



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State is proud to join in celebrating the history and heritage of our various communities, including that of many Filipino Americans living in New York State who contribute in meaningful ways to our society; and

Whereas, Filipinos have a long presence in New York State, whereby after the Spanish American War in 1898, many Filipino students enrolled in our state's institutions of higher learning; Filipino military servicemen and merchant seaman immigrated to New York State after World Wars I and II, settling and starting families in the neighborhoods of the New York metropolitan area and other regions of our state; and

Whereas, Filipinos have contributed significantly to New York's foundation of art and culture through their work on Broadway, in various industries including fashion, music, and film, and through their success and accomplishments as members of various professions – including healthcare, education, business, public service, science, technology, and others that enrich the landscape of our state and nation; and

Whereas, our nation has prospered as a country of immigrants, and the legacy of Filipino Americans is a unifying force for the entire community and a poignant reminder of their longstanding presence in this country, which traces back to more than five centuries ago; and

Whereas, October 18, 1587 marks the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States, as it was on this date that the first 'Luzones Indios' set foot in Morro Bay, California, having voyaged on the Manila-built galleon ship *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza*; and

Whereas, it was in 1763 that the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo Parrish, Louisiana, and ever since this vibrant and hardworking community first arrived on our shores, its people have added to the economic, cultural, and social foundation of our state and nation; and

Whereas, the greatness of our state is found in its diverse and culturally rich population, and as this occasion provides an opportunity for all New Yorkers to join with the Filipino American community in celebrating their history and heritage, we recognize the statewide Filipino American population for its positive impact on today's society and express appreciation for the significant contributions made by past generations of Filipino Americans throughout history;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of October in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

William J. Minahan
Secretary to the Governor