

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.177

Reps. Shannon, Brixie, Cherry, Chirkun, Crawford, Garza, Hertel, Hoadley, Hood, Cynthia Johnson, Koleszar, Kuppa, Lasinski, Rendon, Sowerby, Warren, Wittenberg and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 2019 as Filipino American
2 History Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Michigan is home to more than 32,000 individuals
4 claiming Filipino heritage, who have had a profound and positive
5 impact on this state; and

6 Whereas, October was the month selected by the Filipino
7 American Historical Society (FANHS) because it was October 1587 in
8 Morro Bay, California, that the first known Filipinos arrived in



1 America; and

2 Whereas, Since immigrants from the Philippines first
3 established their roots in Michigan, they have become leaders in
4 every aspect of our communities, enriching our schools, businesses,
5 civic life, and social organizations across the state; and

6

7 Whereas, Dr. Felicisima "Ping" Serafica was the first Filipina
8 American professor of psychology to receive tenure in the US. She
9 helped establish one of the Philippines' first hospitals for
10 children with mental disabilities and the country's first
11 interdisciplinary mental health clinic. By extension, Filipino
12 Americans continue to play an integral role in Michigan's health
13 care system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;
14 and

15 Whereas, Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music,
16 dance, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics
17 government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields in
18 the U.S. that enrich the landscape of the this country. Dr. Dawn
19 Bohulano Mabalon became the first Filipina to receive a Ph.D. in
20 History from Stanford University. She was a professor, a historic
21 preservationist, and the author of Little Manila is in the Heart
22 and Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong; and

23 Whereas, These contributions reflect a culture which values
24 and prioritizes family and community, which takes pride in hard
25 work and diligence, and which celebrates its collective identity;
26 and

27 Whereas, It is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have
28 positive role models to instill in them the significance of
29 education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and

1 the value of their legacy; and

2 Whereas, Filipino Americans have also improved our state
3 through their commitment to fostering institutions that have helped
4 to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes and establish the kind of
5 cross-cultural dialogue and understanding that makes our state a
6 diverse and welcoming place for all; and

7 Whereas, Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Michigan's
8 Filipino Americans, the United States continues to strengthen its
9 relationship with the Filipino American community and to continue
10 to promote the culture, values, history and traditions of the
11 Philippines; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
13 this legislative body declare October 2019 as Filipino American
14 History Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

15 Resolved, That with the declaration of Filipino American
16 History Month, we acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of
17 Filipino Americans, who have greatly enriched Michigan's economy,
18 civic life, and state culture.