

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
5 RESOLUTION 1007

By: Munson of the House

and

Floyd of the Senate

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10                                   AS INTRODUCED

11                   A Concurrent Resolution recognizing May as  
12                   Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; recognizing  
13                   the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in  
14                   Oklahoma; and celebrating the contributions of Asian  
15                   Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of  
16                   Oklahoma and the United States.

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

21                   WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in  
22                   May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the  
23                   United States in May of 1843; and  
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1       WHEREAS, May also marks the anniversary of the completion of the  
2 transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of those  
3 who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

4       WHEREAS, the Chinese were the first Asian group to settle in  
5 Oklahoma, living in the Guthrie Territory after the Land Run of  
6 1889; and

7       WHEREAS, the Japanese population quickly grew in Oklahoma in the  
8 1920s and '40s, and during World War II, several fought for the  
9 United States including four sons of Kutaro Nishimuta, a farmer in  
10 Payne County. His sons served in the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental  
11 Unit, an all-Japanese outfit and one of the most decorated units in  
12 the war; and

13       WHEREAS, nearly three percent of all Oklahomans identify as  
14 Asian American or Pacific Islander, citing origins in Cambodia,  
15 China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine  
16 Islands, Thailand, Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific  
17 Islands; and

18       WHEREAS, Oklahoma City is home to "Little Saigon", the Asian  
19 District made up of the state's largest population of Asian  
20 descendants, predominately Vietnamese. Visitors flock to the  
21 district each year to experience the international cuisine, culture,  
22 and shopping; and

23       WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander citizens have made  
24 a tremendous impact on our state and nation, serving in vital roles

1 as state and national leaders, starting businesses, making  
2 breakthroughs in science and technology, serving in our military,  
3 excelling in sports, arts, education, and more.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
6 CONCURRING THEREIN:

7 THAT the month of May is recognized by the Oklahoma State  
8 Legislature as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

9 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the contributions of  
10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of Oklahoma and  
11 the United States.

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13 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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