



ALL SAINTS
CHURCH

WHY WE OBSERVE

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Filipino American History Month (FAHM) in October commemorates the first Filipinos to arrive in the continental United States at what is now Morro Bay, California on October 18, 1587 when "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza. In 1992, the **Filipino American National Historical Society** introduced FAHM, and in 2009 the U.S. Congress officially recognized October as FAHM in the U.S.

We recognize FAHM because Filipino American history is American history. For example, 2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the signing of the **Treaty of Paris** - an agreement between Spain and the United States that ended the Spanish American War and led to the U.S. annexation of the Philippines. (In a nutshell, Spain sold the Philippines to the US for \$20 million dollars as they were facing defeat from the Philippine Revolution.) Ruled by Spain for 333 years and by the US for 48 years, the Philippines (home to about 130 to 195 spoken languages and whose modern human history began 47,000 years ago) again became a fully independent nation at the end of World War II in 1946.

Thus, we acknowledge **1898 as a turning point for both the Philippines and the United States.** We choose words like "recognize," "observe," or "commemorate" (instead of terms like "celebrate"), as we are intentional not to promote the glorification of colonialism. Yet, we recognize that this history was integral to the trajectories of Filipino Americans, and we encourage critical thinking about the impact of 1898 and US colonialism in our lives.

Sources FANHS-national.org, pewresearch.org

#FilAmFACTS

- There are about 4.4 million Filipino Americans in the US, with about 500,000 Filipino American Angelenos (the largest concentration in the US) as of 2022.
- Since the 1960s, over 150,000 Filipino nurses have migrated to work in the US; in 2018, nearly one in three foreign-born nurses in the US were Filipino. Filipinos represent nearly 25% of younger (35 to 44 years old) nurses in California.
- BUT Filipino nurses have been invisible in American culture. In 2018, Emmy Awards co-host Michael Che observed, "TV has always had a diversity problem. I mean, can you believe that they did 15 seasons of ER without one Filipino nurse? Have you been to a hospital?"

Sources:pewresearch.org, Catherine Ceniza Choy's *Asian American Histories of the US*



To join the mailing list of the All Saints Pasadena AAPI Community,
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October 25 Larry Itliong Day

Just as US policies have impacted Philippine's history, Filipinos in the United States have impacted American history.

In 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared October 25 as Larry Itliong Day. His proclamation (below) recognizes Itliong's leadership in the labor movement alongside Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and emphasizes Itliong's "incredible impact on our state and advocacy for those without a voice."



"Today we celebrate the trailblazing Filipino-American labor leader, civil rights champion and California Hall of Fame Inductee Larry Itliong. Born on this day in 1913 in a province of the Philippines, Larry Itliong immigrated to the United States as a youth in 1929, where he would go on to shape the watershed farm labor movement.

While working in the fisheries and canneries of Alaska, Itliong helped found the Alaska Cannery Workers Union, fighting for better working conditions. After serving in World War II, Itliong settled in Stockton, where he continued his organizing efforts. He helped launch the asparagus strike of 1948 – the first major agricultural strike after World War II – and in 1956, Itliong founded the Filipino Farm Labor Union in Stockton. Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz and other leaders also helped create the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee.

In 1965, Itliong fought alongside grape workers in the Coachella Valley for increased pay. After that victory, the Manongs – respected elder workers in the Filipino-American community – voted in 1965 to organize against exploitative grape growers in Delano. Shortly after, the Manongs joined forces with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and the National Farmworkers Association, beginning a nationwide boycott of grapes that led to the first farmworker union contracts.

Recognizing his incredible impact on our state and advocacy for those without a voice, I had the honor of inducting Mr. Itliong into the California Hall of Fame during Filipino-American Heritage Month last year. Today, on the 109th anniversary of his birth, we honor the great contributions of Larry Itliong and the Manongs whose hard-fought battles helped advance farmworkers' rights and social justice. Let us remember their message of "Isang Bagsak!" – we are all connected together in our fight for justice, and we rise and fall together."

A Few Other Famous Filipino Americans

Jo Koy, Lou Diamond Phillips, Vanessa Hudgens, Olivia Rodrigo, Enrique Iglesias, Bruno Mars, Nicole Scherzinger, H.E.R., Rachael Lampa, Lea Salonga, Robert Lopez (composer of "Let It Go"), Cheryl Burke, Monique Lhuillier, Bobby Murphy (co-founder of Snapchat), Sheila Lirio Marcelo (founder of care.com), Josie Natori (founder of Natori), Tani Cantil-Sakauye (Chief Justice of CA), John Ensign (US Senator, Utah), Rob Bonta, Thelma Buchholdt (First female Filipina American state legislator, elected for 4 consecutive terms starting in 1974, in Alaska), Victoria Manalo Draves (First Filipina/Asian American Olympic gold medalist in 1948), Tedy Bruschi, Tim Lincecum