

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS: As we move into the future, Georgia continues to benefit greatly from the contributions of its diverse citizenry. Asian/Pacific Americans are among those who have influenced our country for the better. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the future course of our state and our nation. For their work, Asian/Pacific Americans merit special recognition; and

WHEREAS: Chinese immigrants were productive and resourceful contributors to a multitude of industries and businesses. They built many of the flumes and roads for the mining industry, allowing for more easy access to and processing of the minerals being extracted from the earth. Laboring under very difficult conditions, they helped construct the western half of the first transcontinental railroad. Their hard work was invaluable in linking together the East and West coasts, thus vastly expanding economic growth and development across the country. Over time, other immigrants journeyed to America from East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Asian Subcontinent. Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the fastest- growing segments of America's population, having increased in number from fewer than 1.5 million in 1970 to approximately 10.5 million in 2000, the year of the last census; and

WHEREAS: During the observance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages and unique experiences represented among the more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific found here in the United States. We also recognize millions of Asian/Pacific Americans whose hard work and love of family and community have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a nation.

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2003, as ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 16th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

