

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
2 RESOLUTION NO. 27

By: Floyd of the Senate

3 and

4 Pae of the House
5

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

12 WHEREAS, May is recognized by the United States Congress as
13 Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, honoring the contributions
14 and paying tribute to generations of Asian Americans and Pacific
15 Islanders (AAPI) who have made our state and nation their home; and

16 WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in
17 May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the
18 United States in May of 1843; and

19 WHEREAS, May also marks the anniversary of the completion of the
20 transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of those
21 who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

22 WHEREAS, the Chinese were the first Asian group to settle in
23 Oklahoma, living in the Guthrie Territory after the Land Run of
24 1889; and

1 WHEREAS, the Japanese population quickly grew in Oklahoma in the
2 1920s and '40s, and during World War II, several fought for the
3 United States including four sons of Kutaro Nishimuta, a farmer in
4 Payne County. His sons served in the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental
5 Unit, an all-Japanese outfit and one of the most decorated units in
6 the war; and

7 WHEREAS, nearly three percent of all Oklahomans identify as
8 Asian American or Pacific Islander, citing origins in Cambodia,
9 China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine
10 Islands, Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific
11 Islands; and

12 WHEREAS, Oklahoma City is home to "Little Saigon", the Asian
13 District made up of the state's largest population of Asian
14 descendants, predominately Vietnamese. Visitors flock to the
15 district each year to experience the international cuisine, culture,
16 and shopping; and

17 WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens have made
18 a tremendous impact on our state and nation, serving in vital roles
19 as state and national leaders, starting businesses, making
20 breakthroughs in science and technology, serving in our military,
21 excelling in sports, arts, education, and more.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
23 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
24 CONCURRING THEREIN:

