

IN HONOR OF

# Asian Pacific American

HERITAGE MONTH



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COLORADO

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## JUDGE CINDY DANG

*First Female, Vietnamese Judge  
in Adams County*

Spending two weeks on a boat after South Vietnam fell to the Northern Communist forces in 1975, Cindy and her family ended up in a refugee camp in Guam. After several months, they arrived in the United States. Today, she serves as a County Court Judge in the 17th Judicial District for Adams County making her the first female, Vietnamese judge in Adams County. She makes an impact in her community by taking pride in serving what she calls the "People's Court."

## DR. KALPANA CHAWLA

*First Woman of Indian Descent to Fly in Space*

Born in Karnal, India, Dr. Kalpana Chawla was one of the seven crew members on the Columbia Space Shuttle and served as the Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering and moved to the United States to continue her education where she earned her doctorate. "Ms. Chawla's courage and passion continue to serve as an inspiration for millions of American girls who dream of one day becoming astronauts." – President Trump



## SAM CHU LIN

*Asian American Broadcast Pioneer*

Sam Chu Lin became one of the first Asian Americans to work for a major television network at CBS. He was able to cover many major stories of his time, including the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising. He went the extra mile to make sure people knew who their Asian neighbors were. "It's a chance to use your roots for a positive purpose." – Sam Chu Lin



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## JAI-PIL, also known as PHILIP JAISOHN *First Korean to Receive an American Medical Degree and Naturalized U.S. Citizen*

Dr. Philip Jaisohn was born in 1864 at Kanae Village, Bosung County in South Korea. In 1892, he became the first Korean to receive an American medical degree and was the first Korean to become a naturalized U.S. citizen just two years prior. Passionate about the future of his native land, he returned home to sow the seeds of democracy. He is known as the founding father of the modernization and democracy of Korea.

## GENERAL VANG PAO *U.S. "Secret Army"*

General Vang Pao held the highest rank ever achieved by a Hmong in the Royal Laotian Army, major general. The U.S. CIA recruited him to rescue American pilots shot down over Laos and aid against anti-Communist forces. "General Vang Pao commanded the Secret Army, a highly effective CIA-trained and supported force that fought against the Pathet Lao and People's Army of Vietnam. His tremendous courage and leadership aided American soldiers against aggression from the North Vietnamese. By fighting valiantly at our nation's side, he helped preserve and protect our way of life." – *Congressman Wally Herger (R-California)*



## RADY MOM *First Cambodian American Elected to a State Legislature*

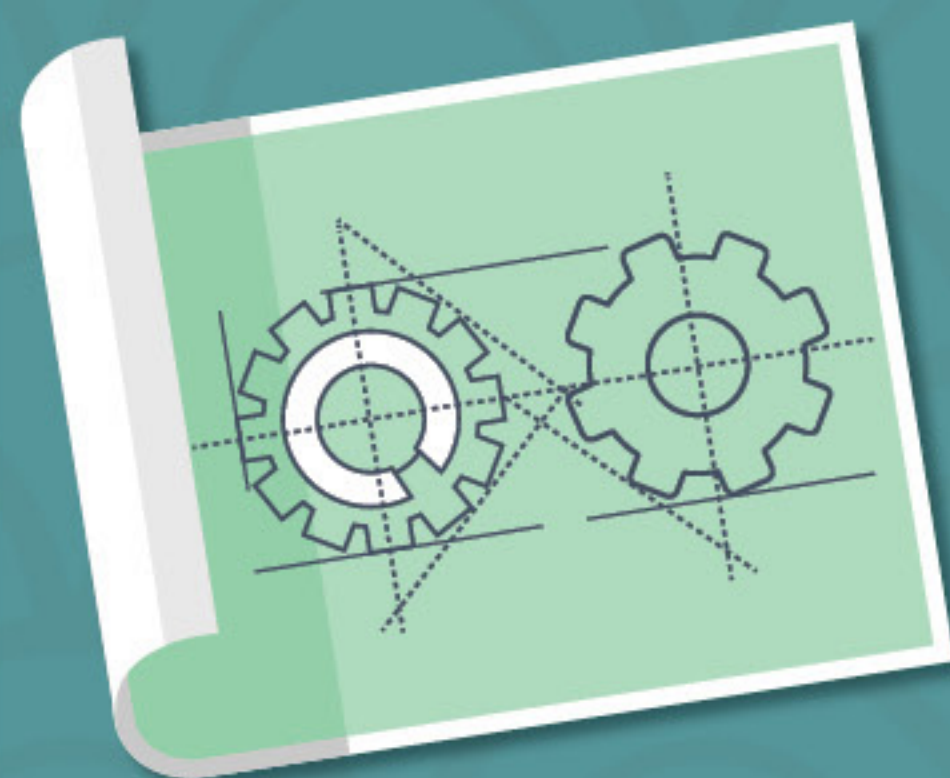
Rady Mom was the first Cambodian American elected to a state legislature when elected in Massachusetts in 2014. Rep. Mom and his family were forced to flee the brutal onslaught of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s when he was only six years old. They fled to a refugee camp in Thailand and emigrated to Duluth, MN. The family eventually settled in Lowell, MA, which has the second largest Cambodian population in the U.S. "When I was young, I studied to become a [Buddhist] monk, and I'm a trained acupressure therapist. At the root of everything I do, I ask 'What can I do to help? What needs to be done?' If you start by asking yourself those questions, it's hard to go wrong." – *Rady Mom*



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## MINORU YAMASAKI

*Japanese American Architect*

Born in 1912 in Seattle, WA, Minoru Yamasaki was the Japanese American who designed the original World Trade Center in New York City. His architectural style was noted for its appeal to the senses. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1960 and won the institute's First Honor Award three times. He was also featured as the cover story of *Time Magazine* in Jan. 1963.

## CHANNAPHA KHAMVONGSA

*Founder of Legacies of War*

Legacies of War is a non-profit organization founded by Channapha Khamvongsa and dedicated to raising awareness about the history and effects of Vietnam War bombings in Laos. As a little girl, her parents smuggled her out of Laos by crossing the Mekong in 1979, fleeing the Communist regime. In 2010, she spoke in front of the U.S. House of Representatives, addressing the need to raise funds to remove leftover unexploded ordnance in Laos. In Sept. 2016, President Barack Obama acknowledged her advocacy efforts in Laos, and Obama became the first U.S. president to visit the country.



## PEDRO FLORES

*Inventor of the Yo-Yo*

The man responsible for the invention of yo-yos was born in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, and came to the U.S. in 1915. Flores read an article about a self-made billionaire who profited off selling a ball attached to a rubber band. It reminded him of the "badalore," a popular toy in the Philippines. He started a yo-yo manufacturing company and ran the business from 1920 to 1932.



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