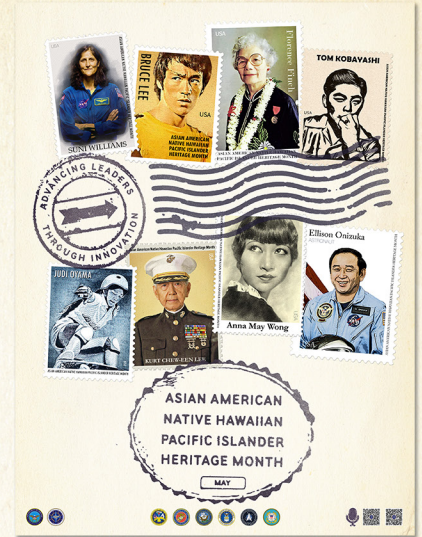


CULTURAL  
AWARENESS

# OBSERVANCE



During Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Department of Defense pays tribute to the remarkable contributions of individuals like Florence Finch, Bruce Lee, Ellison Onizuka, and Kurt Chew-Een Lee, whose stories embody the resilience, courage, and diversity of these vibrant communities.

Florence Finch, a Filipino American, emerged as a symbol of hope and defiance during the Japanese occupation in World War II. She aided the Filipino resistance in efforts to repel the enemy by passing valuable intelligence to the Allies, and risking her life to sabotage enemy operations.

Bruce Lee's legacy transcends martial arts, inspiring generations with his philosophy of self-expression and cultural pride. As an iconic figure in popular culture, he challenged stereotypes and advocated for representation, paving the way for greater diversity in film and beyond.

Ellison Onizuka's journey from Kealahou, Hawaii to the stars embodies the boundless aspirations of Pacific Islanders. As NASA's first Asian American astronaut, he exemplified the spirit of exploration and discovery, inspiring countless dreamers to reach for outer space.

Kurt Chew-Een Lee's symbolizes Honor, Courage and Commitment. He was the first Asian American Marine Corps officer. During the Korean War, while injured, he successfully led a rescue mission through freezing rocky hills in the battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

The amazing stories of Florence Finch, Bruce Lee, Ellison Onizuka, and Kurt Chew-Een Lee showcase the ingenuity, bravery, and creativity of AANHPI leaders in our Nation. Whether it's in the fields of technology, entertainment, or in the military, these Americans should be memorialized and celebrated for their innovations.

During this month of celebration and reflection, we honor their legacies and recognize their enduring impact on history and their invaluable contributions to the American culture. Their stories inspire us to embrace our diversity, uphold our shared values, and strive for a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

