

OCTOBER IS FILIPINO AMERICAN History Month



1763

Preliminary narrative suggests that Filipino sailors that escaped Spanish cruelty established St. Malo settlement near Barataria Bay in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana; and Manila Village in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana; land of the Chitimacha.

Other credible or reliable evidence indicated settlement in lower Mississippi in 1765.

1788

First Filipino arrived in Alaska as a crew member of Iphigenia, Nubiana merchant ship bartering and trading sea otter furs.

1812

During the War of 1812, Filipinos or Manilamen from Manila Village near New Orleans were among the "Baratarians" who fought the British invasion under battle of New Orleans.

1883

First known Filipino worked at the Port Blakey Lumber Mill on Bainbridge Island, Washington Territory; land of occupied Suquamish.

1899

Philippine-American War begins.

1903

Upper class Filipino students known as the Personados selected to attend colleges in the United States on government scholarships; a financial award to support a student's education.

1906

Laborers (people performing tasks for low pay) known as the Sakadas were recruited by Hawaiian Sugar Plantation Association (HSPA) to work in the sugar plantations of US occupied Hawaii.

Farm laborers recruited to work in the fields of Washington and California. Filipino laborers now known as the Alaskeros were recruited to work in the Alaska salmon canneries.

1910

US Census recorded 17 Filipino residents in Washington state.

1920

Filipino sugar plantation laborers in Hawaii organized a strike to address poor working conditions.

1928

Filipino Businessman Pedro Flores opened Flores yo-yos, which was credited with starting the yo-yo craze in the United States. He came up with and copyrighted the word yo-yo.

1930

Lorena Bucsit Silva leased hundreds of acres of farmland for Filipino to grow fruits and vegetables for a living in the Yakima Valley.

1934

The U.S. Congress passed the Tydings-McDuffie Act, known as the Philippine Independence Act. The act limited Filipinos entering the U.S. to 50 people a year; not including the Territory of Hawaii.

1938

Filipino American community of Yakima Valley built the first Filipino Community Center in the U.S.

1942

United States Army's 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments comprised of primarily Filipino agricultural workers formed to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese Empire in World War II.

1948

Victoria Manalo-Draves won the Platform and Springboard diving event at the London Olympics becoming the first woman to win two gold medals in Diving.

1957

The Filipino Youth Activities of Seattle was founded by eight Filipino American pioneer families and was the nation's oldest organization for Filipino American youth and families.

1962

Raymond Gabriel became the first Filipino American NFL player at quarterback position.

1968

Third World Liberation Front organized the longest student strike in US history and resulted in the establishment of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University.

1971

Young Filipino Peoples Far West Convention in Seattle sparkplugged or started Filipino American Youth Activism.

1972

Raymond Townsend became the first Black Filipino American to play in the NBA with Golden State Warriors.

1975

Alaska State Legislator Thelma Buchholdt became the first Filipina American legislator in the United States.

The first documented gay couple attempting to get legally married. Tony Sullivan, an Australian citizen tried to apply for American citizenship after being issued a marriage license with Richard Adams, a Filipino American who is of indigenous Aeta and Ibanaga ancestry.

1978

Dolores Sibonga became the first woman of color to serve in the Seattle City Council and was responsible for passage of the City's Affirmative Action Ordinance in 1980.

Fernando Vega became the first Filipino American to graduate from University of Washington School of Medicine.

1990

David Mercado Valderama became the first Filipino American elected to a state legislature in the lower 48 states, serving Prince George County in Maryland.

1991

Eleanor Mariano became the first woman in the military to be appointed as a physician to the White House Medical Unit.

Gene Lidell became the First Filipino American Mayor in the United States serving Lacey, Washington.

1994

Benjamin J. Cayetano became the first Filipino American governor in the United States.

Governor of Hawaii from 1994-2002.

2000

Eleanor Mariano became the first Filipino American Admiral in the US Navy.

Robert Bunda became the First Filipino American elected as Hawaii's Senate President.

Angela Perez Baraquio became first Filipino American crowned as Miss Teen USA.

John Ensign became the first Filipino American to be elected to the United States Senate.

2009

Cary Chun became the first Filipino American Brigadier General of the US Air Force.

2011

Amado Gabriel Esteban became the first Filipino American president of a university in Seton Hall University.

2017

Bergano vs City of Va Beach set precedent for small businesses civil rights affected by government taking over property for public use with payment and compensation also known as eminent domain.

2019

Darren Criss became the first Filipino American to win a Golden Globe.

H.E.R. became the first Black and Filipino American female R&B artist to win 2 Grammys.

1587

October 18, Luzones Indios came ashore the Chumash territory of what is now Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo, California on board the Nuestra Senora de Esperanza under Captain Pedro de Unamuno.

1781

Antonio Miranda Rodriguez along with his daughter Juana Maria, the only Filipino expedition members of the first group of mutifacial settlers to occupy the land of the Chumash and Tongva and renamed the village of Yaanga to the City of Los Angeles.

1861

Filipino soldiers both served in the Union (Felix Baldery) and Confederacy Army during the Civil War.

1870

Sociedad de Beneficencia de los Hispanos Filipinos founded by Filipinos students in New Orleans becomes the first Filipino Association in the United States.

1898

The Filipino Revolutionaries known as the Katipuneros defeated the Spanish empire and liberated the islands of what is now known as the Philippines from 300 years of Spanish colonization.

Spain ceded or gave the Philippines to the United States for \$20 million along with Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam under the Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War.

1904

U.S. War Department at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis World's Fair built the world's largest "human zoo" and displayed the indigenous Igorots as a psychological warfare (or the use of misleading information against an enemy) waged against the American people to justify the US occupation of the Philippines under the policy called "Benevolent Assimilation".

1909

Indigenous Igorots were once again displayed at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition which is now University of Washington in the occupied Duwamish territory as evidence to justify the belief that White folks are more advanced than Black, Indigenous and other people of color; and further justify the US occupation of the Philippines through Benevolent Assimilation policy.

1919

The Filipino Labor Union (FLU) organized in Honolulu; US territory of occupied Hawai'i.

1927

Yakima Valley Anti-Filipino Riot forced Filipino laborers and families out of Yakima and Wapato.

1929

5-day anti-Filipino riots broke out in Watsonville, Stockton, San Francisco, San Jose, and other California communities due to White men's fear of losing jobs and White women to Filipino farm laborers.

1933

Anti-Miscegenation law particularly California's Civil Code, section 60 prohibited marriages between Filipino men and White women.

First Filipino-led Union in the United States; Local 18257 organized in Seattle, Washington. Local 18257 became Local 7 and then became Local 37.

1941

Pio Decano vs WA legalized Filipinos to own real estate.

1946

Philippines became independent from the United States.

The most read Filipino American literature America is in the Heart is published by Seattle resident Carlos Bulosan.

1956

Bobby Balcana, who played for the Seattle Rainiers becomes first Filipino American to play Major League baseball, playing for the Cincinnati Reds.

1959

The Filipino Youth Activities (FYA) Khidobah Drill team; the only Filipino American drill team in the United States was founded in Seattle.

1965

Filipino farm laborers used strikes as an approach to win for workers' rights. Larry Itilong, Philip Vera Cruz, Benjamin Gines, and Pete Velasco and members of Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) spearheaded a 5-year Coachella and Delano grape strike leading to the founding the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). UFW was successful in advocating for pay raise, health-care benefits, and better working conditions for all working class. Coachella and Delano Grape strike inspired generations of Americans to community organizing and activism.

Immigration and Nationality Act passed.

1973

Dolores Sibonga became the first Filipino American to practice law in WA state.

Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP) was founded by 80 Filipino Americans organizing for human rights, equality and democracy in the US and the Philippines.

1977

Over 3,000 Filipino Americans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, student activists and others organized to form a human barricade in protecting Filipino American elders living in the International Hotel (I-Hotel) against 400 SFPD riot police who were evicting the I-Hotel residents. The I-Hotel became a symbol for tenant's/renter's rights and gentrification.

1980

Nestor Rodriguez launched the first West Coast Rap radio show Fresh Tracks on 1250 Kfxx.

1981

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, officers of Local 37, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), assassinated at their Seattle union hall in Pioneer Square. This led to a successful crackdown on illegal gambling particularly in Chinatown, union corruption; and won a \$23.5 million landmark judgement against Philippine President Ferdinand and First Lady Imelda Marcos for the assassination.

1992

Velma Veloria became first Filipina American and Asian and Pacific Islander American in the lower 48 states elected to the Washington State Legislature.

1995

General Edward Soriano became the first Filipino American General officer in the United States Army.

1997

Seattle-based Filipino American writers and artists founded Isang Mahal (One Love) Collective to address the need for an artistic outlet for Filipino American as well as Black, Indigenous, and other artists of color.

2001

Anakbayan USA, a Filipino American youth-led organization addressing social injustices in the US and Philippines was established at the Eastern Hotel in Seattle's International District.

2004

Major General Antonio Taguba was assigned to investigate prisoner abuse accusations at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and found that the Bush Administration committed war crimes; in which the Major General demanded for the prosecution of those responsible.

2012

Lorna Schofield became the first Filipino American in the United States to serve as an Article III federal judge; governs the appointment, tenure, and payment of Supreme Court justices, and federal circuit and district judges.

2018

Erin Entrada Kelly became the first Filipino American to win the John Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Robert Lopez became the first artist-ever to earn a double Academy Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (EGOT).

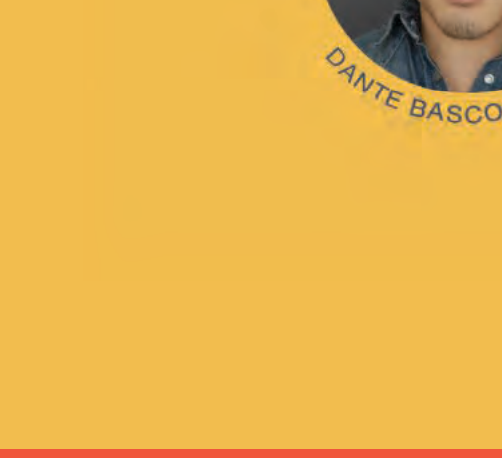
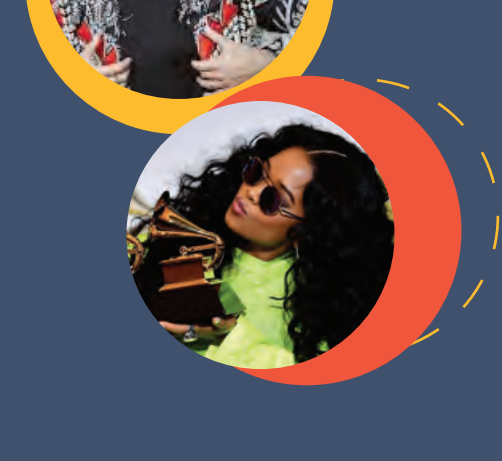
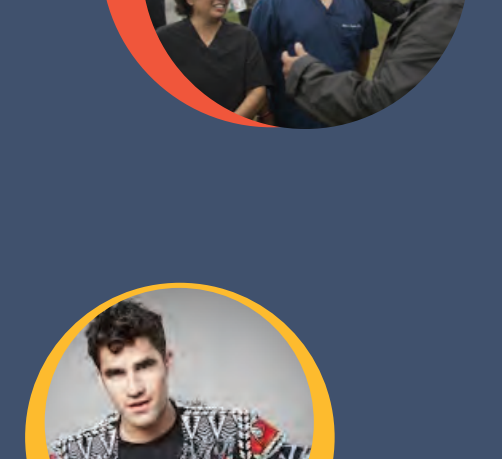
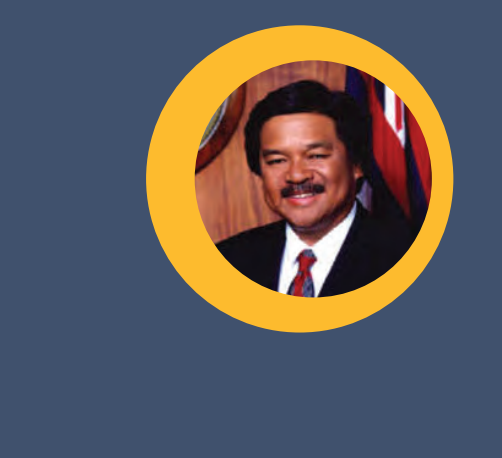
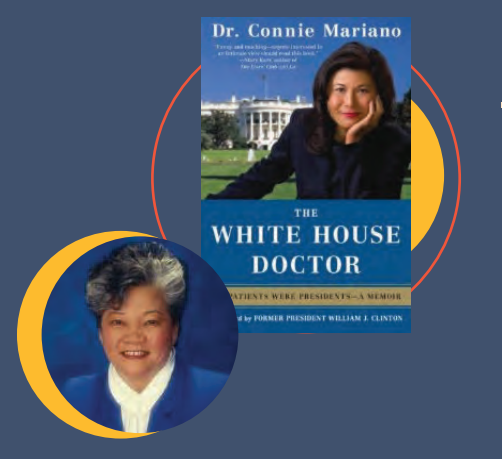
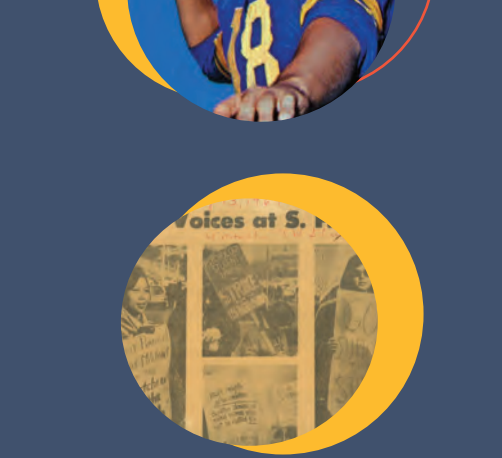
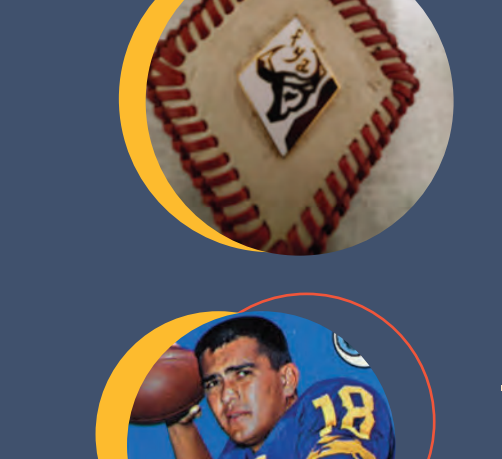
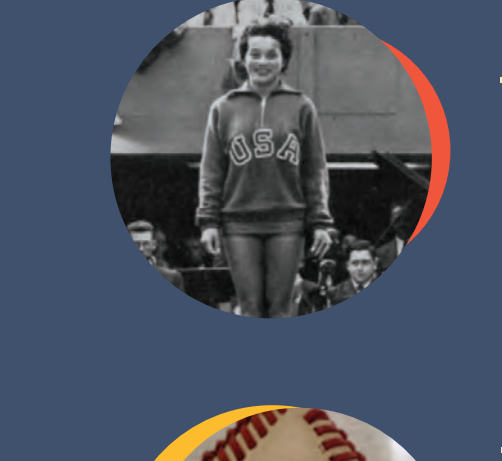
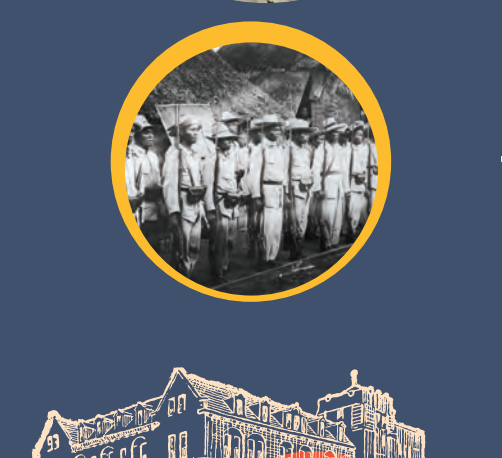
2020

Racquel Bono, the first woman Vice Admiral in the US Navy was appointed by WA Governor Jay Inslee to direct Washington State COVID-19 Response Team.

2021

Lee Kiefer wins the US first-ever gold medal in Fencing's individual foil at the 2020/21 Tokyo Olympics.

Jalen Green-Became the highest drafted Black and Filipino American (and Asian and Pacific Islander American) player in NBA history (#2 draft pick) and the third Black and Filipino American to enter the NBA.



"May the work to document our stories continue. May we remember that we need to share our narratives, take care of ourselves and each other, and keep our histories alive."

-Dr. Dorothy L. Cordova

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The Filipino diaspora on Turtle Island acknowledges and respects the land and waters of the Muckleshoot, Duwamish, Chinook, Wanapum, Puyallup, Suquamish, Yakama, Chehalis, Cowlitz, Hoh, Jamestown S'Kallam, Kalispel, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Spokane, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit and other Coast Salish nations; and other nations on Turtle Island. We support decolonization, affirm your experience, and recognize your history.