

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 824

By Gillespie

A RESOLUTION commemorating the month of October 2024 as  
Filipino American History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Filipino American History Month is a time to promote and reflect upon the richness of Filipino and Filipino American history and culture and to provide all Americans with the opportunity to learn, honor, and appreciate Filipino American identity and their historical and social contributions to the fabric of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to instill in our youth the importance of education, history, and self-determination in creating eminent role models, in establishing a proud cultural identity, and in producing exceptional citizens of this State and nation; and

WHEREAS, the earliest documented evidence of Filipinos in the continental United States occurred on October 18, 1587, when mariners under Spanish command, referred to as "Luzones Indios," landed in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) recognizes the year 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in Saint Malo, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, today, the Filipino American community is the third-largest Asian American group in the United States, comprising approximately 1.5 percent of the country's population; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1991, and subsequently, every October, many communities throughout the United States and its territories have celebrated this occasion, not only to commemorate the anniversary of the presence of the first Filipinos on United States soil and to

observe Filipino heritage, but also to recognize the social, intellectual, and economic contributions of Filipinos and Filipino Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American service members have a longstanding history of sacrifice and service toward protecting and defending this country in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, immigrants from the Philippines and their families truly have enriched our State and nation through their work and contributions in agriculture; their service in the Armed Forces; their offerings, skills, and expertise as engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, accountants, teachers, lawyers, nurses, and doctors; and their participation in public offices, civic affairs, and community activities; and

WHEREAS, preserving our Filipino communities in the United States is critical to the preservation of Filipino culture, history, traditions, and heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the leadership, legacies, and cultural contributions of Filipino Americans in Tennessee as they commemorate the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.