



**FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH**





Modified from the Filipino American History Month - FCUSD Equity Team

Filipino American History Month

The [earliest documented proof](#) of Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” set foot in Morro Bay, California.



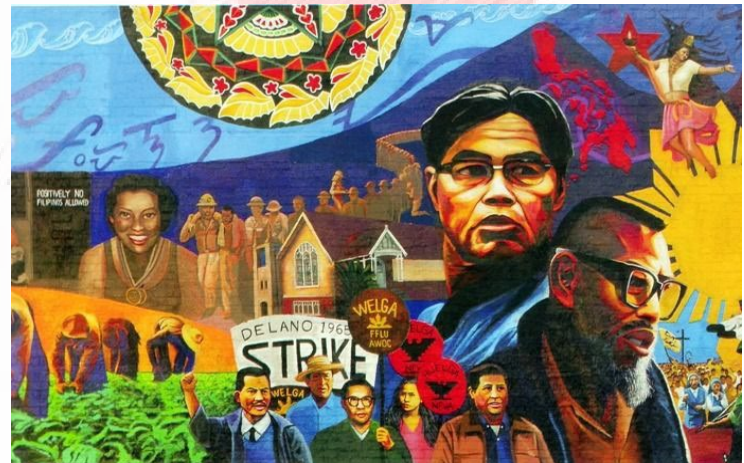
- Filipino American History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of October.
- On September 9, 2009, the California State Assembly voted to designate October as “Filipino American History Month.”
- There are about 4.2 million Filipino Americans in the United States, approximately 1.5% of the country’s population.
- They speak a wide array of Philippine languages such as [Tagalog](#), [Bisaya](#), [Ilocano](#), and [Kapampangan](#), among many others.

History & Fast Facts:



- California has the largest Filipino American population
- Filipino Americans contributed greatly to the American Labor Movement, especially with the United Farm Workers Movement of the 1960s.
- Many Filipino Americans choose not to identify as Asian or Asian American due to a history of exclusion. Research shows that this is attributed to many having darker skin and feeling marginalized in the larger Asian American community. Further, research also suggests that some Filipino Americans identify more with Latinx or Black communities.

- When the field of Asian American studies emerged in the 1960s and 1970s at institutions of higher education across the country, most literature and research focused on the experiences of East Asian Americans, particularly those with Chinese and Japanese ancestry. Arguably, the contributions of Filipino Americans to culture and society are still not properly acknowledged, though they make up the second-largest Asian American ethnic group, comprising about 1 out of every 5 Asian Americans.



Source: ESC of Central Ohio

Spanish-American War

- This War and its aftermath delayed Philippine independence until after World War II, but established a relationship that fostered a substantial Filipino population within U.S. borders
- After its defeat in the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded its longstanding colony of the Philippines to the United States in the Treaty of Paris
- The Philippine-American War lasted three years and resulted in the death of over 4,200 American and over 20,000 Filipino combatants; as many as 200,000 Filipino civilians died from violence, famine, and disease



Jose Rizal

Doctor and writer José Rizal is considered one of the Philippines' National Heroes. Rizal aimed to expose the state of the people under Spanish rule.

In 1896, the Spanish publicly executed Rizal, accusing him of his role in the revolution for writing his famous book *Noli Me Tangere* (Touch Me Not).



The Jose Rizal Community Center in South Sacramento is home to the annual *Filipino Fiesta* held every June. It is open to the public.

Rizal's execution was the catalyst for uniting Filipinos and for two years, provinces in the Philippines would stand against the colonist rule of Spain.

The Revolution ended with the Spanish American War, ceding claim over the Philippines to the United States.

The Philippines remained a territory of the United States until July 4, 1946 in the aftermath of WWII.

The Marcos Dictatorship

- President Ferdinand Marcos assumed power in December 1965, and again in 1969
- Marcos assumed power under Martial Law, excluded civilian courts, and replaced the 1935 Constitution with the 1973 Constitution
- Opposition to Martial Law led to the fall of the dictatorship: reformist opposition, revolutionary opposition, and religious opposition
- Marcos announced the end of martial law in January 1981, but he continued his authoritarian rule under various constitutional formats
- Marcos fled the country on February 25, 1986 with U.S. urging and went into exile in Hawaii until his death in 1989



Corazon Aquino- First Filipina President

- Won the presidency in 1986, after challenging the dictator responsible for her husband's assassination, Ferdinand Marcos.
- TIME named her [Woman of the Year](#).
- Filipinos gave her the nickname of "Mother of Democracy."
- Her son, Benigno Aquino II, also served as President.



The Story of Larry Itliong and *The Delano Grape Strike*



FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY – LEGACY OF THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE

Filipino workers who immigrated to the U.S. had an immense amount of adaptability, resilience, and perseverance. These characteristics became most evident when they formed community organizing groups in the fight for civil and economic rights.

Their efforts have added significant contributions to the farmworker labor movement and their stories offer us inspiration and pride in the history of Filipinos in America.



WHAT WAS THE DELANO GRAPE STRIKE?

Of the many challenges Filipinos fought against for better working conditions and pay, the Delano grape strike is the most famous.

In Delano, California, 1965, unrest was growing in the area, known for its numerous grape vineyards. Migrant farm workers expressed discontent and frustration over the low wages offered to grape pickers.

Larry Itliong, a Filipino leader from Stockton, had been organizing Filipino workers to get more involved in civil rights and fight for fair working conditions. He began organizing Filipino workers to conduct a grape strike and urged community members to support the farm laborers in their fight for better conditions.



Work with Cesar Chavez

On September 7, 1965, Filipino workers gathered at Filipino Hall and voted to go on strike. The very next day they set down their tools and walked out of the fields.

Itliong then approached Cesar Chavez, a well-known leader in the farmworker movement, to convince him that the Mexican union needed to join the Filipino union in order for the strike to be successful. After some deliberation, Chavez agreed, knowing that it would be better to join forces than ignore the strike.

With both Filipino and Mexican workers collaborating together, they formed what is now known as the United Farm Workers (UFW).



WHAT FINALLY HAPPENED?

The strike attracted a lot of attention and support from activists, human rights groups, other unions, and students.

Then the UFW managed to institute a national grape boycott, which meant that growers would be unable to sell their products. After five long years of the grape boycott, growers finally gave into the demands of the UFW and signed the new contracts.



THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE FILIPINO FARMWORKERS

Filipino farm workers played a pivotal role in the labor movement and paved the way for future generations of Filipinos.

Without the courage of Filipinos to fight for their rights and working conditions, the Delano grape strike and the ensuing victory might never have taken place.

It is interesting that the history of Larry Itliong and the Filipino workers of Delano are not well known, even to most young Filipino Americans.



LARRY ITLIONG DAY – OCTOBER 25

Fortunately, recent efforts have been made to share that history and spread awareness of the story of Filipino immigration. In fact, the governor of California has now signed legislation that requires public schools to teach the history of Filipino workers and their role in the grape strike. Governor Brown also signed a bill that recognizes October 25 as Larry Itliong Day.



[Link to NPR Audio Segment](#)

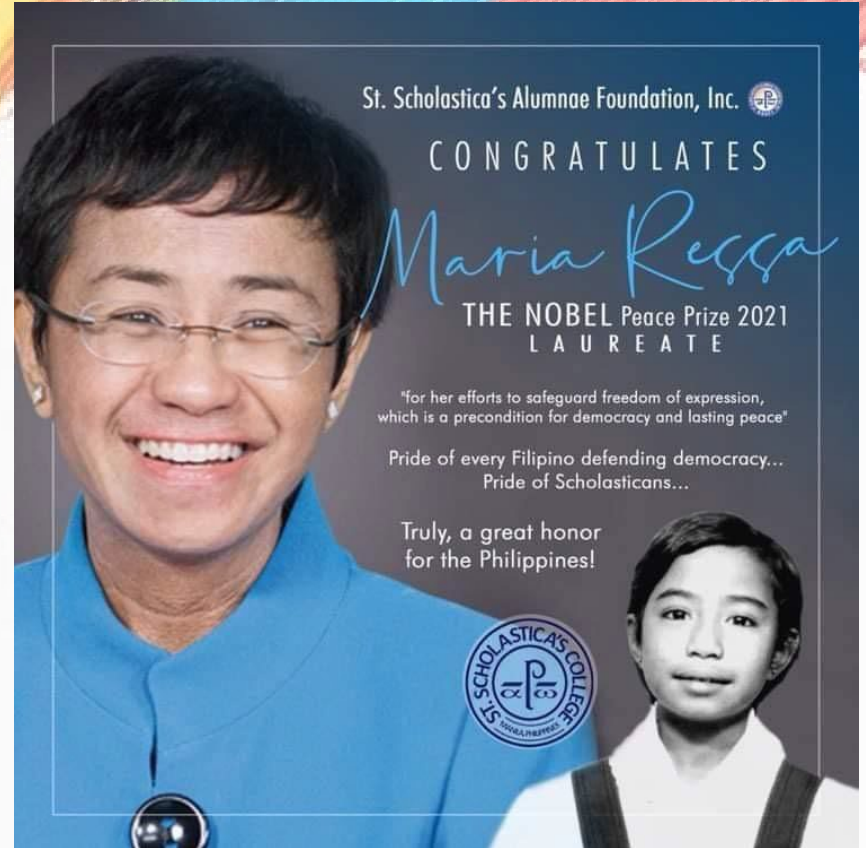
Celebrating Filipina American Women



Throughout history, Pinay — Filipina American women — leaders, laborers, scholars, scientists, and activists have been the backbone of the Filipina/o American community. These Filipina Americans have overcome racial and gender discrimination, and have persevered to contribute to their respective fields.

Maria Ressa, Journalist and Nobel Peace Prize Winner

- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for efforts to safeguard freedom of expression in the Philippines, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.
- Maria Ressa uses freedom of expression to expose abuse of power, use of violence and growing authoritarianism under the Duterte regime in the Philippines.



LGBTQ+ Rights Progress

- Anti-discrimination ordinances to protect LGBT rights have been passed in over 25 cities and provinces in the Philippines during the 21st century, the earliest being Quezon City in 2003
 - The Senate faces opposition from religious groups and conservative senators to pass anti-discrimination legislature, so the widespread local ordinances are powerful
- The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Bill ensures those who discriminate against LGBTQ individuals in the Philippines face fines or jail time
- Congresswoman Geraldine Roman is the first openly trans politician in the Philippines since 2016



Congresswoman Geraldine Roman

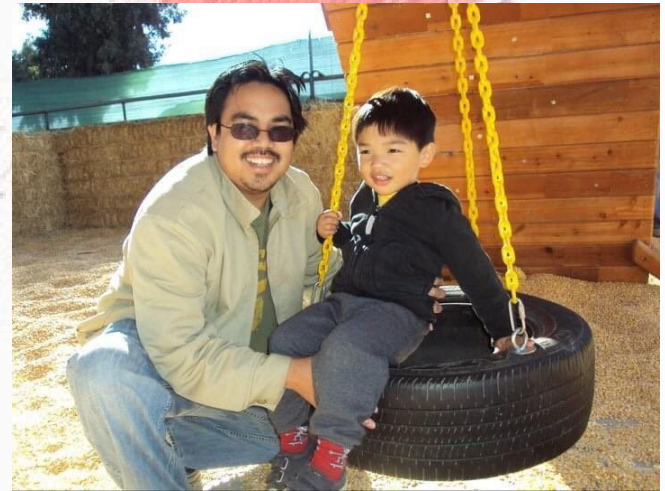
- In a [2013 Pew Forum survey](#), 73% of Filipinos said that society should accept homosexuality—which, for context, is a higher percentage than in the United States
- President Rodrigo Duterte shifts stances on the legalization of same-sex marriage; he granted financial aid to LGBTQ families during the pandemic
- Criminalization of homosexuality does not exist in the Philippines,
 - unlike 70 other countries in the world



FLOAT- Pixar Short Film



Filipino American Bobbi Rubio is a storyboard artist for Pixar, best known for his work on the short film, *Float*. The film was inspired by his son, Alex, diagnosed with autism at the age of two.



Signs of Respect

Respect is a very important part of Filipino culture. Filipinos show respect to their elders, parents, grandparents, older siblings, relatives, friends, and teachers.

Some examples of respect are:

- Addressing elders with “po” at the end of sentences
- Answering, “opo” to reply “yes” respectfully
- Calling your older sister, “Ate” or your older brother, “Kuya.”
- Speaking respectfully to your parents and teachers
- Using “mano po” to request for blessings from your elder relatives. This involves bowing towards the elder bringing their hand to the forehead.



“Parol” or the Christmas Star

The Parol or the Christmas Star lantern has become an iconic symbol in the Philippines for Christmas. "Parol" is derived from the Spanish word "farol" meaning lantern.

Hanging a parol at your home has been a tradition for more than a century to remind Filipinos of hope and joy.

Some people start hanging parol as early as September and it is taken down by January.

The Disney Short Film “From Our Family to Yours” highlights this Filipino Tradition.

Interested in making a star? Watch this [Video](#)



Popular Food Dishes



One of the more popular Filipino dishes is **pancit**. This noodle dish is an essential at birthdays and other gatherings.



Kare-Kare is a rich stew is made with peanut sauce and, customarily, oxtail.



Lumpia, the Filipino version of the egg roll

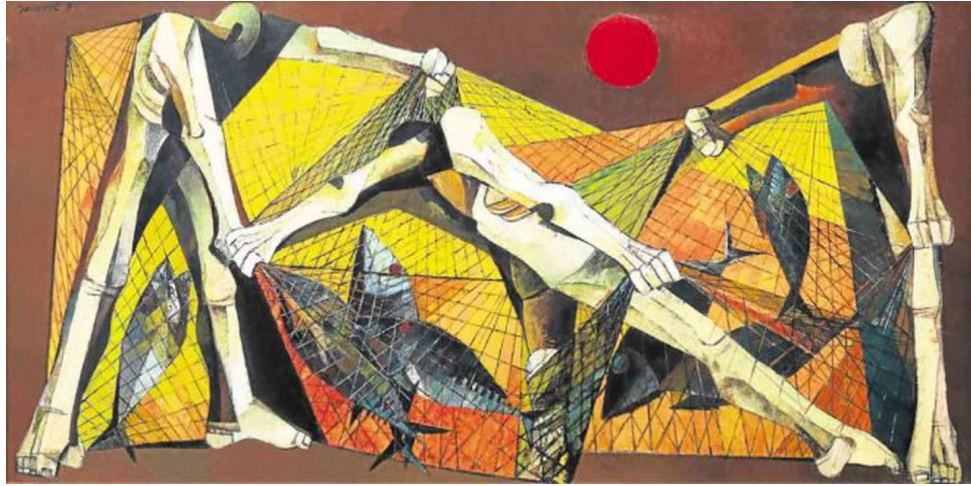


Sinigang is a *Filipino* classic. A delicious sour broth usually made tangy by tamarind, it's filled with different vegetables and a meat of choices.



Adobo is made by stewing meat (usually chicken, pork, or a combination of both) in soy sauce and vinegar, adding peppercorns and bay leaves for that special flavour.

Filipino Artists



Benedicto Cabrera was a famous artist, known for his paintings, etchings, sketches, and prints which have been exhibited across Asia, Europe, and the US. This painting is called "The Fishermen", painted in 1981.

Fernando Amorsolo's work defines the nation's culture and heritage to this day. The painting below, is called "The Fruit Gatherer" and was painted in 1950. Replicas of the painting are common in Filipino households.





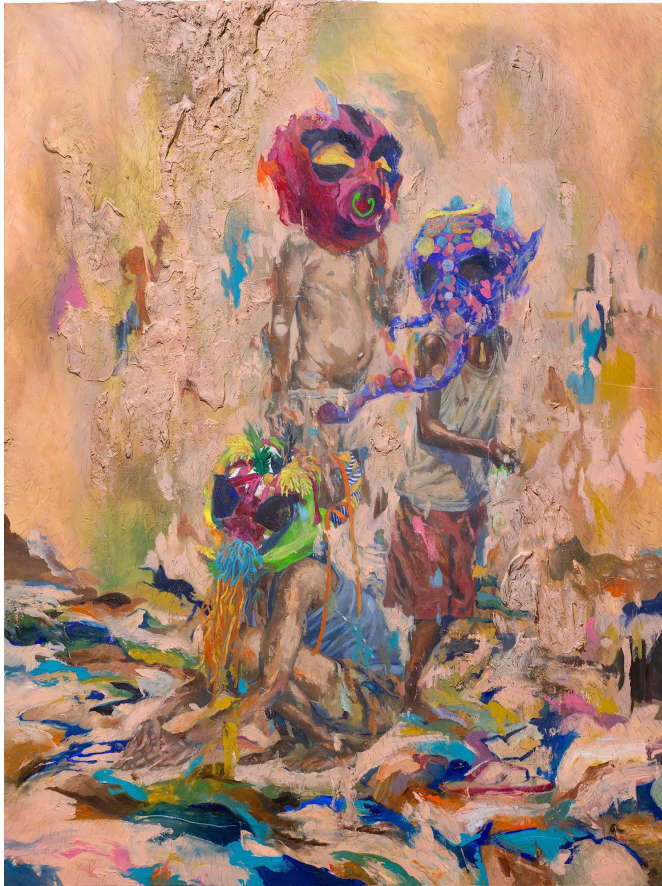
Napoleon Abueva was an abstract sculptor. His expertise was seen in a wide array of materials such as hard wood, abode, steel, cement, marble, and bronze.

The image to the left is of “The Cross at Mt. Samat.” The shrine commemorates the thousands of Filipino and American soldiers who lost their lives during the Japanese-led Bataan Death March in 1942.



Eduardo Masferré is regarded as the Father of Philippine photography. He documented the everyday lives of indigenous people of the Cordilleras of the Philippines. His photographs capture the culture of the people in his community and serve as a documentation of their customary practices and rituals. The Smithsonian Institution carries at least 120 prints of his works for the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.

Contemporary Filipina Artists



Left: ***Isobel Angeli Francisco*** is a digital artist and oil painter. Her works are driven by music. She has staged exhibitions around Metro Manila and Hong Kong.



Faye Pamintuan constantly travels between the two places she calls home—Manila and Texas—and this change in energy and surroundings has greatly influenced her works. She continues to exhibit her work in galleries throughout the metro.

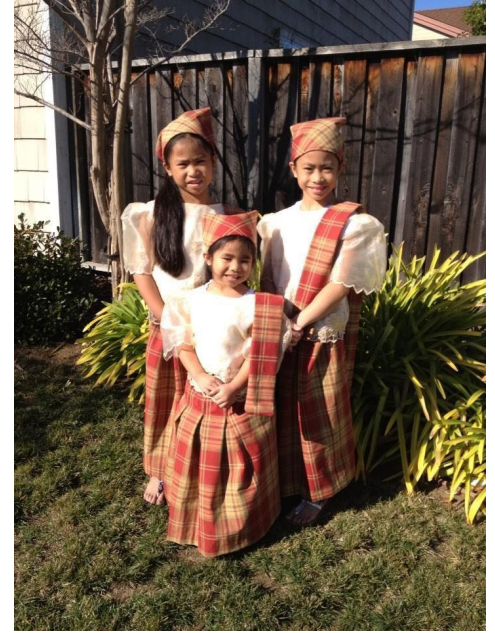
Folk Dance

One of the most popular folk dances in the Philippines is the Tinikling. The traditional dance, which usually involves a pair of two bamboo poles, is considered to be the oldest in the country and its appeal has spread across the globe—particularly to the United States.

Source: theculturetrip.com



Folk Clothing



Filipino Folk Clothing is colorful and beautiful. Filipino people lived under the occupation of other countries for centuries. That's why their national attire was formed under the influence of different cultures, picking up diverse features. The US, Spain, and Japan had the biggest impact on the traditional clothing of the Philippines. Nevertheless, Filipino folk dress is very unique, authentic, and even tribal.

The Filipino Salakot



The salakot represents the evolving history of the Philippines.

It serves as a major symbol of the National Clothing of the Philippines.

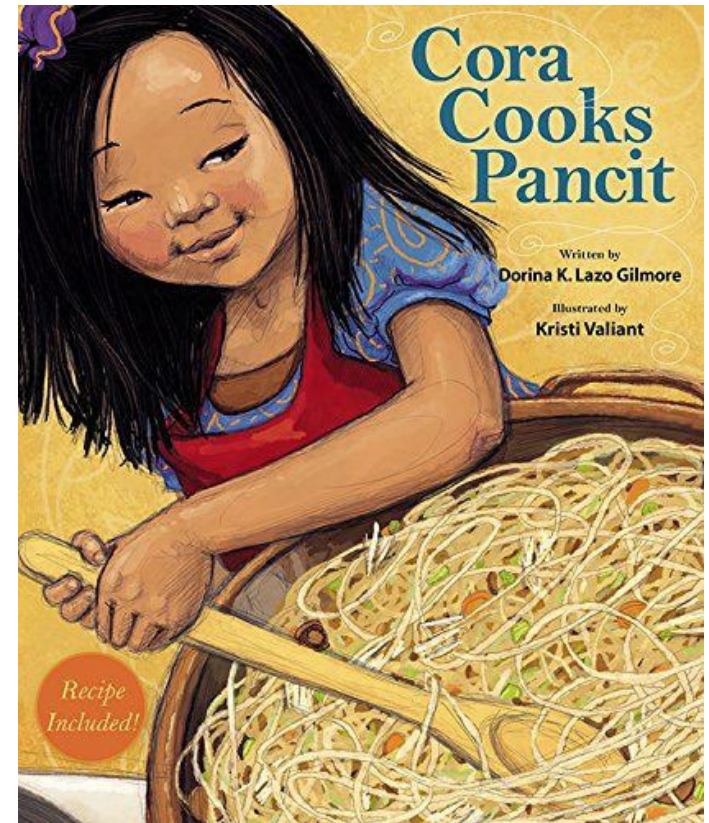
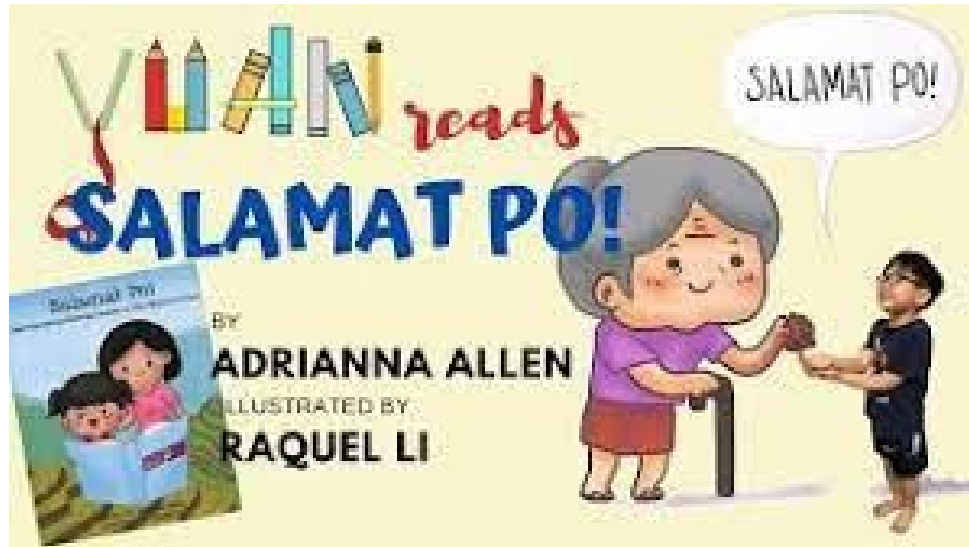
Of the many Indigenous communities in the Philippines, the salakot is the headgear known to be worn by the Tagalog and Kapampangan peoples of the Philippines.

Many other helmet variants are found throughout the islands, each interpreted by different ethnic groups in different styles.

Most salakot were made from the materials found in the area, including bamboo, palms, and rattan leaves.

Source: [The Natural History Museum](https://www.naturalhistorymuseum.com)

Children's Books by Filipino Authors- Read Alouds



Political Figures with Filipino Heritage



Tani Cantil-Sakauye
California Supreme Court Chief Justice



Rob Bonta
California Attorney General

Celebrities with Filipino Heritage



Vanessa Lachey- Actress



Manny Pacquiao- Boxer



Gabriella Sarmiento Wilson a.k.a,
H.E.R.- Singer, Songwriter



Bruno Mars- Singer



Vanessa Hudgens- Actress



Dave Bautista- Actor
and Wrestler



Olivia Rodrigo- Singer



Nicole Scherzinger- Singer

Celebrities with Filipino Heritage



Darren Criss - Actor



Saweetie--Rapper



Bella Poarch--Singer



Beabadoobee--Singer & Songwriter



apl.de.ap--Rapper, Singer, Producer



Manny Jacinto--Actor



Nico Santos--Actor



Jo Koy--Comedian

U.S. Military



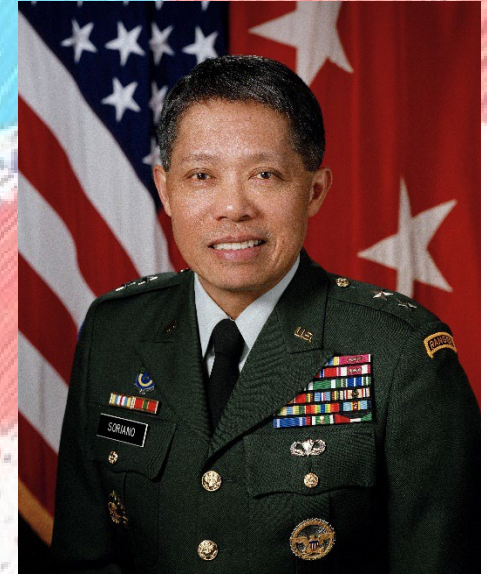
Dr. Eleanor "Connie" Mariano

The first Filipino American to reach the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy as well as the second woman to become Physician to the President



Antonio Mario Taguba

Retired major general in the US Army, who authored a report on the abuse of detainees held at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.



Edward Soriano

Retired lieutenant general, who is the highest-ranking Filipino American to serve in the US military, and the first to be promoted to a general officer.

Common Tagalog Phrases

There are more than 120 languages in the Philippines, but Tagalog is the official language. Tagalog is influenced by Spanish, English, Chinese, Japanese, and many other languages. Below you will find some common Tagalog phrases.

Mahal kita. = I love you

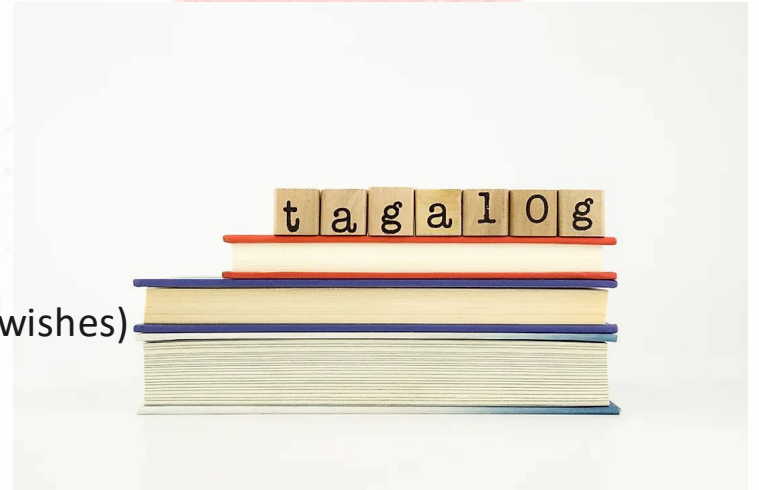
Sarap nito. = This is delicious

Maligayang Bati. = Happy Wishes. (Happy Birthday)

Gusto ko 'to. = I like this. / I want this.

Mabuhay. = Long live! (Commonly used to express good wishes)

Ingat ka. = Take care.



Little Manila: A look into the rich history of Filipino Americans in Stockton, California



<https://youtu.be/oX19ruCpp90?si=NXQtpuuTx6zZZimf>

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