

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.177

Rep. Shannon 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  
9 America; and

10       Whereas, Since immigrants from the Philippines first  
11 established their roots in Michigan, they have become leaders in



Filipino American History Month

every aspect of our communities, enriching our schools, businesses, civic life, and social organizations across the state; and

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

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

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

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

Whereas, Filipino Americans have also improved our state through their commitment to fostering institutions that have helped

1 to eliminate prejudices and stereotypes and establish the kind of  
2 cross-cultural dialogue and understanding that makes our state a  
3 diverse and welcoming place for all; and

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

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

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