

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2021-2022

ESTABLISHMENT OF FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, it is necessary to instill in our youth the importance of education, history, and self-determination in creating eminent role models, in establishing a proud cultural identity, and producing exceptional citizens of this nation; and

WHEREAS, today, the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American group in the United States, with an estimated population of 4,200,000 people, second largest Asian American group in California with the earliest documented evidence of Filipinos in the continental United States occurring on October 18, 1587, when mariners under Spanish command, referred to as “Luzones Indios,” landed in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1988 and subsequently, every October, many communities throughout the United States and its territories have celebrated this occasion, not only to commemorate the anniversary of the presence of the first Filipinos in US soil and to observe its heritage, but also to recognize the social, intellectual, and economic contributions of Filipinos and Filipino Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino Americans, including the leadership of Larry Itliong (born October 25, 1913), established the United Farm Workers and advocated for social justice in California and nationally in partnership with Hispanic/Latinx, Black/African American, Arab, and other Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education first recognized October as Filipino American History Month in 2006 by placing it on its celebrations calendar, the 111th Congress of the United States recognized it in November 2009, and the California State Legislature recognized it in September 2017; and

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 199 passed in October 2011 called for the integration of the contributions of Filipino veterans in World War II and Assembly Bill 123 passed in October 2013 called for the integration of the contributions of Filipino Americans in the farm labor movement into the social science curriculum for grades 7-12; and

WHEREAS, immigrants from the Philippines and their families truly have enriched our nation, state, and city through their work and contributions in agriculture, their service in the Armed Forces, their offerings, skills and expertise as engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, accountants, teachers, lawyers, nurses, and doctors, and their participation in public offices, civic affairs, and community activities; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino Community plays a vital role in EGUSD community’s rich history, including more than 3,000 students and nearly 6% of our total population, thereby helping to shape its development and landscape; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of Elk Grove Unified School District that October 2021 is recognized as Filipino American History Month and that all educational sites are encouraged to recognize the contributions of Filipino Americans through our curriculum and activities at the school.

Christopher R. Hoffman
Secretary to the Board of Education