily targeted at Chinese and South Asian immigrants.

In another case, Jeffrey Woo and four other Chinese American friends were beaten and slandered on June 6, 2003, in San Francisco by a gang of drunken white youths. The 20-member gang had just left a keg party, which the local police broke up, when they came across Woo and his friends. They knocked them down, kicked and punched them, while calling them “Chinamen” and “gooks.” Jeffrey’s father, Bill Woo, was perplexed by the incident because he raised his son in a multiracial environment and believed that this type of “thuggish racism” was no longer present, especially in a liberal city as San Francisco. However, in 2003, there were eleven cases of hate crimes against Asians and Pacific Islanders within the city, with six charges being filed from those cases (Hate Crimes, n.d.).

Motives for hate crimes and violence are complex. Responding to and preventing such violence requires improved data collection, training of law enforcement personnel, and community outreach and education, as well as long-term strategies to address continuing racial bias in American society. The President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders believes that one of the most important contributions that it can make is educating others about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to dispel the bias and prejudice that can result in violence. In many Asian-immigrant communities, the absence of law enforcement personnel who speak their languages or come from their cultural backgrounds results in communication and trust barriers to report crimes.

Strong support exists in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities for strengthening federal hate crimes legislation that would remove current barriers which make it difficult to prove that hate was a motive for a crime in cases involving race, religion and national origin. In addition, protection is needed for violence based on gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

Community-based policing models that include affirmative action programs to recruit, hire and promote local community members and that involve local families, schools, community groups and businesses in law enforcement efforts have proven to be the most effective deterrents to crime (President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, 2001).

The media, through television, news and movies, often perpetuates the images of Asians and Pacific Islanders that reinforce stereotyping and violence without countervailing images. The Asian and Pacific Islander sometimes becomes

the scapegoat for low-income, less-educated white and middle class minorities who believe Asians and Pacific Islanders have wrongfully taken jobs or opportunities for a college education. The perception of Asians and Pacific Islanders as “foreigners” is reflected in well-meaning compliments about how well they speak English. It would probably never occur to anyone to compliment someone who is Italian American about speaking English well.

Bias against Asians and Pacific Islanders, which is increasing today, is long-standing. The Chinese Exclusion Act passed in 1882 barred Chinese laborers from entering this country. Along with trepidation that these workers would take jobs away was the feeling expressed by one Senator during the Congressional debate and reported in *Chronicles of the 20th Century*, that members of this group “do not harmonize with us.” The Act was not repealed until 1943. Moreover, although the Act specifically referred to the Chinese, Japanese people were also affected because most people could not tell the two groups apart. To this day, according to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, hostility against one Asian Pacific American group can spill over onto another.

According to the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, 461 anti-Asian incidents were reported in 1995, 2% more than in 1994 and 38% more than in 1993. Moreover, the violence of the incidents increased dramatically; aggravated assaults rose by 14%, and two murders and one firebombing took place. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and other experts in the field find that present-day resentment is frequently fueled by the stereotype that Asians and Pacific Islanders are harder-working, more successful academically, and more affluent than most other Americans (APA Online, 1998).

In summary, the history of the Asians and Pacific Islanders is filled with hope, courage and some blatant discriminatory practices. The Asian and Pacific Islander Movement spawned a host of new courses of study on university campuses: Asian American Studies, a new field of inquiry in higher education. With increased political power, the Asian and Pacific Islander Movement, since the late 1960s, has been a viable means of empowering Asians and Pacific Islanders in America to redefine themselves, improve their lives and raise their sociopolitical status (Wei, 1993).

Many challenges remain in the U.S. for Asians and Pacific Islanders. The current National Security Entry/Exit Registration System, or NSEERS, resulted in mass confusion, detentions and the deportation of more than 13,000 people without apprehending one terrorist. In December 2003, the policy was suspended, and the Department of Homeland Security instituted the US-VISIT, a biometric identifier. When fully implemented, it will include digital photographs and inkless fingerprints from visitors to the U.S. and records their departures (deSilva, 2003).

Asians and Pacific Islanders are also feeling new anxiety over the backlash of the SARS epidemic. Many groups are meeting to discuss the current challenges

and reduce the sense of vulnerability confronting their communities: new anti-terror legislation, a spy scandal involving a Chinese American and diminished funding for immigrant groups, to name a few (Vongs, 2003).

The court system and American society has now seen the power of the vote – and politics – to raise a greater awareness of the racial discrimination rooted in anti-Asian attitudes. As members of a distinct racial minority, Asians and Pacific Islanders realize they share a similar heritage and destiny in America. There are political advantages to be gained from mutual cooperation and the pooling of resources (Wei, 1993).

Asian political activists stand in direct contradiction to the derisive and dehumanizing stereotypes that depict Asians and Pacific Islanders in a subordinate place. For example – the NAPALC applauded FOX’s cancellation of the Charlie Chan Mystery Tour, believing that those movies perpetuate outdated and offensive stereotypical images of Asians and Pacific Islanders (National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, 2003).

The Asian American Business Roundtable, consisting of 25 organizations, representing a broad range of Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Pacific Islander, Korean, Asian, and Vietnamese Americans in civil rights, law, education, labor and health, filed an *Amicus Brief* in the Supreme Court regarding Michigan’s Affirmative Action. They have proven the power of political activism and working together (Asian American Business Roundtable, 2003).

Asians and Pacific Islanders are doing their part in opposing discriminatory behavior and continue to participate in the political process. As a result, they are helping to build a stronger “and more perfect union” (Wei, 1993).

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## Appendix

### Significant Contributions by Asians and Pacific Islanders

The values and traditions of the Asian and Pacific Islander community – entrepreneurship, community involvement, governmental and military service, excellence in education, sports and the arts – have given our nation a rich and valuable legacy. The following brief biographies have been listed to indicate the vast diversity and great contributions of the Asian Pacific Islander to the culture of the United States.

#### *Asian and Pacific Islander Women*

The following women share a common commitment for social justice and a pride in being Asian and Pacific Islander women. In China, the adage is: “Women hold up half the sky.” Here in the United States, Asian and Pacific Islander women not only hold up the sky, they have dug the ditches, turned soil, cleaned hotel rooms, sewn in airless factories, cooked, cleaned, filed lawsuits, argued litigation, sang, danced, wrote, painted, raised families, languished in prisons, and organized unions. They are women who struggle on in the face of sometimes seemingly insurmountable odds in attempts to create a more just world.

Asian and Pacific Islander women today find themselves battling one hundred years of dehumanizing gendered stereotypes stemming from the particular political relationship of the United States and Asia. In 1898, the United States colonized the Philippines and a number of Pacific nations.

For the next century, Asia and the Pacific became an arena for continued military engagement - from a series of wars to the continued military presence in Korea, Okinawa and throughout the Pacific. For Asian and Pacific Islander women, this relationship has resulted in distorted images which have become so commonplace that their names have made their way into the English language: “Geisha Girl, “China Doll,” and “Suzie Wong.”

Asian and Pacific Islander women have had to fight against this militarized, gendered image as they seek dignity and justice on behalf of their families and their communities. Women like Yuri Kochiyama, the “elder stateswoman” for the Asian American movement have carved a place for Asian and Pacific Islander women in the history of struggle in America. Yuri has said, “Nothing was just given to women. Women fought for change tenaciously and have been triumphant in many instances, although they know they have a long road ahead. Women know that their struggle is endless.”

There are women of hope in all communities - women whose passion for justice is matched by their commitment to act toward their beliefs. The stories of these women inspire hope in the face of adversity, commitment to action in the face of injustice, and the fight for a better world for future generations.

*Manuela Albuquerque, city attorney.*

When Manuela Albuquerque steps into the courtrooms of Berkeley, California, as the City Attorney, she makes a statement – and not only with words. Standing proud in her traditional Indian sari, she commands attention and respect.

“I wear a sari because by wearing it, I’m saying that a white man dressed in a three-piece suit isn’t the only kind of lawyer there is. People have a tendency to think that people who wear ethnic dress are backward. When I wear a sari, I {say} I’m not ashamed of who I am,” she says.

Albuquerque, lawyer and community activist, has always been proud of her roots. She credits her parents for instilling values of justice and equality that would lead her to make community works a vital part of her life. In addition to her busy practice as Berkeley’s chief legal adviser, she is one of the founders of Narika, a non-profit California corporation which operates an informational and referral phone line for South-Asian women who are victims of domestic violence.

“Community work has been demanding but rewarding. It is important that we remember people who are less fortunate than we are and who feel isolated as immigrants in this country,” she stated.

Born to an educated class in New Delhi, India, during British colonial rule, Albuquerque points to her parents as the main source of inspiration and support in her life. Her father was a doctor in the Indian Medical Service while her mother volunteered her time to work for India’s poor. Both her parents were openly critical of British colonialism and supported the Indian independence movement. “They conveyed to me the belief that there was no inherent reason that white people were any better than blacks. In India, there were only two colors of human beings: black and white. Indians were black.”

Albuquerque was strongly influenced by her mother, whose resourcefulness and dedication to serving the poor inspired not only her daughter, but also one of India’s most famous residents, Mother Teresa. Albuquerque’s mother was well known in New Delhi for using her government connections in the service of others. So when Mother Teresa came to New Delhi to work in the 1950s, the famous nun was referred to Albuquerque’s mother who people said could “get various things done.” Albuquerque said proudly, “We did everything.”

Albuquerque spent many hours by her mother’s side making tiny paper pill dispensers for the nuns. She accompanied her mother to homeless shelters during the winter to dispense food. When Mother Teresa wanted to auction a limousine as a fundraiser, Albuquerque’s mother convinced the nun to host a national lottery to raise more money. Since Indians laws prohibited gambling, Albuquerque observed her mother contact the offices of the Prime Minister and the governors of three states to get waivers

so Mother Teresa could hold the lottery in four major cities. “She is the most capable person I know,” Albuquerque said of her mother.

Albuquerque herself was raised with high academic and social expectations. She attended a private girl’s school run by Irish nuns. Students were required to wear uniforms and their lives were highly regimented. Knowing that she was expected to be the intellectual equal to any boy her age contributed to her sense of self-esteem.

At the same time, Albuquerque had to fight against societal restrictions against women. Though she had an ambitious educational program before her - college was expected - she lived under the assumption that she would get married after college and devote the rest of her life to raising a family. “No one ever discussed career possibilities with me.”

Albuquerque went to the University in Delhi to study economics. She immigrated to the United States, where she married an American lawyer. When she herself later decided to pursue a law degree, to her dismay, she found that her university degree from India was not accepted.

Before applying to law school, she would have to attend two more years of university in the U.S. “This news was extremely discouraging and created the impression that an Indian education was second rate.” But, as a result of her own persistence and a special program designed for her, she was able to earn a bachelor’s degree within six months. She went onto Hastings College of Law in San Francisco from which she received a law degree in 1975.

For Albuquerque, community service is a fundamental part of her life, both professionally and personally. “We should never forget how lucky we are. We all have an obligation to give something back” (Albuquerque, 2002).

*Shamita Das Dasgupta, Rutgers University professor, lecturer, social activist.*

“I love being an Asian woman. I carry within me a long history of powerful, active, revolutionary women. I know that I will join this line to influence other women after me. If you look at the history of Asia, you can see that Asian women [in every Asian country] have always participated strongly in all kinds of social and political movements. I reclaim that history. I look back and draw strength from all of that.”

Dr. Shamita Das Dasgupta is one of the founders of Manavi, the first organization in the U.S. focusing on violence in the lives of South-Asian immigrant women. The organization operates a transitional home and has compiled a film series, *In Our Own Vision: Celebrating South Asian Women’s Lives*. Dasgupta, a psychology professor at Rutgers University, founded the organization to address the particular needs of South-Asian women. After Manavi was formed in 1985, South-Asian women from around the country contacted the organization, reporting that they were victims of violence and

needed support. As a result, violence against women - which Dasgupta defines as “any condition, attitude or behavior that keeps women subjugated” - became the major focus of the organization’s activities. “In our work, poverty, homelessness, racism and discrimination are all included when we consider violence against women,” Dasgupta stated.

Dasgupta’s compassion for immigrants and civil rights was implanted during her childhood. She was born in 1949, two years after India won its long battle for independence from British colonialism. Her father had been deeply involved in the freedom movement. His stories about the movement’s struggles had a lasting influence on her life. They inspired her to study and support international liberation struggles in South Africa, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, as well as movements in the United States for civil rights, women’s rights, and gay rights.

Dasgupta had an unconventional childhood. Her father, a government engineer, moved frequently, often to remote areas where there were no schools. As a result, she did not attend school regularly until sixth grade. She started at a government school for girls, whose headmistress was one of the major influential figures in her life. The headmistress brought progressive and innovative ideas to her educational policies. “She wanted us to experience life, to be very socially conscious. I learned to think about what it meant to struggle for justice and how to think critically about the world,” Dasgupta stated.

To this day, Dasgupta still finds her immigration experience emotionally challenging. She is deeply saddened by her separation from her extended family. “That’s a loss for myself and my child who grew up here away from her grandparents,” said Dasgupta, who has one daughter.

She is acutely conscious of the emotional challenges facing immigrants here. “Immigration always keeps you in limbo. You don’t know where you belong. As an Asian you never feel you belong here. Because of the way you look, you always fall into an ‘immigrant’ category. But then when you go back [to your native country], you don’t fit in. It’s a painful situation for the first generation immigrants,” Dasgupta stated.

She has endured the lack of respect from people who see her race, her accent, and her traditional Indian attire as reasons to ignore her. “I’ve had people even within the feminist movement talk about how I’m different. Even in domestic violence conferences, if I am with a white woman, people will always talk to her as though I can’t speak or hear. It happens so often. You just feel sickened from having to deal with it on a daily basis,” she stated.

She finds strength in her sisterhood with other Asian women and pride in her heritage. “In South Asia, especially in Bengal where I come from, there is a long tradition of goddess worshipping. Goddesses are not some vague, abstract image. They are women who are strong, who are fighters, who are warriors. I reclaim all of that.”

Dasgupta immigrated to the United States with her husband. An assistant professor at Rutgers, she lectures around the country, has published several research articles on gender issues, a manual on domestic violence/intervention, and a book, *The Demon Slayers and Other Stories: Bengali Folk Tales*. She has also edited *A Patchwork Shawl: Chronicles of South Asian Women In America* (Rutgers University Press).

*Sumi Sevilla Haru, actor, poet, producer, journalist.*

‘Utopia is if someone like I am could put on Caucasian make-up, blue contact lenses and act as Mrs. Clinton in a role.’ For Sumi Sevilla Haru - producer, actor, journalist, and poet - her entire adult life has been spent in the art world trying to achieve that utopia.

Sumi Haru is the president and co-founder of the Association of Asian Pacific American Artists, which seeks balanced images and employment opportunities for Asian Americans in film and television. She is also the producer of programs for the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Many of her projects target youth audiences, including a television variety show called *Se Habla Everything* and a drama/improvisation program for at-risk youth. In addition, Haru is co-producer and co-host of L.A. Arts Mix, an award-winning television magazine program on the arts and culture of Los Angeles.

Haru was born in 1939 in New Jersey. Her father, an immigrant from the Philippines, had come to Maui, Hawaii in 1919 to work in the pineapple fields. He became a houseman to an army psychiatrist, known to the family as "The Doctor." The whole family eventually settled in Colorado.

From the time that she was a little girl, Haru had a demanding schedule. Her mother wanted her to be a concert pianist. Through junior high school, she practiced piano six hours per day and the flute two hours daily. In high school, she taught ten piano students a week. She read everyday with the Colonel, who served as her surrogate grandfather. He urged her not to be afraid to try new things, move into new areas, and break new ground.

Despite societal barriers against women in the workplace, Haru always knew she would work. However, she was not prepared for the harsh reality of discrimination. When she decided to go into acting, she faced constant racial and sexual discrimination and found herself waging an often-solitary fight for visibility as an Asian American actress. “I think of myself as an American of Philipino heritage. So it irks me when people ask, “When did you come to our country?” or ‘What are you?’ And I absolutely detest being complimented for how ‘well’ I can speak English.”

Haru said her refusal to play phony accents and take stereotypical roles cost her many jobs as an actress. Despite the difficulties she faced, Haru found work. For 17 years Haru was a host producer of a public affairs program at KTLA, Channel 5 in Los Angeles (appearing twice a week). She also appeared in television shows such as

“M\*A\*S\*H,” “Hill Street Blues,” and “The Young and the Restless.” On stage, she appeared in *Citizenship*, the *Harry Bridges Story*, *Teahouse of the August Moon*, *Street Scene*, *Tenderloin*, *Gold Watch*, and *O.F. Ostrogoths*.

Haru recognized the need to fight for changes in the entertainment industry due to her own struggles. One of her most passionate struggles has been around affirmative action in the performing arts. She has been actively involved in recent controversies where European Americans have been cast in roles to portray Asian Americans. “They're able to put on scotch tape and learn an accent and play something they aren't. But the big slap is that we [Asians and Pacific Islanders] are not presented with those opportunities.”

Until opportunities for casting are equally open to all people, Haru believes roles for specific ethnicities should be protected. To further this end, Haru became actively involved in the Screen Actors Guild (SAG). In 1971, she co-founded SAG's Ethnic Employment Opportunities Committee, which established affirmative action procedures for hiring actors. She became co-drafter and negotiator of affirmative action clauses of national theatrical and commercials contracts. These contracts sought to include and portray people of color, women, the elderly, and those with disabilities as they were in real life. “This was critical not only for our employment as actors but also in accurately displaying a true picture of America for the public,” she stated.

She is still sometimes surprised at attitudes some people have toward her as a woman of color. “Because I am petite and attractive, it always comes as a surprise that I am the person in charge or the union officer with a voice in directing negotiations.” She recalled one time when, as a producer, she was asked by one of her superiors to take notes. I said, “I'm sorry but my assistant doesn't have time to get them typed. Maybe you could call in one of your secretaries,” stated Haru.

Haru continues to fight for equity in the arts and encourages generations following to continue to fight. “There are still many battles to be won. My generation was very vocal about [these problems] but I don't think we fixed everything,” she stated.

#### *Significant Asian and Pacific Islander Contributions to Politics*

##### *Patsy Takemoto Mink, U.S. Congresswoman (1928 – 2002).*

Patsy Mink was the first Asian Pacific Islander woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She introduced the first comprehensive Early Childhood Education Act and co-authored the landmark legislation that prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools.

Born on the island of Maui, her grandparents emigrated from Japan in the late 1800s. In her junior year of high school, she became the first girl elected student body president, and graduated class valedictorian. In 1951, Ms. Mink obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Chicago, and became the first Asian Pacific Islander woman to practice law in the state of Hawaii.

In 1964, Ms. Mink was elected to her first term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She served from 1964 to 1976, and again from 1982 to 2002. Ms. Mink co-authored Title IX legislation, a law that required equal support for women and men in academics and athletics at any institution receiving federal money. On September 28, 2002, Congresswoman Mink passed away at the age of 74 (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Spark Matsunaga, U.S. Senator (1916 - 1990).*

Spark Matsunaga was one of the 1,500 Japanese American volunteers who formed the 100th Infantry Battalion during World War II. The recipient of two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star, he went on to make great contributions in the U.S. Senate, where he fought for the redress of Japanese Americans unjustly interned during World War II.

Born Masayuki Matsunaga on the island of Kauai, he was on active duty in the U.S. Army when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Along with other Japanese Americans serving in the military, he was relieved of duty and shipped to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. They successfully petitioned President Roosevelt for the chance to prove their loyalty, and the 100th Infantry Battalion was formed.

In 1976, Mr. Matsunaga was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he sponsored legislation that established the U.S. Peace Institute. A major proponent for the use of renewable energy, he authored the Spark Matsunaga Hydrogen Research and Development Act, which provided funding for research into alternative energy. Senator Matsunaga died in office in 1990. His last official act was voting in support of reauthorizing the Clean Air Act (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Asian and Pacific Islanders in the Military*

*Eric Shinseki, General (retired), U.S. Army Chief of Staff.*

Shinseki graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1965 with a Bachelor's degree and later a Master of Arts in English Literature from Duke University. His military career includes completion of the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College. He received two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Star Medals for his service in Vietnam. He then served for more than ten years in Europe. Shinseki was named Lieutenant General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning in 1996. The following year, he was promoted to General, later serving as Commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, the Allied Land Forces in Central Europe, and the NATO Force in Bosnia. In 1998 he was named Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. He completed his military career as Chief of Staff in 1999 (Asian American Net, n.d.).

*Dr. David S. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.*

Dr. Chu began his service to the nation in 1968 when he was commissioned in the Army and became an instructor at the U.S. Army Logistics Management Center, Fort Lee, VA. He later served a tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam, working in the Office of the Comptroller, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command. He obtained the rank of captain and completed his service with the Army in 1970.

From 1978 to 1981, Dr. Chu served as the Assistant Director for National Security and International Affairs, Congressional Budget Office, providing advice to the Congress on the full range of national security and international economic issues.

Dr. Chu became the Director and then Assistant Secretary of Defense (Program Analysis and Evaluation) from May 1981 to January 1993. In that capacity, he advised the Secretary of Defense on the future size and structure of the armed forces, their equipment, and their preparation for crisis or conflict.

David S. Chu was sworn in as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on June 1, 2001. A Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate, he is the Secretary's senior policy advisor on recruitment, career development, pay and benefits for 1.4 million active duty military personnel, 1.3 million Guard and Reserve personnel and 680,000 DoD civilians and is responsible for overseeing the state of military readiness. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness also oversees the \$15 billion Defense Health Program, Defense Commissaries and Exchanges with \$14.5 billion in annual sales, the Defense Education Activity, supporting over 100,000 students. He is also responsible for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, the nation's largest equal opportunity training program (Department of Defense, 2003).

*Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Class Grace Chung (Chung Han-saem).*

Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Class Grace Chung who has family ties to Korea was named chief cadet at the U.S. Military Academy, becoming only the second female student leader in the school's two-century history, according to the *Korea Herald*, February 10, 2004 issue. Chung, who was born in Ohio in 1982, said she has visited her family homeland of South Korea seven times (Early Bird, Armed Forces Information Services, 2004).

*Ming E. Chang, business leader, Rear Admiral (retired).*

Ming E. Chang held a variety of cruiser and destroyer commands before becoming Department of the Navy Inspector General in 1987. He retired in 1990 after serving in the United States Navy for 34 years. After leaving the Navy, Chang became Vice President and Corporate Raytheon International Director for the Pacific region. He is a prominent consultant on marketing and business development for commercial and government markets (Pearson Education, Inc., 2003).

*Significant Contributions by Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Arts*

*Joyce Chen, chef.*

Chen was born in China and fled her native country with husband, Thomas in 1949 when the Communists took over. They settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1958, Chen opened a Chinese restaurant in Cambridge. The restaurant flourished, and in 1973 a larger Cambridge restaurant was opened. Chen also began writing Chinese cookbooks and in the 1970s began hosting a cooking show on public television. She later developed a line of Chinese specialty foods and cooking utensils. Chen is credited with popularizing Mandarin Chinese food in the United States. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the 1980's and eventually retired. She died in 1994 (Pearson Education, Inc., 2003).

*I.M. Pei, architect.*

I.M. Pei first achieved national attention in 1964, when he was chosen to design the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts. Since then, he has created some of the most distinguished buildings and public spaces of the 20th century.

Born Ieoh Ming Pei in Canton, China, he arrived in the United States in 1935, to study architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He continued his education at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, where he received his Master's degree in Architecture in 1946.

Pei's "first major architectural challenge" was the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. It was selected as one of the 10 Best Buildings in America by the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. His other designs include the Pyramide de Louvre in Paris, the Bank of China Tower, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Some of Pei's numerous awards and honors include the Pritzker Prize (the architectural equivalent of the Nobel Prize), the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Maya Lin, artist.*

Maya Lin is best known for designing the most visited public artwork of the 20th century, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Born in Athens, Ohio, to Chinese immigrants, her father was Dean of Ohio University's fine arts department, and her mother was a professor of literature. In 1981, during her senior year at Yale University, the selection committee for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial chose Lin's design from over 1,400 submissions.

Her other works include The Civil Rights Memorial at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama (1989), The Wave Field at the University of Michigan (1993-94), and the Langston Hughes Library in Clinton, Tennessee (1999). She has been honored with the Presidential Design Award, The American Institute of Architects Honor Award, the Henry Bacon Memorial Award and Honorary Doctorates in Fine Arts from Harvard, Yale, Brown, Smith, and Williams (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Significant Contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Science*

*Dr. David Da-I Ho, AIDS research pioneer.*

Born in Taiwan, Da-I Ho moved to Los Angeles, California, at the age of thirteen. In 1974, he graduated from the California Institute of Technology with a B.S. *Summa cum Laude* in physics. Switching to medical research, he earned his M.D. at Harvard Medical School in 1978.

Dr. Ho earned Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" award in 1996 due to his leadership in the field of HIV/AIDS research for over a decade. The impact of his work on the viral dynamics of HIV changed the way HIV/AIDS is investigated and treated. In the early days of research, it was assumed that the HIV virus remained dormant for ten years before the outbreak of AIDS. Dr. Ho's work revealed that HIV is highly active from the moment of infection, replicating and mutating continuously. This discovery led to the replacement of single drug therapies with protease inhibitor and antiviral cocktail medicine combinations.

Dr. Ho currently serves as the scientific director and chief executive officer of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, the largest private HIV/AIDS research center in the world (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Daniel C. Tsui, physicist.*

Daniel Tsui was born in Henan Province, a remote Chinese village, to illiterate parents who were determined that their children would be educated. They sent him to Hong Kong, away from war-torn China. Many Chinese scholars had fled there and young Tsui benefited from the glut of overqualified teachers. He received a scholarship to Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., his pastor's alma mater. For graduate work he went to the University of Chicago. He went on to do research in solid-state physics at Bell Laboratories and then to teach at Princeton. He and two others shared the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering that electrons acting together in strong magnetic fields can form new types of particles (Pearson Education, Inc., 2003).

*Asians and Pacific Islanders in Entertainment*

*Lucy Liu, actress.*

Lucy Liu was born to parents who had immigrated to the United States from mainland China. She was raised in an Italian neighborhood in Queens, New York City, New York and graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1986. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. She also studied Dance, Art and Oriental Cultures. During her senior year she auditioned for a supporting role in *Alice in Wonderland* and landed the lead, which was the catalyst for her professional career in acting. She studied Art in China under a special grant and won considerable praise for her exhibit of mixed media photographic pictures. As a hobby, Lucy practices Kali-Eskrima-Silat (the art of knife and rod fighting). She also snow boards, repels mountains, skis, and recently tried out her equestrian and motorcycle skills only to sustain injuries. She made her television debut in 1991 as Courtney, the Peach Pit waitress on *Beverly Hills 90210*. It wasn't until 1998 that Liu's career really took off as lawyer Ling Woo on the hit TV show *Ally McBeal*. Other roles include *Jerry Maguire* (1996), *Payback* (1999) and *Shanghai Noon* (2000). Also in 2000, she was able to show off her proficient martial arts skills as Alex in the major motion picture hit, *Charlie's Angels* (Lucy Liu, n.d.).

*Pat Morita (Noriyuki Morita), actor.*

Noriyuki (Pat) Morita, a Japanese American actor, born in Berkeley, California, lived in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, and programmed computers before becoming a standup comic.

After stints in nightclubs and on TV variety shows, he acted in films such as *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (1967) and *Midway* (1976). He won an Oscar nomination for his role as karate instructor in *The Karate Kid* (1984), a part he reprised in its sequels. His TV roles include Arnold (1975–76, 1982–83) in the series *Happy Days* and star of the detective series *Ohara* (1987–88). Recent films include *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* (1994) (Pearson Education, Inc., 2003).

*Keanu Reeves, actor.*

Actor Keanu Reeves was born in Beirut, Lebanon and grew up in Australia, Canada and New York. Despite a deadpan style, Keanu Reeves has developed an impressive portfolio of acting parts. His roles in everything from the blockbuster *Speed* (1993) to untraditional flicks like *My Own Private Idaho* (1991) display his versatility. Reeves first received attention for his performances in *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* (1987) and has since been seen in *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1991), *Feeling Minnesota* (1995), *The Last Time I Committed Suicide* (1996), *Devil's Advocate* (1997), *The Matrix* (1999), *The Gift* (2000), and *The Replacements* (2000). Off screen, Reeves plays in the band Dogstar (People, n.d.).

*Tou Ger Xiong, comedian and educator.*

Tou Ger Xiong, a well-known Hmong comedian, lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has a project titled “Project Respectism,” where he blends humor, traditional folklore, rap music, puppetry, and high energy into a one-man hip performance that educates and entertains. In the past four years, Xiong has given over 400 performances to audiences of all professions and backgrounds, touring churches, libraries, colleges, and communities in twenty different states. Xiong's work as an artist and activist has been featured on national television stations and radio.

Recently, Xiong also starred in “Portraits from the Cloth,” the first television movie about a Hmong family's journey from war. Professionals refer to him as the first Hmong comedian, bilingual storyteller, and consultant on multicultural issues. Young people know him as the Hmong version of Eddie Murphy, Jim Carey, and Snoop Doggy Dogg. Recently he was identified as one of the most influential Hmong in America. Xiong resides in St. Paul and is active in community programs. Xiong also serves on the Board of Directors at Hmong American Partnership (Gohmongboy, n.d.).

*Yo-Yo Ma, cellist.*

An internationally acclaimed composer and musician, Yo-Yo Ma has spent a lifetime expanding the cello repertoire and using music to educate and promote cultural diversity.

Of Chinese descent, Ma was born in Paris, France. He gave his first public concert at the age of five, and played at Carnegie Hall at the age of seven. Ma's multi-faceted career includes 14 Grammy Awards, recorded works from Johann Sebastian Bach to Cole Porter, and collaborations with Itzhak Perlman and Bobby McFerrin.

With his Silk Road Project, Ma is promoting the cross-cultural exchange of music from countries such as Armenia, China, Greece, India, Italy, and Persia. The Project includes music festivals, travelling exhibits, and a comprehensive public education program that provides teacher's guides, lesson plans, and other learning materials for schools (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Ang Lee, director, writer.*

Ang Lee was born in Pingtung, Taiwan. He first gained fame for his second feature film *The Wedding Banquet* (1993), which was described as “a cross-cultural, gay *Green Card*, comedy of errors,” it became the first film from Taiwan to earn an Academy Award nomination for best foreign-language film. Next, he directed his first English-language feature film, the critically acclaimed *Sense and Sensibility* (1995) and followed that success with *The Ice Storm* (1997), also well received by critics. In 1999, he did *Ride With the Devil* and returned to his native language in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, starring Yun-Fat Chow. In addition, Lee wrote the screenplay for *Eat, Drink*,

*Man, Woman* (1994), which also received an Academy Award nomination for best foreign-language film (Pearson Education, Inc., 2003).

*Asians and Pacific Islanders in Athletics*

*Tiger Woods, golfer.*

At the age of 26, Tiger Woods is the youngest golfer in history to win seven major Professional Golfers' Association titles.

Tiger refers to himself as “Cablinasian,” a word he derived from his Caucasian, Black, Indian and Asian heritage. Born in California as Eldrick T. Woods, his mother, Kutilda, a native of Thailand, and his father, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Earl Woods, recognized his talents early. By the age of 20, he was the first golfer in history to win three consecutive U.S. Amateur titles, and was voted *Sports Illustrated's* 1996 Sportsman of the Year. He turned professional that same year.

Through his charitable organization, The Tiger Woods Foundation, he has raised over \$2 million for community-based children's organizations. Recognized for its work on behalf of disadvantaged children, his Foundation has contributed to over 100 community programs throughout the United States, including the Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association, Chicago Public Schools, and The National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association (U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, 2003).

*Michelle Kwan, figure skater.*

Kwan was born in Torrance, California, to parents who immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong and China. She became interested in ice skating at a young age while watching her older brother play ice hockey. Soon she began skating at the highly regarded Ice Castle International Training Center in Lake Arrowhead, California. She was a 1998 Olympic silver medalist at Nagano and 2002 Olympic bronze medalist at Salt Lake City; 6-time U.S. Champion (1996, 1998-02) and 4-time World Champ (1996, 1998, 2000, 2001); set a U.S. record with 7 career overall medals at the World Championships (4 gold, 3 silver) and was the United States' alternate to the Winter Olympics in 1994 as a 13-year-old.

Her talent and maturity were highly respected following the violent Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan scandal in the United States. She won world titles from 1998 through 2003. Kwan is the first American female skater to win seven national championships, the last six in a row. Michelle is now 23 years old and has won five world championships and two Olympic medals (Encarta, n.d.).

Michelle Kwan was voted the 2003 USOC Sportswoman of the Year on Thursday, March 18, 2004, after winning her fifth world championship and seventh national crown last year. The most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, Kwan would

set a record for an American woman if she wins the world championship at Dortmund, Germany. She is currently tied with Carol Heiss Jenkins (USA Today, 2004).

*Michelle Wie, golfer.*

Michelle Wie is believed to be the youngest person ever to play in a Professional Golf Association tour event. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 11, 1989, she is already over 6-feet tall. An excellent student, her hobbies include reading, drawing and computers.

She made her first appearance in an LPGA major - the 2003 Kraft Nabisco Championship - at the age of 13. And she managed to play well enough to make the tournament's final pairing, playing alongside Annika Sorenstam and eventual winner Patricia Meunier-Lebouc.

Later in 2003, Wie became the youngest-ever winner of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links. Even at 13, Wie was already one of the longest hitters to appear on the LPGA Tour, knocking her drives 20-40 yards past most other players on tour. She regularly knocks the ball 300-plus yards. For the 2004 PGA Tour Sony, her average off the tee (including some 3-woods) was in the 270s, just below the field average (VOA Sports, 16 January 2004).

She began playing golf at the age of four. According to an Associated Press profile, Wie was winning nearly every junior event she entered by the age of 11. She plays golf for about four hours a day on weekdays and seven hours a day on weekends. In tournaments, her father served as her caddie through most of 2003, but the family hired a professional caddie for the PGA Sony Open.

At the age of 10, she shot a 64. Also at the age of 10, Wie became the youngest player ever to qualify for a USGA amateur championship when she made the field for the USGA Women's Amateur Public Links Championship.

Her father, B.J. Wie, is a professor of transportation at the University of Hawaii. Bo, Michelle's mother, is a realtor in Honolulu. "When Michelle was seven, we could beat her," said B.J. "When she was eight, she started beating us." B.J. came to America in 1983, Bo in 1987 from Seoul, Korea. They were married a year later in Los Angeles and moved to Honolulu, where Michelle, their only child, was born a year later, making her a U.S. citizen. The three played a lot of golf together in Waikiki, but when Michelle was nine, the parents put away their sticks. It had gotten too expensive, although Michelle will tell you differently. "They stopped playing because I'd gotten better than them," she joked (About Golf, March, 2004).