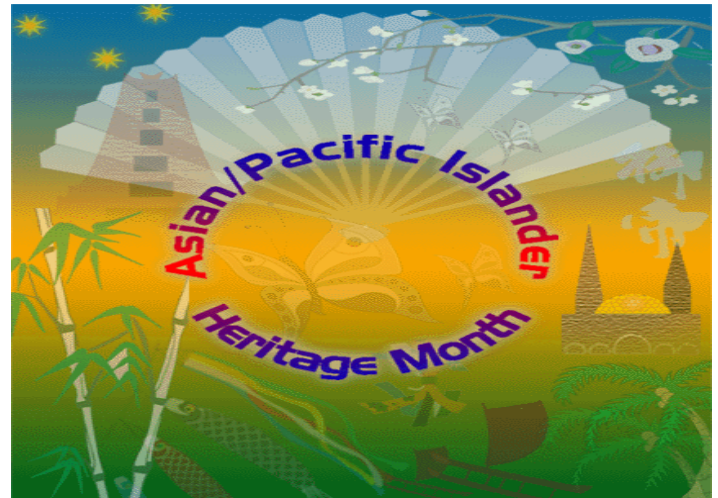


## *DLLR Celebrates Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month!*

**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. Congress later voted to expand it from a week long to a month long celebration.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Lighting the Past, Present,



### *Famous Firsts by Asian-Pacific Americans*

**U.S. representative:** Dalip Singh Saund, 1956, representative from California. The first female Asian American elected to Congress was Patsy Takemoto Mink, elected in 1964 as a representative from Hawaii.

**Mayor of a major U.S. city:** Norman Yoshio Mineta, 1971, in San Jose, California.

**Astronaut (in space):** Ellison Onizuka, first spaceflight in 1985. Died in the 1986 Challenger disaster.

**Academy Award winner:** Haing Ngor, Best Supporting Actor of 1984 for his role in *The Killing Fields*

**First network news reporters:** Ken Kashiwahara and Connie Chung, 1974. In 1993, Chung became the first Asian American to be a nightly news anchor for a major network (CBS).

## What is Limited English Proficiency?

Maryland's population is rapidly changing and growing. Many recent arrivals are new Americans who will face linguistic and cultural barriers as they work to become self-sufficient.

The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) helps provide spoken and written language assistance services to individuals whose limited English skills prevent them from accessing our services

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English can be limited English proficient, or "LEP." These individuals may be entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or activity..

The 2000 census shows that 26 million individuals speak Spanish and almost 7 million individuals speak an Asian or Pacific Island language at home. If these individuals have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English, they are limited English proficient, or "LEP."

In a 2001 Supplementary Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 33 percent of Spanish speakers and 22.4 percent of all Asian and Pacific Island language

For LEP individuals, language can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other information provided by DLLR programs and activities. DLLR is committed to improving the accessibility of these programs and activities to eligible LEP persons, a goal that reinforces its equally important commitment to promoting programs and activities for all individuals.

Over the years, a number of state and federal laws have been created to address the specific needs of LEP individuals in accessing services. The purpose of these laws is to break down barriers that prevent LEP individuals from having access to important information and services, such as health care, education, and transportation.

Limited-English proficient persons may suffer repeated failure in accessing DLLR services. DLLR must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to the information and services it provides.

In determining "reasonable steps" there are four factors to be considered:

1. The number and proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service

## Celebrating Mothers! May 10, 2009



### My Mother Kept A Garden

My Mother kept a garden,  
a garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
that gave my life it's start.  
She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem...  
And when the winds and rain came,  
she protected me enough-  
But not too much because she knew  
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.  
Her constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong-  
Markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.  
I am my Mother's garden.  
I am her legacy-  
And I hope she feels the love  
I reflect from me  
And I hope she feels the love  
I reflect from me



**Mother's Day** is celebrated to honor all mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child. Most countries, including the United States, Australia, Canada and India, celebrate Mothers Day on the second Sunday of May. Mothers Day came into being due to the efforts made by Ms. Julia Ward Howe and Ms. Anna Jarvis. The Resolution for having a dedicated Mother's Day was signed by US President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914. Since then people across the world have been celebrating Mothers Day with joy and devotion. Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 10, 2009. Make sure you show your Mom just how special she is!

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Office of Fair Practices

## May Fun Facts

**May** is the fifth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days. It is also a month within the northern season of spring. The month may have been named for the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. No other month begins on the same day of the week as May.

### Special May Events...

Cinco de Mayo- May 5 (U.S. & Mexico)

Mother's Day- May 10 (U.S. & Canada)

International Nurses Day- May 12

Preakness Stakes- May 16 (Maryland)



## May is Lupus Awareness Month



### What is Lupus?

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body (skin, joints, and/or organs inside the body). Chronic means that the signs and symptoms tend to last longer than six weeks and often for many years. In lupus, something goes wrong with your immune system, which is the part of the body that fights off viruses, bacteria and germs ("foreign invaders" like the flu). Normally our immune system produces proteins called antibodies that protect the body from these invaders. Auto-immune means your immune system cannot tell the difference between these foreign invaders and your body's healthy tissues and creates auto-antibodies that attack and destroy healthy tissue. These auto-antibodies cause inflammation, pain, and damage in various parts of the body.

### Facts about Lupus...

- Reports estimate that at least 1.5 million Americans have Lupus. The actual number may be higher; however, there have been no large-scale studies to show the actual number of people in the U.S. living with lupus.
- It is believed that 5 million people throughout the world have a form of Lupus.
- Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age (15-44). However, men, children and teenagers develop Lupus too.
- Women of color are 2-3 times more likely to develop Lupus, but people of all races and ethnic groups can develop Lupus.
- More than 16,000 new cases of Lupus are reported annually across the United States