

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 170

Rep. Shannon 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
11 established their roots in Michigan, they have become leaders in
12 every aspect of our communities, enriching our schools, businesses,
13 civic life, and social organizations across the state; and

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

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

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

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

25 Whereas, Filipino Americans have also improved our state
26 through their commitment to fostering institutions that have helped
27 to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes and establish the kind of
28 cross-cultural dialogue and understanding that makes our state a
29 diverse and welcoming place for all; and

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

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

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