

Introduced By: Pro Tempore Damarla
Sponsored By: SBA Chair Hurst
GAP Chair Temple
APAC
LJR Chair Yalamanchili
Contact: sga_pro@ucf.edu
First Reading: Adopted in Committee;
April 20, 2023
Committee Action: Passed 7-0-1
Second Reading: April 20, 2023
Final Vote: Passed 36-0-1



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 55-01**

[Proclamation Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at UCF]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures celebrating extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, The United States is home to approximately 21 million Asian Americans, accounting for 7.2% of the broader population;
WHEREAS, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) was established in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush to spread knowledge and appreciation toward the contributions of individuals that identify with the APIDA community to the United States through the means of history, culture, and/or achievements;
WHEREAS, The month of May was chosen to recognize the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, which was mainly completed by Chinese immigrants, on May 10, 1869;
WHEREAS, According to the University of Washington, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month serves “as a doorway to greater inclusion of the stories and lives that have been too often overlooked or elided,” and we should “commit to the work of ensuring that our community is a welcoming and inclusive place, and to learning more about the amazing stories and impact of the AAPI people, past and present, who have helped make our community what it is”;
WHEREAS, There have been an untold number of Asian Americans who have impacted the course of America’s social, economic, and political history; they include Philip Vera Cruz, the Filipino-American labor leader who helped form the United Farm Workers union, I.M. Pei, the Chinese-American architect behind famous structures in American history such as the JFK Memorial Library and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Kamala Harris, the 49th Vice President of the United States and the first female, African American and Indian-American Vice President in US history;
WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida plays host to at least 25 Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) that center around the advancement and celebration of their APIDA heritage and the achievements of the community;
WHEREAS, The APIDA RSOs at UCF organize several major events throughout the year in celebration of their heritage and the achievements of the APIDA community in UCF, including such events as Jade Stoles, Hidden Lotus Awards, as well as memorials that celebrate the lives of APIDA students as with events such as the Moving Mountains Vigil; and
WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida, though it has seen a decline in the number of APIDA students, still serves as the home for 4,884 APIDA students, which makes up 7.1% of the broader student population, continuing its commitment to being an institution that promotes and highlights the diverse backgrounds of all of its students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fifty-Fifth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida recognizes May 2023 as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and support any event celebrating it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the students of the University of Central Florida take the time to celebrate and reflect upon the contributions and history of the Asian Pacific Islander American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to UCF Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Andrea Guzmán, Multicultural Student Center (MSC), Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS), Alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc., American Cultured Desi, Asian Pacific American Coalition, Asian Student Association, Bangladeshi Student Association, Chinese American Student Association, Delta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc., Delta

Epsilon Psi, Filipino Student Association, Indian Graduate Student Association, Indian Student Association, Iranian Student Association, Japanese Culture Club, Knight Kangna, Knightraas, Korean Culture Club, Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity Inc., Muslim Student Association, Nihongo Kenkyukai - Japanese Study Group, Japanese Heritage Student Association Omani Student Association, Pakistani Student Association, Palestinian Student Association, Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, Inc., Saudi Students Association, Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, SPARKS Magazine at UCF, and the Vietnamese American Student Association.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Sierra Holmes
Senate President

4/25/2023

Date

Brandon Greenaway
Student Body President

Date