

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the Spanish galleon, the *Nuestra Señora de Buena Esperanza*, under the command of Captain Pedro de Unamuno, dropped anchor in Morro Bay, California, and the landing party explored the coast; and,

WHEREAS, the first settlement of Filipinos, referred to as "Manilamen," was in 1765 in southeastern Louisiana; the "Manilamen" became the start of the many contributions Filipino Americans have made toward the advancement of the United States in several fields including the arts and culture, sciences, medicine, education, technology, and in many other areas of human endeavors; and,

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans are well known for serving in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces as early as the War of 1812 against the British, in the U.S. Civil War, in World Wars I and II, and in all the other subsequent U.S. wars up to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and,

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans comprise the second-largest Asian American population in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, further efforts are needed to promote the study and research on Filipino American history to create a more complete and balanced United States history that reflects the legacy and rich contributions of Filipino Americans to our great nation; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October provides an opportunity to celebrate the heritage and culture of Filipino Americans and the many contributions they make to our country; and,

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) Midwest Chapter, the Filipino American Historical Society of Springfield, Illinois (FilAmHisSo), and other Filipino American organizations throughout the state will celebrate Filipino American History Month in October 2016 with various events and activities;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2016 as **FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH** in the State of Illinois, in recognition of the contributions of Filipino Americans to our state and to our nation, and in recognition of Filipino Americans who call Illinois home.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
 this _____ SEVENTH _____ day of _____ SEPTEMBER _____, in
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
 _____ SIXTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,
 one hundred and _____ NINETY-EIGHTH _____.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR