

House Resolution 565

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Nguyen of the 89th, Lim of the 99th, Cannon of the 58th, Kausche of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring May 2021 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and as an
2 important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific
3 Islanders to the history of the United States; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the
5 contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the
6 history of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is
8 inextricably tied to the story of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is a diverse population
10 composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities with more than 100 dialects; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew
12 at a faster rate than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States during the last
13 decade, surging nearly 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, which was a growth rate four
14 times greater than that of the total population of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the 2010 decennial census, in the United States, there are
16 approximately 17.3 million residents who identify themselves as Asian and approximately
17 1.2 million residents who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander,
18 making up approximately 5.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, of the total population
19 of the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the month of May was selected for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
21 because the first immigrants from Japan arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the
22 first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions
23 from immigrants from China; and

24 WHEREAS, Section 102 of Title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as
25 Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and requests that the president issue an annual
26 proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Asian-Pacific American
27 Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

28 WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions in
29 both the government and armed forces of the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, the number of federal judges who are Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders
31 doubled between 2001 and 2008 and more than tripled between 2009 and 2016, reflecting
32 a commitment to diversity in the federal judiciary that has resulted in the confirmation of
33 high-caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander judicial nominees; and

34 WHEREAS, there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific
35 Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the government of the United States and are
36 able to continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

37 WHEREAS, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is an important time to celebrate the
38 significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the
39 United States and recognize that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community
40 strengthens and enhances the rich diversity of the United States.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body recognize and honor May 2021 as Asian-Pacific American
43 Heritage Month.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 public and the press.