

Filipino American History Month

October 2025

WHEREAS, Filipino American History Month (FAHM), observed annually from October 1 to 31, is a time to honor the rich history, heritage, and contributions of Filipino/a/x Americans in the United States, first officially recognized and celebrated by the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) in 1988; and

WHEREAS, October marks not only the arrival of the first Filipinos in what is now the continental United States on October 18, 1587, at Morro Bay, California, when Filipino sailors known as “Luzones Indios” came ashore from the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Esperanza*, but also honors the enduring legacy of Larry Itliong, a key labor leader in the Delano Grape Strikes, whose leadership alongside Cesar Chavez in the United Farm Workers Movement exemplifies the spirit of *Isang Bagsak* “if one falls, we all fall; if one rises, we all rise”; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans are the third-largest growing Asian-origin population in the United States. This growth reflects a broader trend of increasing Asian populations in California, which is one of the fastest-growing racial groups in the state. Therefore, it is essential to recognize their stories, struggles, and successes as a vital part of the American narrative, including their lived experiences and the vibrant culture they bring that enriches the nation’s diversity; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay, including Alameda County, has long been a thriving epicenter of Filipino American life, dating back to the early 20th century when the first major wave of Filipino migration began. This migration included pensionados (sponsored students), veterans of the Philippine-American War, and Filipino men recruited to work in California and Hawaii’s agricultural industries or serve in the U.S. military; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American labor force evolved alongside the region's economic development from early farm and service laborers to industrial workers to leaders in professional, civic, educational, and public sectors. Today, the Filipino American community contributes significantly to every facet of life in the East Bay, demonstrating resilience, excellence, and civic leadership; and

WHEREAS, District 2 and the Board of Supervisors proudly recognizes the **Filipino American National Historical Society – East Bay Chapter (FANHS-EBC)**, chartered in 1991 and serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, for its leadership in preserving and promoting Filipino American history and culture. Through research, publications, exhibits, and community engagement, FANHS-EBC advances understanding, appreciation, and education of Filipino American heritage, and played a pivotal role in the national recognition of October as Filipino American History Month; and

WHEREAS, District 5 and the Board of Supervisors proudly recognizes **Filipino Advocates for Justice (FAJ)**. FAJ serves the 200,000+ Filipinos in the East Bay through offices in Oakland’s Chinatown and Union City; advocates for immigrant, worker, and civil rights; and is committed to helping the most vulnerable navigate life's challenges and hurdles, particularly at-risk middle and high school-age youth, low-wage workers, newly arrived immigrants, and the undocumented; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 theme for Filipino American History Month is “From Quotas to Communities: Filipino American Migration and Movement” which honors the significant historical events that have shaped the Filipino American experience, including the 90th Anniversary of the 1935 Philippine Repatriation Act and the 60th Anniversary of the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act. The theme emphasizes the resilience and solidarity of Filipino Americans as they navigate the challenges of migration and the pursuit of belonging. It also highlights the importance of community organizing and collaboration in challenging unjust systems and expanding opportunities for future generations.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors acknowledges the impactful work of institutions such as the **Filipino American National Historical Society – East Bay Chapter (FANHS-EBC)** and **Filipino Advocates for Justice (FAJ)** for their community leadership among underrepresented Filipino community members. In addition, we recognize that Filipino Americans’ contributions reflect Alameda County’s Vision 2036 by creating safe, livable communities, resilient populations, cultural inclusion, and equity that contributes to economic vibrancy.

THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby proclaim October 2025 as Filipino American History Month in Alameda County and urges all residents to honor the past, celebrate the present, and support the future of the Filipino American community. Let us recognize and uplift the cultural, artistic, economic, and civic contributions of Filipinos locally, nationally, and globally.

David Haubert, President
Supervisor, District 1

Lena Tam, Vice President
Supervisor, District 3

Elisa Márquez
Supervisor, District 2

Nate Miley
Supervisor, District 4

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Supervisor District 5