

Senators Hopgood, Hood, Nofs, Knezek, Proos, Knollenberg, Green, Marleau and Emmons offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 45.

A resolution commemorating May 2015 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Whereas, The state of Michigan is fortunate to be home to more than 300,000 residents of Asian and Pacific Island descent; and

Whereas, Asian Pacific Americans comprise one of the fastest-growing populations in both the state and the nation; in fact, the largest-growing population in Michigan, according to the 2010 U.S. Census; and

Whereas, The Asian and Pacific Island regions are tremendously diverse; with more than thirty countries, sixteen major ethnic groups, nine languages, and numerous belief systems bringing their culture to Michigan; and

Whereas, Citizens of Asian and Pacific Island descent, in each generation--from the laborers who connected our coasts one and a half centuries ago to the patriots who fought overseas while their families were interned at home--these patriotic Americans have enhanced our culture, quality of life, and economic vitality through leadership, commitments to knowledge and advancement, and dedication to their communities; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan and the United States of America have been enriched by the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans in all facets of life, including the arts, sciences, business, education, and philanthropy. Michigan has recognized the contribution Asian Pacific Americans and other immigrants make to our economy with the establishment of the Michigan Office for New Americans; and

Whereas, The culture and contributions of our Asian and Pacific Island residents will continue to grow in significance as more Asian Pacific Americans choose to make Michigan their home and as our economy becomes increasingly intertwined with the economies throughout Asia; and

Whereas, Asian Pacific Americans, through advocating issues of justice and equality, continue to break down the barriers of discrimination, indifference, and intolerance, thereby opening doors for all Asian Pacific Americans; and

Whereas, Asian Pacific American residents are proudly served in Michigan by many dedicated organizations, including the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Asian American Citizens for Justice, Asian Center Southeast Michigan and West Michigan, West Michigan Asian Pacific American Association, APIA-Vote Michigan, and Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan takes pride in its cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to honor our Asian Pacific American residents for their lasting, expanding imprint upon our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body commemorate May 2015 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all citizens to celebrate the individual and collective contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to this state and to this country.