

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 170

Reps. Shannon, Aiyash, Brabec, Tyrone Carter, Cavanagh, Haadsma, Hope, Kuppa, Lasinski, Rabhi, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby, Steenland, Thanedar, Weiss, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare October 2021 as Filipino American  
2 History Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Michigan is home to more than 40,000 individuals  
4 claiming Filipino heritage who have had a profound and positive  
5 impact on this state; and

6           Whereas, October was the month selected by the Filipino  
7 American Historical Society (FANHS) because it was October 1587 in  
8 Morro Bay, California, that the first known Filipinos arrived in  
9 America; and

10          Whereas, Since immigrants from the Philippines first

1 established their roots in Michigan, they have become leaders in  
2 every aspect of our communities, enriching our schools, businesses,  
3 civic life, and social organizations across the state; and

4       Whereas, Dr. Felicisima "Ping" Serafica was the first Filipina  
5 American professor of psychology to receive tenure in the United  
6 States. She helped establish one of the Philippines' first  
7 hospitals for children with mental disabilities and the country's  
8 first interdisciplinary mental health clinic. By extension,  
9 Filipino Americans continue to play an integral role in Michigan's  
10 health care system as nurses, doctors, and other medical  
11 professionals; and

12       Whereas, Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music,  
13 dance, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics,  
14 government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields in  
15 the U.S. that enrich the landscape of the this country. Dr. Dawn  
16 Bohulano Mabalon became the first Filipina to receive a Ph.D. in  
17 History from Stanford University. She was a professor, a historic  
18 preservationist, and the author of *Little Manila is in the Heart*  
19 and *Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong*; and

20       Whereas, These contributions reflect a culture which values  
21 and prioritizes family and community, which takes pride in hard  
22 work and diligence, and which celebrates its collective identity;  
23 and

24       Whereas, It is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have  
25 positive role models to instill in them the significance of  
26 education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and  
27 the value of their legacy; and

28       Whereas, Filipino Americans have also improved our state  
29 through their commitment to fostering institutions that have helped

1 to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes and establish the kind of  
2 cross-cultural dialogue and understanding that makes our state a  
3 diverse and welcoming place for all; and

4       Whereas, Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Michigan's  
5 Filipino Americans, the United States continues to strengthen its  
6 relationship with the Filipino American community and to continue  
7 to promote the culture, values, history, and traditions of the  
8 Philippines; now, therefore, be it

9       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
10 this legislative body declare October 2021 as Filipino American  
11 History Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

12       Resolved, That with the declaration of Filipino American  
13 History Month, we acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of  
14 Filipino Americans, who have greatly enriched Michigan's economy,  
15 civic life, and state culture.