

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2010

Source
SCR 14

Legislative
Resolve No.
40



Recognizing October 2010 as Filipino American History Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the earliest documented Filipino presence in Alaska was at Cook Inlet on June 17, 1788, when a ship from the Philippines arrived with a Filipino crew member; and

WHEREAS records of whaling ship crews available at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in New Bedford, Massachusetts, positively identify whaling crew members in Alaska as Filipinos; and

WHEREAS, during the early 1900s, Filipino cannery workers, calling themselves "Alaskeros," began to live permanently in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Filipinos worked primarily as ore sorters for the various gold mines in Southeast Alaska, including the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company, the Treadwell Mine and Mills, and the Ready Bullion Mine and Mill; and

WHEREAS Filipinos in Alaska were notified by the Selective Service to register for the draft to serve the United States during World War I, and 50 Filipinos were drafted; and

WHEREAS Filipino American servicemen and service women have a longstanding history of serving in the armed forces of the United States in World War II, when Filipinos

fought against the Japanese invasion; and

WHEREAS, by 1940, there were 403 Filipinos in Alaska, by official count, and Filipino organizations had been founded in Ketchikan, Juneau, and Anchorage; and

WHEREAS Filipinos in Alaska have made significant contributions to the growth of the state's economy; and

WHEREAS the Filipino American community in Alaska, numbering approximately 18,000, is the largest Asian-American group in the state; and

WHEREAS Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of the country; and

WHEREAS efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of American history; and

WHEREAS it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Filipino American National Historical Society was organized in Seattle, Washington, by Fred and Dorothy Cordova; and

WHEREAS Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October in the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October 2010 as a time to study the advancement of Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts to research and examine Filipino American history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in Alaska to appreciate and learn more about Filipino Americans and their historic contribution to the nation and to the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the people of Alaska to observe Filipino American History Month in October 2010 with appropriate programs and activities.