

Proclamation

- Whereas,** in California, October was first recognized as Filipino American History Month in 2009 and Filipinos and Filipino Americans have contributed to California and the United States since at least October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” set foot in Morro Bay, California; and
- Whereas,** between 1906 and 1935, the first large wave of Filipino immigration to the United States began, as Filipinos were recruited to work in the agricultural industries, canneries, and sugarcane plantations; and
- Whereas,** during World War II, approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers, including thousands from California, battled under the command of the United States to preserve the liberty of our country and win back the liberty of the Philippines from the Japanese occupation; and
- Whereas,** between 1941 and 1959, the second wave of Filipino immigration to the United States began, as nurses, students, fiancées of World War II military personnel and veterans, and many Filipinos who had served in the United States Navy settled in Navy towns, including Alameda, and created flourishing Filipino American communities; and
- Whereas,** in 1965, the third wave of Filipino immigration to the United States began, as the passing of the Immigration and Nationality Act abolished “national origins” as the basis for immigration, allowing for much-needed Filipino medical professionals to come to the United States to fill United States labor shortages; and
- Whereas,** Filipino Americans who have contributed greatly to Alameda’s cultural, economic, intellectual, social, spiritual, and political life include elected officials: former Vice Mayor Tony Daysog (1996-2006; 2012-2016), our City’s first Filipino American Councilmember and Vice Mayor; Assemblymember Rob Bonta, who formerly served as Vice Mayor (2010-2012) and is our State’s first Filipino American Assemblymember; former Councilmember Stewart Chen (2012-2014); and, current Vice Mayor Malia Vella (2016 to date). Other noteworthy Filipino Americans to our community include: Myrna Cahiles – President of Bohol Circle, Phil Ableo – Vice President of Bohol Circle, Bob Balandra – Former Past President of Bohol Circle, Marcelo Datuin – Board Member of Bohol Circle, Benjamin P. Reyes, Sr. – Veteran of the Year Award recipient for the State of California, Cynthia Bonta – Chair of Alameda Dumaguete Sister City Committee, Max Baylosis – 4th Degree Knight – Knights of Columbus, Alameda Chapter, Janet Galera – President, United Philipinos of Alameda, Lita Baylosis - former active member of the United Philipinos of Alameda (UPA), Benjamin T. Reyes, II – First Filipino Superior Court Judge to Contra Costa County, and Susan Reyes – Boardmember, Alameda Sister City Association.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Trish Herrera Spencer, Mayor of the City of Alameda, on behalf of the Alameda City Council, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as

Filipino American History Month

in the City of Alameda, and encourage Alamedans to learn more about the history and rich contributions of Filipino Americans.



Trish Herrera Spencer
Mayor