

Army, Carlisle observe Asia Pacific American Heritage Month



Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration May 19 at 5 p.m.

Join us just before Retreat on Indian Field and enjoy a sample of Asian and Pacific cuisine and entertainment provided by the Hawaiian Entertainment Company.

The Hawaiian Entertainment company will demonstrate and explain cultural touchstones -- and the Strategic Studies Institute will recognize local elementary students that participated in the SSI Art Contest.

This month marks 145 years since the final spike was hammered into the transcontinental railroad, an achievement made possible by Chinese laborers, who did the majority of this backbreaking and dangerous work. This May, they will receive long-overdue recognition as they are inducted into the Labor Hall of Honor. Generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have helped make this country what it is today. Yet they have also faced a long history of injustice -- from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and its devastating impact on the history, language, and culture of Native Hawaiians; to opportunity-limiting laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration Act of 1924; to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Even today, South Asian Americans, especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh, are targets of suspicion and violence.

Please visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/AAP to learn more about the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

(Excerpt from:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/30/presidential-proclamation-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-m>)

Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian

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