

UPF Washington D.C Supports Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration in Maryland

Tomiko Duggan
May 5, 2016



Elkton, MD – UPF Washington D.C. supported the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month program at the Cecil County on Thursday, May 5th, 2016.

In October 10, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed House Joint Resolution 1007 declaring May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week beginning May 4, 1979. Then in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

The celebration program was organized by UPF Ambassador for Peace Mie Mie Joe Strickler, a Commissioner appointed by the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). Over 100 Asian residents in Cecil County and neighboring areas gathered at the Cecil County Administration Building to celebrate the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The guest speakers were: Mrs. Yumi Hogan, Maryland's First Lady; Mr. Jon C. Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State; Wayne Norman, Senator of District 35, Cecil and Hartford Counties; and Christina W. Poy, Administrative Director, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, GOCI.

UPF Washington, D.C. through its Executive Director, Tomiko Duggan with some staff put up a Japanese display table and offered sweets to guests.

