

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 200—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF MAY AS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. REID of Nevada) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 200

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

Whereas the history of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the history of the United States;

Whereas as of 2011, according to the United States Census Bureau, the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community is 1 of the fastest growing and most diverse populations in the United States and is comprised of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 28 language groups;

Whereas the 2010 United States Census estimates that there are—

(1) 17,300,000 United States residents who identify themselves as Asian alone or in combination with 1 or more other races; and

(2) 1,200,000 United States residents who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with 1 or more other races;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau projects that by the year 2050—

(1) there will be 40,600,000 United States residents identifying themselves as Asian alone or in combination with 1 or more other races, comprising 9 percent of the total population of the United States; and

(2) there will be 2,600,000 United States residents identifying themselves as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in combination with 1 or more other races, comprising 0.6 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month due to the facts that on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have faced injustices throughout the history of the United States, including the Act of May 5, 1892 (27 Stat. 25, chapter 60) (commonly known as the “Geary Act” or the “Chinese Exclusion Act”), the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, unpunished hate crimes, such as the murder of Vincent Chin, and other events;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as Yuri Kochiyama, a civil rights activist, Herbert Pililaau, recipient of the Medal of Honor, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American Congressman, Patsy T.

Mink, the first Asian-American Congresswoman, and Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian-American member of a presidential cabinet, have made significant strides in the political and military realms;

Whereas the Presidential Cabinet of the Obama Administration includes a record 3 Asian-Americans, including Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki;

Whereas in 2011, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, includes 30 Members of Congress;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have made history by assuming office in a number of new and historically significant positions, including Nikki Haley, the first Asian-American and first female Governor of the State of South Carolina, Edwin M. Lee, the first Asian-American Mayor of San Francisco, California, and Jean Quan, the first Asian-American and first woman to serve as Mayor of Oakland, California;

Whereas as of the date of approval of this resolution, Asian-American and Pacific Islander leaders are serving in State legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Utah, and Washington;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have risen to some of the highest staff levels in the Obama Administration, including Pete Rouse, who is the first Asian-American to serve as White House Chief of Staff, Tina Tohen, Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama, Chris Lu, White House Cabinet Secretary, Neal Katyal, Acting Solicitor General of the United States, Rajiv Shah, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, L. Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas of the Department of Interior, and many others;

Whereas the commitment of the United States to judicial diversity has been demonstrated through the nomination of high caliber Asian-Americans and other minority jurists at all levels of the Federal bench;

Whereas significant outreach efforts to the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community have been made through the reestablishment of the White House Initiative on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to coordinate multiagency efforts to ensure more accurate data collection and access to services for the community;

Whereas even with the exceptional milestones achieved by the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, there remains much to be done to ensure that linguistically and culturally isolated Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources, a voice in the Federal Government, and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders and to appreciate the challenges faced by Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of the designation of the month of May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month;

(2) encourages the celebration during Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month of the significant contributions Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to the United States; and

(3) recognizes that the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community strengthens and enhances the rich diversity of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 201—EXPRESSING THE REGRET OF THE SENATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AGAINST THE CHINESE IN AMERICA, INCLUDING THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 201

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families;

Whereas the contributions of persons of Chinese descent in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, fishing, and canning industries were critical to establishing the foundations for economic growth in the Nation, particularly in the western United States;

Whereas United States industrialists recruited thousands of Chinese workers to assist in the construction of the Nation's first major national transportation infrastructure, the Transcontinental Railroad;

Whereas Chinese laborers, who made up the majority of the western portion of the railroad workforce, faced grueling hours and extremely harsh conditions in order to lay hundreds of miles of track and were paid substandard wages;

Whereas without the tremendous efforts and technical contributions of these Chinese immigrants, the completion of this vital national infrastructure would have been seriously impeded;

Whereas from the middle of the 19th century through the early 20th century, Chinese immigrants faced racial ostracism and violent assaults, including—

(1) the 1887 Snake River Massacre in Oregon, at which 31 Chinese miners were killed; and

(2) numerous other incidents, including attacks on Chinese immigrants in Rock Springs, San Francisco, Tacoma, and Los Angeles;

Whereas the United States instigated the negotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, ratified by the Senate on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and accorded to China the status of “most favored nation”;

Whereas before consenting to the ratification of the Burlingame Treaty, the Senate required that the Treaty would not permit Chinese immigrants in the United States to be naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas on July 14, 1870, Congress approved An Act to Amend the Naturalization Laws and to Punish Crimes against the Same, and for other Purposes, and during consideration of such Act, the Senate expressly rejected an amendment to allow Chinese immigrants to naturalize;

Whereas Chinese immigrants were subject to the overzealous implementation of the Page Act of 1875 (18 Stat. 477), which—

(1) ostensibly barred the importation of women from "China, Japan, or any Oriental country" for purposes of prostitution;

(2) was disproportionately enforced against Chinese women, effectively preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

Whereas, on February 15, 1879, the Senate passed "the Fifteen Passenger Bill," which would have limited the number of Chinese passengers permitted on any ship coming to the United States to 15, with proponents of the bill expressing that the Chinese were "an indigestible element in our midst . . . without any adaptability to become citizens";

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty, which declared that "Chinese subjects visiting or residing in the United States, shall enjoy the same privileges . . . in respect to travel or residence, as may there be enjoyed by the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation";

Whereas in the aftermath of the veto of the Fifteen Passenger Bill, President Hayes initiated the renegotiation of the Burlingame Treaty, requesting that the Chinese government consent to restrictions on the immigration of Chinese persons to the United States;

Whereas these negotiations culminated in the Angell Treaty, ratified by the Senate on May 9, 1881, which—

(1) allowed the United States to suspend, but not to prohibit, the immigration of Chinese laborers;

(2) declared that "Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will"; and

(3) reaffirmed that Chinese persons possessed "all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation";

Whereas, on March 9, 1882, the Senate passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act, which purported to implement the Angell Treaty but instead excluded for 20 years both skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers, rejected an amendment that would have permitted the naturalization of Chinese persons, and instead expressly denied Chinese persons the right to be naturalized as American citizens;

Whereas, on April 4, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur vetoed the first Chinese Exclusion Act as being incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 6, 1882, Congress passed the second Chinese Exclusion Act, which—

(1) prohibited skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers from entering the United States for 10 years;

(2) was the first Federal law that excluded a single group of people on the basis of race; and

(3) required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter to obtain "certificates of return", an unprecedented requirement that applied only to Chinese residents;

Whereas, in response to reports that courts were bestowing United States citizenship on persons of Chinese descent, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 explicitly prohibited all State and Federal courts from naturalizing Chinese persons;

Whereas the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 underscored the belief of some Senators at that time that—

(1) the Chinese people were unfit to be naturalized;

(2) the social characteristics of the Chinese were "revolting";

(3) Chinese immigrants were "like parasites"; and

(4) the United States "is under God a country for Caucasians, a country of white men, a country to be governed by white men";

Whereas, on July 3, 1884, notwithstanding United States treaty obligations with China and other nations, Congress broadened the scope of the Chinese Exclusion Act—

(1) to apply to all persons of Chinese descent, "whether subjects of China or any other foreign power"; and

(2) to provide more stringent requirements restricting Chinese immigration;

Whereas, on October 1, 1888, the Scott Act was enacted into law, which—

(1) prohibited all Chinese laborers who would choose or had chosen to leave the United States from reentering;

(2) cancelled all previously-issued "certificates of return," which prevented approximately 20,000 Chinese laborers abroad, including 600 individuals who were en route to the United States, from returning to their families or their homes; and

(3) was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty;

Whereas, on May 5, 1892, the Geary Act was enacted into law, which—

(1) extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for 10 years;

(2) required all Chinese persons in the United States, but no other race of people, to register with the Federal Government in order to obtain "certificates of residence"; and

(3) denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus;

Whereas, on an explicitly racial basis, the Geary Act deemed the testimony of Chinese persons, including American citizens of Chinese descent, per se insufficient to establish the residency of a Chinese person subject to deportation, mandating that such residence be established through the testimony of "at least one credible white witness";

Whereas, in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for the readmission of previous Chinese residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States—

(1) annexed Hawaii;

(2) took control of the Philippines; and

(3) excluded thousands of racially Chinese residents of Hawaii and of the Philippines from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas on April 29, 1902, Congress—

(1) indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence; and

(2) expressly applied such laws to United States insular territories, including the Philippines;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government exercised its unilateral right to withdraw from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, "without modification, limitation, or condition", all restrictions on Chinese immigration and naturalization, making the Chinese the only racial group explicitly singled out for immigration exclusion and permanently ineligible for American citizenship;

Whereas between 1910 and 1940, the Angel Island Immigration Station implemented the Chinese exclusion laws by—

(1) confining Chinese persons for up to nearly 2 years;

(2) interrogating Chinese persons; and

(3) providing a model for similar immigration stations at other locations on the Pacific coast and in Hawaii;

Whereas each of the congressional debates concerning issues of Chinese civil rights, naturalization, and immigration involved intensely racial rhetoric, with many Members of Congress claiming that all persons of Chinese descent were—

(1) unworthy of American citizenship;

(2) incapable of assimilation into American society; and

(3) dangerous to the political and social integrity of the United States;

Whereas the express discrimination in these Federal statutes politically and racially stigmatized Chinese immigration into the United States, enshrining in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the political process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas wartime enemy forces used the anti-Chinese legislation passed in Congress as evidence of American racism against the Chinese, attempting to undermine the Chinese-American alliance and allied military efforts;

Whereas, in 1943, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and over 60 years after the enactment of the first discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants, Congress—

(1) repealed previously-enacted anti-Chinese legislation; and

(2) permitted Chinese immigrants to become naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas, despite facing decades of systematic, pervasive, and sustained discrimination, Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans persevered and have continued to play a significant role in the growth and success of the United States;

Whereas 6 decades of Federal legislation deliberately targeting Chinese by race—

(1) restricted the capacity of generations of individuals and families to openly pursue the American dream without fear; and

(2) fostered an atmosphere of racial discrimination that deeply prejudiced the civil rights of Chinese immigrants;

Whereas diversity is one of our Nation's greatest strengths, and, while this Nation was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal, the laws enacted by Congress in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that restricted the political and civil rights of persons of Chinese descent violated that principle;

Whereas although an acknowledgment of the Senate's actions that contributed to discrimination against persons of Chinese descent will not erase the past, such an expression will acknowledge and illuminate the injustices in our national experience and help to build a better and stronger Nation;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of addressing this unique framework of discriminatory laws in order to educate the public and future generations regarding the impact of these laws on Chinese and other Asian persons and their implications to all Americans; and

Whereas the Senate deeply regrets the enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws that—

(1) resulted in the persecution and political alienation of persons of Chinese descent;

(2) unfairly limited their civil rights;

(3) legitimized racial discrimination; and

(4) induced trauma that persists within the Chinese community; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that this framework of anti-Chinese legislation, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, is incompatible with the basic founding principles recognized in the Declaration of Independence that all persons are created equal;

(2) acknowledges that this pattern of anti-Chinese legislation, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, is incompatible with the spirit of the United States Constitution;

(3) deeply regrets passing 6 decades of legislation directly targeting the Chinese people for physical and political exclusion and the wrongs committed against Chinese and American citizens of Chinese descent who

suffered under these discriminatory laws; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to preserving the same civil rights and constitutional protections for people of Chinese or other Asian descent in the United States accorded to all others, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague, Senator SCOTT BROWN, in submitting a resolution that expresses the regret of the U.S. Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants. These laws are no longer in effect today. However, I believe it is important for Congress to express regret for the many injustices that were experienced by Chinese immigrants as a result of these policies, and for all of us as Americans to learn from this difficult chapter in our Nation's past.

Let me begin by offering a brief history of the Chinese Exclusion Act. In the 1870s, an economic downturn created political pressure to slow the growing population of Chinese immigrants who were coming to the United States to pursue a better way of life. In California, State laws and local ordinances were enacted that denied the Chinese basic rights and privileges such as the right to own land and the ability to access public schools.

At the urging of some California lawmakers, the U.S. Congress subsequently passed laws that further denied the rights of Chinese immigrants. The harshest of those measures was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that explicitly prohibited all State and Federal courts from naturalizing Chinese persons. This legislation was the first federal law ever enacted to exclude a group of immigrants solely on the basis of race or nationality.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was followed by the passage of the Geary Act in 1892, which extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for 10 years and required all Chinese persons in the United States to register with the Federal Government to obtain certificates of residence to prove their right to be in the U.S.

In order to fully understand this Nation's deep-rooted hostility toward the Chinese during this time period, it is important to contrast the U.S. Government's vastly different treatment of European immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island. European immigrants were not subjected to the same burdensome and humiliating screening requirements as the Chinese.

Most are familiar with the stories of those coming to Ellis Island and seeing the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. However, often forgotten are the experiences of Chinese immigrants who made it to America by way of Angel Island in California.

In 1910, the U.S. Government opened the Angel Island Immigration Station as a way to isolate Chinese immigrants from the city of San Francisco and the remainder of the bay area in northern California. These immigrants were brought to Angel Island Station where

they were separated from family members, subjected to embarrassing medical examinations and grueling interrogations, and detained for months or sometimes years.

Despite these hardships, Chinese immigrants persevered, and they continue to make invaluable contributions to the development and success of our Nation. The enactment of Chinese exclusionary laws is a shameful part of our history that must not be forgotten. It is my hope that this resolution will serve to enlighten those who may not be aware of this regrettable chapter in our Nation's history. In addition, I hope the resolution will help heal and bring some closure for those who lived through this difficult time and are still with us today.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 202—DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2011, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 202

Whereas the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the investment of every reasonable resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas 2.4 percent of servicemembers returning from deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom are clinically diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”) and up to 17 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans exposed to sustained ground combat report PTSD symptoms;

Whereas up to 10 percent of Operation Desert Storm veterans, 30 percent of Vietnam veterans, and 8 percent of the general population of the United States suffer or have suffered from PTSD;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that more than 438,000 veterans were treated for PTSD in 2010 alone;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 27, 2011, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

(2) urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to continue working to educate servicemembers, veterans, the families of servicemembers and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am introducing for the second year in a row a Senate resolution to designate June 27 as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. That date was inspired by the birthday of North Dakota National Guard Staff Sergeant Joe Biel. Staff Sergeant Biel served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Trailblazer, part of a unit responsible for route clearance operations. Each day, Joe's mission was to go out with his unit to find and remove Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangers from heavily traveled roads to make it safe for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel. As a result of those experiences, Joe suffered from PTSD and, tragically, took his own life in April 2007. There is absolutely no doubt that Joe Biel is a hero who gave his life for our country.

I learned of Joe's story because friends from his platoon, the 4th Platoon, A Company, of the North Dakota National Guard's 164th Combat Engineer Battalion, have organized an annual motorcycle ride across the state of North Dakota in his memory. The Joe Biel Memorial Ride serves as a reunion for the 164th, a memorial for a lost friend, and a beacon to those suffering from PTSD and other mental issues across the region. The key point made to me by the event's organizer, Staff Sergeant Matt Leaf, is that we have to raise awareness of this disease so that the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and other PTSD sufferers can be saved by greater awareness of and treatment for this disorder.

For many, the war does not end when the warrior comes home. All too many servicemembers and veterans face PTSD symptoms like anxiety, anger, and depression as they try to adjust to life after war. We cannot sweep these problems under the rug. PTSD is real. The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and its symptoms, but many challenges remain. More must be done to inform and educate veterans, families and communities on the facts about this illness and the resources and treatments available.

That is why SSG Leaf and his fellow Trailblazers started the Joe Biel Memorial Bike Ride. That is why I began the effort to create a National PTSD Awareness Day last year. It is why I am introducing this Resolution once again. Actions like this may not seem that important to some, but they are. They garner attention, raise awareness, and help to eliminate the stigma