

## Matsui Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

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May 1, 2006

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Washington, DC - Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) called on all Americans to join in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which began on May 1. This year's theme is "Dreams and Challenges of Asian Pacific Americans."

"Asian Pacific American Heritage month is a special opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to the contributions of this community "from I. M. Pei, Maya Lin, Tiger Woods and Michelle Kwan, to Amy Tan, Yo Yo Ma, and General Eric Shinseki. Our nation would not be what it is today without their immeasurable input," said Congresswoman Matsui. "Their unique contributions enhance the moral fabric and character of this great nation and illustrate this year's theme of 'Dreams and Challenges of Asian Pacific Americans."

"As we celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the whole of the nation, we must rededicate our efforts to ensuring equality and opportunities so that all Americans have a chance to reach their full potential. Together, we can make the American dream a reality for all Americans."

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is a fast-growing minority group in the United States. Approximately 15 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, representing a diverse community of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, make their homes in the United States. It is estimated that by 2050 more than 33 million Asian Americans will live in the United States.

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