

Subject: All Hands - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a celebration of the culture, traditions, and history of Asians Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on 7 May 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on 10 May 1869. In 1990, Congress voted to expand the observance from a week to a month-long celebration and in May 1992, the month of May was permanently designated as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month." The theme for this year's observance is "Leadership, Empowerment and Beyond."

On 25 May, we will celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at the Community House from 1100 to 1230. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. An-Minh "Tommy" Hwang, the Chief Information Officer of the Merit Systems Protection Board serving as the Executive Chair of the Asian American Government Executive Network (AAGEN). AAGEN is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, expand and support Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leadership in government.

In keeping with NAVSEA's mission goals, we at the Dahlgren Division and associated tenant commands, are committed to building a culture of diversity. I encourage you to show your support by attending this observance.

Additionally, I encourage you to learn more about the various Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Observance events occurring in your community through your local and federal government agencies, associations, newspapers, colleges, university, civic organizations, and libraries. Information can also be gained at the following sites:

MATERIALS on the role of Asian Pacific Americans in naval history can be found at:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/prs-tpic/asians/aspm-usn.htm>

Background on the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our nation's legacy can be found at: <http://asianpacificheritage.gov>

r/

Diane Ovadia for CAPT Mike Smith