

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

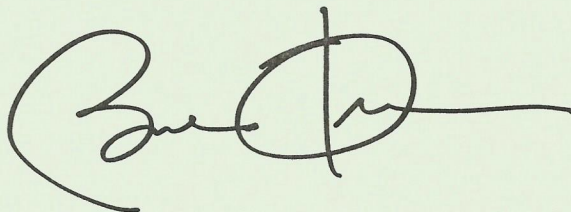
October 1, 2015

I am honored to join in marking Filipino-American History Month and in reflecting on the struggles and victories of the many Filipino Americans who have helped shape our Nation.

Generations of Filipino Americans have lent their unique voices to the vibrant diversity of origins, cultures, and communities that make America what it is. Their legacy speaks to the extraordinary spirit of common purpose—of unity forged through the ideals that bind us together as one people—that has always been central to our Nation.

This month, we honor the Filipino Americans who have worked to build and defend our country, and we reflect on moments that have changed the course of the American story. Seventy years ago, the United States and our allies overcame forces of tyranny and oppression that threatened not only the Pacific, but the entire world—a victory made possible in part by thousands of Filipino Americans who fought for our Nation but who, for far too long, were denied the compensation they had earned. Fifty years ago, courageous farm workers in Delano helped bring about progress that would forever change the labor movement—both within the Filipino-American community and for our country as a whole. And in the decades that have followed, Filipino-American citizens have helped expand our Nation's promise throughout every aspect of our society.

As you come together to celebrate the extraordinary ways Filipino Americans have contributed to our country, you have my warmest regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.