

Filipino American History Month



PRESENTERS



Dr. Elaine Bernal



Jessica Gillette

Landing of the First Filipinos — October 18, 1587



“The Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade Route”

by Anna L. Pearman, M.A.

More than four and a half centuries ago (1571-1815), the bustling Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade Route between Manila, Philippines (then a Spanish colony) and Acapulco, New Spain (now Mexico) connected Asia and the Americas.

Over 6,000 miles long, the round-trip journey or *tornaviaje* across the Pacific Ocean took from six to nine months as ships followed two separate belts of trade winds across the Pacific. Seaworthy Spanish ships called *galleons* (pictured right) were specially designed for these long treacherous voyages. Built in the Philippines from locally harvested hardwoods and weighing 500-1,200 tons, these high-profile mighty ships were fitted with the latest armaments their interiors could easily be adapted to accommodate both passengers and tons of cargo.

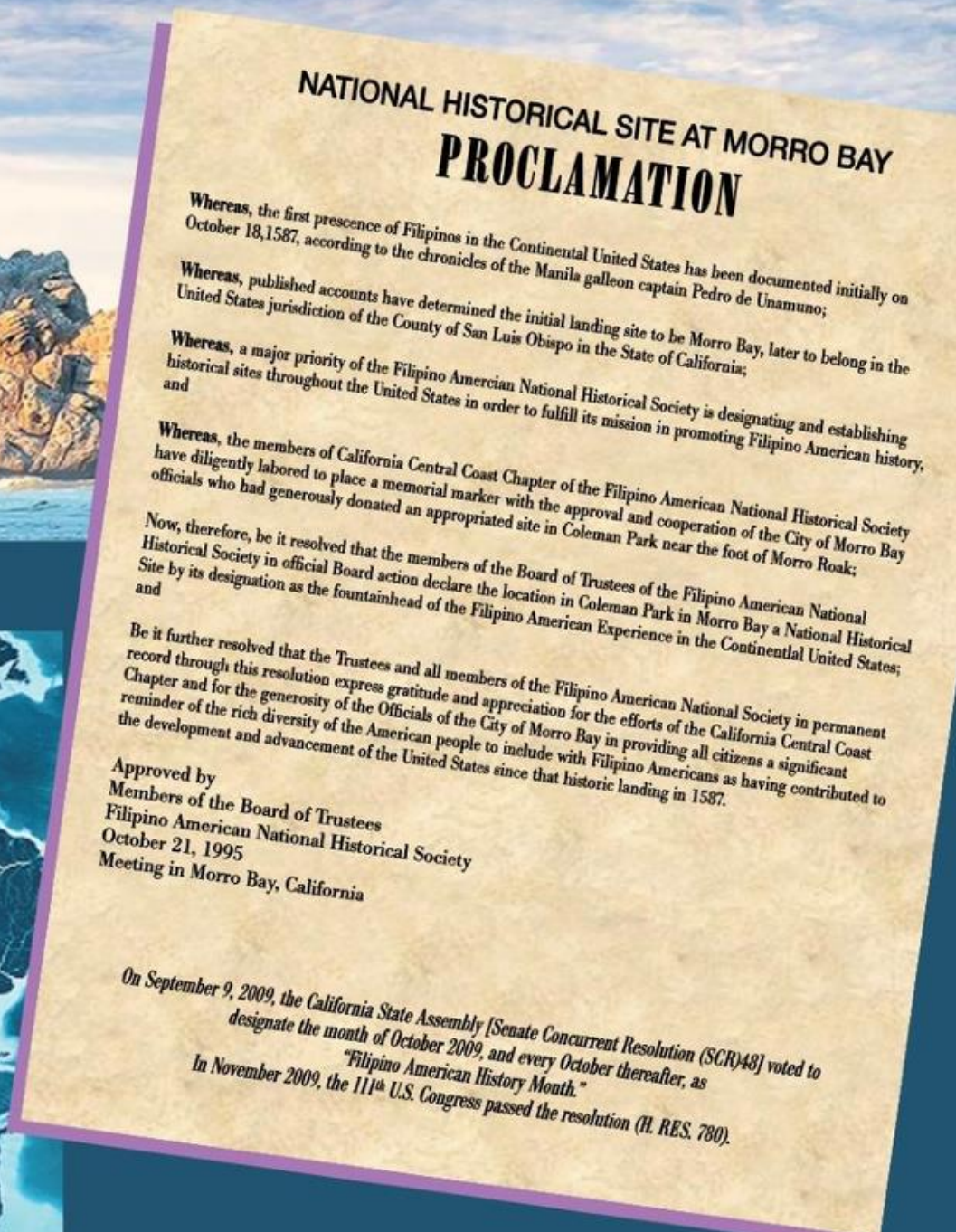
Transpacific treasure galleons transported high-end Asian goods such as Chinese gunpowder, porcelain, and silk; Japanese lacquerware; Persian carpets; precious jewels; and exotic spices from Manila to Acapulco. From Acapulco goods moved eastward overland to Veracruz, a port on the Gulf of Mexico, by sea to La Habana (Cuba) and

onward to Seville. Having delivered their eastern cargo to Acapulco, the Manila galleons made their way homeward, crossing the Pacific with vast amounts of silver to be exchanged for a new load of goods, other metals, and tobacco.

One galleon has special significance for Morro Bay: After three months at sea the crippled Acapulco-bound *Nuestra Señora de Buena Esperanza* commanded by Captain Pedro de Unamuno and piloted by Alonso Gomez made an unscheduled stop October 18, 1587, on present-day California's central coast in search of materials to repair her damaged masts and dwindling provisions. After dropping anchor offshore, two landing parties — among them *Luzones Indios* (native Filipino scouts) — rowed ashore, claimed the territory for Spain. This memorable event marks the first recorded presence of Filipinos in North America. The explorers made contact with the local Chumash people who resisted them; skirmishes erupted resulting in the deaths of two crew members: one Spanish soldier and one Luzone Indio. Having been unsuccessful at establishing peaceful relations with the dis-interested native Americans, Captain de Unamuno and crew departed for Acapulco three days later.



©2021 Yale-NUS College All Rights Reserved.



NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE AT MORRO BAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the first presence of Filipinos in the Continental United States has been documented initially on October 18, 1587, according to the chronicles of the Manila galleon captain Pedro de Unamuno;
Whereas, published accounts have determined the initial landing site to be Morro Bay, later to belong in the United States jurisdiction of the County of San Luis Obispo in the State of California;
Whereas, a major priority of the Filipino American National Historical Society is designating and establishing historical sites throughout the United States in order to fulfill its mission in promoting Filipino American history, and
Whereas, the members of California Central Coast Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society have diligently labored to place a memorial marker with the approval and cooperation of the City of Morro Bay officials who had generously donated an appropriated site in Coleman Park near the foot of Morro Roak;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Board of Trustees of the Filipino American National Historical Society in official Board action declare the location in Coleman Park in Morro Bay a National Historical Site by its designation as the fountainhead of the Filipino American Experience in the Continental United States;

Be it further resolved that the Trustees and all members of the Filipino American National Society in permanent record through this resolution express gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of the California Central Coast Chapter and for the generosity of the Officials of the City of Morro Bay in providing all citizens a significant reminder of the rich diversity of the American people to include with Filipino Americans as having contributed to the development and advancement of the United States since that historic landing in 1587.

Approved by
Members of the Board of Trustees
Filipino American National Historical Society
October 21, 1995
Meeting in Morro Bay, California

On September 9, 2009, the California State Assembly [Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR)48] voted to designate the month of October 2009, and every October thereafter, as
“Filipino American History Month.”
In November 2009, the 111th U.S. Congress passed the resolution (H. RES. 780).

Morro Bay-Coleman Park



Filipino American
National Historical Society
California Central Coast Chapter

© 2022 Anna L. Pearman All Rights Reserved



FANHS "HISTORICAL MARKER"

October 21, 1995 Dedication Ceremony



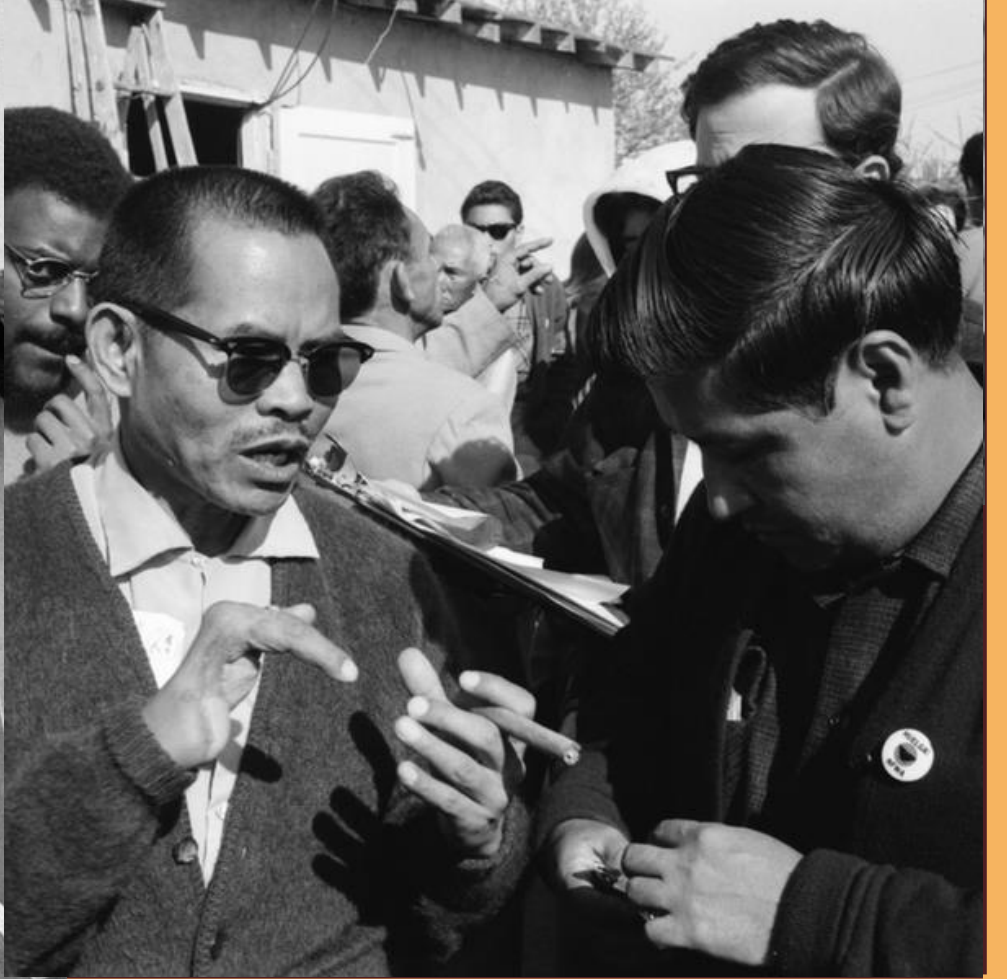
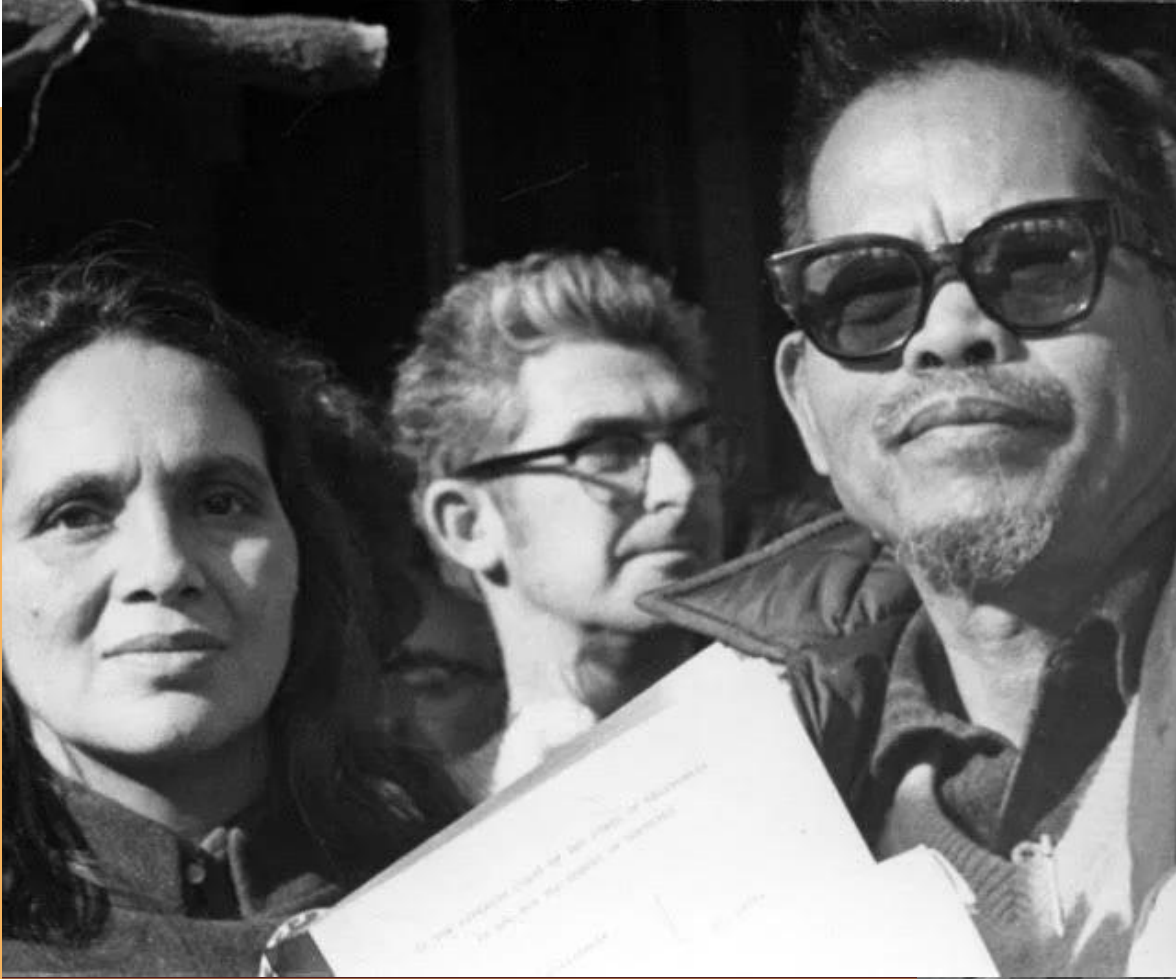
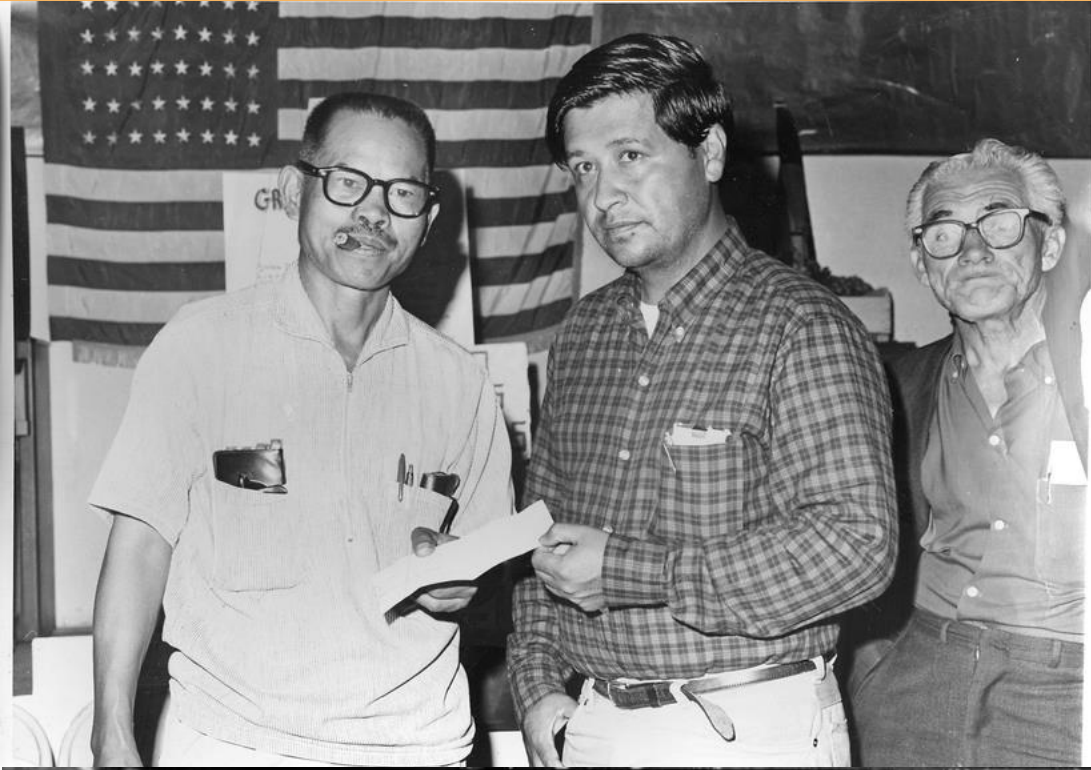
CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY AND LEGACIES *2022*

50 Years of Filipino American Studies
40 Years of the Filipino American
National Historical Society (FANHHS)
30 Years of Filipino American
History Month (FAHM)

OCTOBER IS #FAHM2022
FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

filipino american
FANHHS
national historical society





Long History



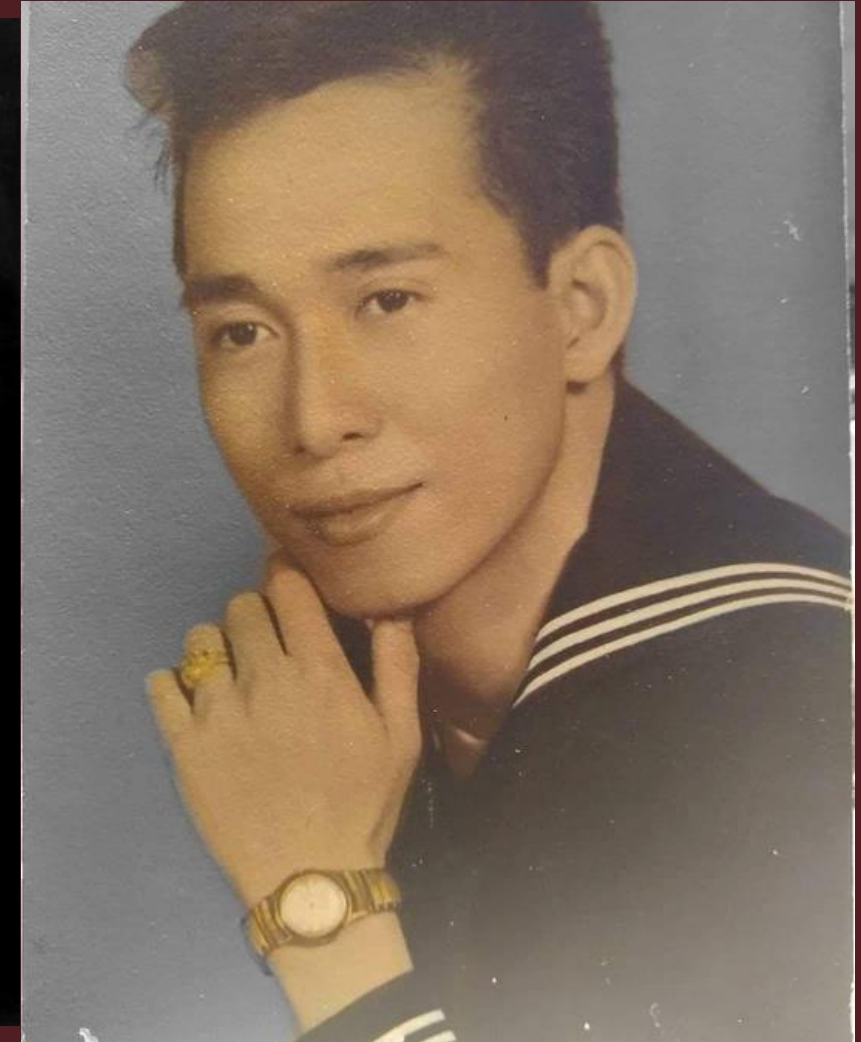
First documented
arrival to Long
Beach in 1910

Labor



Farming, Fishing,
Hospitality, Caregiving,
and Nursing

Military



Naval History



Since 1960, over 150,000 Filipino nurses have migrated to the U.S.

In 2019, one out of 20 registered nurses in the U.S. was trained in the Philippines.

There are 7,979,716 Overseas Filipino Workers globally

The United States currently has the most OFW's at 3,353,891 workers.