

TIMELINE		By Esther Taira	
<p>The timeline below is a sampling of the many events that have impacted our lives. The timeline is divided into three columns, <i>National/International Events</i>, <i>Events in Ethnic America</i> and <i>events described in "Untold Stories."</i> Events and lives intertwine in a variety of ways. Can you see the connections? You are invited to add events to any of the three columns.</p>			
National/International Events	Ethnic America Events		"Untold Civil Rights" Events
<p>1846-48 Mexican War — U.S. gains territory including California and New Mexico.</p> <p>1861-65 U.S. Civil War</p> <p>1882 Congress passes Chinese Exclusion Act, ending immigration from China and barring Chinese from U.S. citizenship.</p> <p>1886 <i>Yick Wo v. Hopkins</i>, U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous opinion, rules in favor of Yick Wo, holding that, in discriminating against Chinese laundries, San Francisco was in violation of equal protection when it operates to discriminate in a practice against a racial minority.</p> <p>1898 Spanish American War The U.S. annexes Hawaii</p> <p>1899 Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico annexed by U.S.</p> <p>1907 The Gentleman's Agreement is signed between the U.S. and Japan. In this agreement, Japan volunteers to halt labor immigration to the U.S.</p>	<p>1848 Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill, CA, drawing Chinese immigrants to the state.</p> <p>1865 Chinese laborers are hired to work on the Transcontinental Railroad. <i>People v. Hall</i>, California Supreme Court — Ruled that the testimony of a Chinese man who witnessed a murder by a white man was inadmissible.</p> <p>1868 First Japanese immigrants are recruited to work in Hawaii as contract laborers.</p> <p>1869 First group of Japanese immigrants arrive in California and establish the Wakamatsu Colony at Gold Hill.</p> <p>1882 Loss of new immigrant Chinese workers results in increased demand for labor, causing an increase in Japanese immigration to Pacific Coast.</p> <p>1886 In <i>Yick Wo v. Hopkins</i> the U.S. Supreme Court rules for Yick Wo, owner of a Chinese laundry, holding that a San Francisco ordinance discriminated against them.</p> <p>1906 (November) — The San Francisco School Board removes children of Japanese and others of "Mongoloid" ancestry from regular schools and places them in a segregated school.</p> <p>1909 Angel Island, an immigration facility in San Francisco Bay, opens in order to examine Asian Pacific Islander immigrants upon their arrival to the West Coast.</p>	<p>1904 Philip Vera Cruz is born on Christmas Day in the Philippines.</p>	



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1917 U.S. enters WWI	1913 California law prohibits all aliens who are ineligible for citizenship from owning land. Only “white persons” are eligible for naturalization. Leasing of land limited to three years. Similar laws eventually adopted in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Minnesota.	1919 Fred Korematsu is born in Oakland, CA.
1922 <i>Ozawa v. U.S.</i> — U.S. Supreme Court rules that naturalization is limited to “white persons and aliens of African nativity,” thus legalizing previous practice of excluding Asians from citizenship.	1922 <i>Ozawa v. U.S.</i> — U.S. Supreme Court rules that naturalization is limited to “white persons and aliens of African nativity”. Congress passes Cable Act, which provides that any woman marrying an alien ineligible for citizenship shall cease to be an American citizen. In practice, this means that anyone marrying an Issei would automatically lose citizenship. In marriages terminated by death or divorce, a Caucasian woman could regain citizenship, whereas a Nisei woman could not. Act is amended in 1931.	1923 Beulah Ong Kwoh is born in Stockton, CA. 1924 Faustino “Peping” Baclig is born in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines.
1929-33 Great Depression Era: 13 million people become unemployed in the U.S.	1924 Congress passes the Immigration Exclusion Act, ending all Asian immigration to the U.S., except for Filipinos who are subjects of the U.S.	1926 Philip Vera Cruz comes to the U.S.
1934 The Tydings-McDuffie Act declares the Philippines a commonwealth, guarantees independence in ten years. 1939 Britain and France declare war on Germany, signaling the beginning of World War II.	1934 A section of the Tydings-McDuffie Act declares all Philippine-born Filipinos “aliens,” and restricts their immigration to 50 Filipinos a year, separating many families.	
1940 President Roosevelt places embargo on most essential raw materials to Japan. 1941 (December 7) — Japan bombs U.S. fleet and military base at Pearl Harbor. (December 8) — U.S. Congress declares war on Japan. (December 11) — U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy. Surrender of Bataan.	1941 (July 26) — President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Military Order No. 81 “constituting a command designated as the United States Armed Forces of the Far East, which include the Philippine Department. Forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines are called into service of the Armed Forces of the U.S. “for the period of the existing emergency and such other forces as may be designated to it.”	1941 Young Filipinos are called to fight under the command of the U.S. military.

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<p>1942 (June 4) — Battle of Midway cripples Japanese navy, a turning point in the war in the Pacific.</p>	<p>1942 (February 19) — President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, forcing over 110,000 Japanese American citizens (Nisei) and immigrant parents (Issei) into internment camps during WWII solely based upon their ancestry. Today, the day is commemorated in Japanese American communities as a “Day of Remembrance”.</p>	<p>1942 (April 9) — Bataan surrenders — 60,000 Filipino and 15,000 American soldiers are forced on the infamous Bataan Death March.</p>
<p>1943 (January 28) — U.S. War Department announces plans to organize all-Japanese American combat unit. As a result of a wartime alliance with China, the U.S. Congress repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The immigration quota for Chinese will remain low until the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act.</p>	<p>1943 (June 21) — <i>Hirabayashi v. U.S.</i> and <i>Yasui v. U.S.</i>: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that a curfew may be imposed against one group of American citizens based solely on ancestry and that Congress, in enacting Public Law 77-503, authorized the implementation of E.O. 9066 and provides criminal penalties for violation of orders of the military commander.</p>	
	<p>1944 (December 18) — <i>Korematsu v. U.S.</i>: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that one group of citizens may be singled out and expelled from their homes and imprisoned for several years without trial, based solely on their ancestry.</p>	<p>1944 <i>Korematsu v. U.S.</i> is heard by U.S. Supreme Court.</p>
<p>1945 (August 6) — U.S. drops first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. (August 9) — Second atomic bomb drops on Nagasaki. (September 2) — Japan formally surrenders.</p>	<p>(December 18) — <i>In ex parte Endo</i>, U.S. Supreme Court rules that War Relocation Authority (WRA) has no authority to detain a “concededly loyal” American citizen.</p>	<p>1946 Filipino soldiers are denied veterans rights despite fighting under the U.S. command.</p>
<p>1946 President Harry S. Truman signs the Filipino Naturalization Acts allowing Filipinos to become citizens. The Philippines gains full independence.</p>	<p>1946 Congress passes and President Truman signs the Rescission Act of 1946, which denies Filipino soldiers who fought under the U.S. Armed Forces of the Far East the same rights given to other WWII veterans.</p>	<p>1948 The “Asparagus Strike”, the first major agricultural strike after WWII, is led by unionized Filipino farm workers.</p>
<p>1950-53 Korean War</p>		<p>1950 K.W. Lee arrives in the U.S.</p>
<p>1952 Asian immigrants gain right to become citizens with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act.</p>	<p>1952 (April 17) — California Supreme Court declares “alien land laws” in violation of the 14th Amendment by being racially discriminatory (<i>Fujii v. California</i>).</p>	
<p>1954 <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> ends racial segregation in school.</p>	<p>(June 11) — McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act is passed by Congress. Although restrictive, this law allows Japanese and other Asian immigrants to become naturalized citizens for the first time.</p>	<p>1955 Vincent Chin is born in China and is later adopted by Lily and Bing Hing from a Chinese orphanage in 1961.</p>
<p>1959 Alaska becomes 49th state and Hawaii becomes 50th state.</p>	<p>1959 Hawaii becomes a state. Daniel Inouye is the first Japanese American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p>The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) is established. Filipino Americans comprise majority of membership.</p>	



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<p>1960-65 Civil Rights Movement</p> <p>1960-75 Vietnam War</p> <p>1965 U.S. Congress passes the Immigration and Nationality Act, which abolishes “national origins” as basis for immigration and allows more immigration from Asia.</p> <p>Ferdinand E. Marcos becomes president of the Philippines</p>	<p>1960 (February 1) — The sit-in movement begins in Greensboro, North Carolina; the goal is to desegregate public accommodation facilities throughout the South.</p> <p>1965 Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) begins strike against grape growers in Delano. The National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), primarily made up of Mexican Americans, joins the AWOC. The Delano grape strike will last five years and receives national attention.</p> <p>1966 The NFWA and AWOC merge, forming the United Farm Workers (UFW), which becomes an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Cesar Chavez leads march in CA, from Delano to Sacramento, focusing national attention on the plight of farm workers.</p> <p>1968 (April 4) — Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated. His <i>Poor People’s Campaign</i> proceeds but fails to achieve its goals.</p>	<p>1965 Filipino farm workers begin strike against Delano, CA grape growers.</p> <p>East West Players is established — an Asian American theater organization that produces outstanding works and educational programs that give voice to the Asian Pacific American experience.</p> <p>1969 UCLA Asian American Studies Center is established.</p>
<p>1972 Martial Law is declared in the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos; in effect until 1986.</p> <p>1978 Congress passes a joint Congressional Resolution to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. Congress will later vote to extend it to a month-long celebration.</p>	<p>1974 <i>Lau v. Nichols</i>: U.S. Supreme Court ruled that schools should provide students instruction in their native language. This ruling gave bilingual-bicultural education in the U.S. a tremendous boost.</p> <p>1976 Two Mexican Americans, Jerry Apodaca and Raul Castro, are elected governors of New Mexico and Arizona respectively; first Hispanic governors since the early years of New Mexico statehood.</p> <p>1977 The televised version of Alex Haley’s <i>Roots</i> is viewed by more Americans (130 million) than any other television show in television history.</p> <p>1978 In the case of <i>Regents of the University of California v. Bakke</i>, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the idea of affirmative action, but rules against strict racial quotas.</p>	<p>1973 UFW begins construction of Agbayani Village for aging Filipino farm workers.</p> <p>1974 Beulah Quo (Kwoh) wins an Emmy for the documentary <i>James Wong Howe: The Man and His Movies</i>.</p> <p>1977 Philip Vera Cruz resigns from the United Farm Workers because of Cesar Chavez’s support of Ferdinand Marcos.</p>
<p>1980 President Jimmy Carter signs bill to create the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to review Executive Order 9066 and to recommend appropriate remedies.</p>	<p>1982 <i>Plyler v. Do</i>: The U.S. Supreme Court reviews a Texas statute that withheld funds for the education of children who were not “legally admitted” into the U.S.; the Court strikes down the statute as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.</p> <p>1983 Fred Korematsu returns to the court. In response to a petition for a <i>writ of error coram nobis</i> by Korematsu, the federal district court vacates his conviction and rules that the government had no justification in issuing the internment orders.</p> <p>1984 The Federal District Court in Portland, OR invalidates Minoru Yasui’s 1942 conviction of violating a government curfew and “evacuation” orders.</p>	<p>1982 Vincent Chin is killed in a Detroit, MI hate crime by two men with a baseball bat.</p> <p>Chol Soo Lee, a Korean American immigrant, is acquitted by jury in San Francisco, CA. Lee had spent nine years in prison for a killing he did not commit. His case aroused great community support.</p> <p>1983 Vincent Chin’s killers are given probation, sparking outrage in Asian American communities and a cry for justice. A federal grand jury later indicts the two killers on federal civil rights charges.</p>



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1989 Tragedy at Tiananmen results in tense Sino-American relations and U.S. trade sanctions.	<p>1986 The Federal District Court in Seattle, WA invalidates Gordon Hirabayashi’s 1942 conviction for rejecting government curfew and “evacuation” orders.</p> <p>President Ronald Reagan signs Immigration Reform Control Act. Effort to discourage illegal immigration but Act also provides a pathway for legalization for some who had been continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 1982.</p> <p>1988 President Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The law requires payment of \$20,000 to each of the estimated 60,000 survivors of the Japanese internment during World War II. It includes an apology for the wrongdoing by the U.S. government.</p> <p>1989 Lawrence Douglas Wilder is elected governor of the state of Virginia, first African American to be elected a governor of a U.S. state.</p>	<p>1983 Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is co-founded by Stewart Kwoh.</p> <p>1985 Dr. Haing S. Ngor wins an Oscar for “Best Supporting Actor” at the Academy Awards for his first acting role in <i>The Killing Fields</i>. He became the first Asian American ever to receive an Oscar for acting.</p> <p>1986 Manong Peping arrives in America with his family.</p> <p>1987 Ronald Ebens, after a retrial in Cincinnati, OH, is acquitted of the murder of Vincent Chin. Ebens does not spend a single day in jail for the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin.</p>
<p>1990-91 Gulf War — U.S. declares war on Iraq.</p> <p>1999 Taiwan-born U.S. citizen Wen Ho Lee, who worked at the Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratories, is arrested and imprisoned on false allegations of giving U.S. nuclear secrets to China; the original charges are later dropped and the judge in the case apologizes to Lee.</p> <p>2001 (September 11) — “9/11” Attacks on World Trade Center and U.S. Pentagon. President George W. Bush declares “War on Terror”. U.S. and Britain targets Afghanistan in search for Osama bin Laden.</p>	<p>1990 Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1990, granting U.S. citizenship and limited veteran benefits to certain Filipino veterans who fought for the U.S. during WWII. 25,000 Filipino veterans were naturalized as U.S. citizens.</p> <p>1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest</p> <p>1997 Filipino veterans demonstrate in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles demanding equality and justice.</p> <p>1999 Wen Ho Lee case becomes a rallying point for Asian Americans who seek justice for unfair accusations of spying for China.</p> <p>The experiences of the enslaved Thai Garment Workers and the passage of Assembly Bill 633 opens door for retailer and manufacturer liability for the wages and working conditions of workers hired by contractors and sub-contactors.</p> <p>Gen. Eric K. Shinseki becomes the U.S. Army’s 34th Chief of Staff. Shinseki is the only Japanese American and Asian American to be promoted to the U.S. Army’s highest position and is the first four-star general of Asian descent in the U.S. military.</p>	<p>1992 More than 2,500 Korean businesses are looted and burned as a result of riots in Los Angeles due to outrage over the Rodney King verdict.</p> <p>1994 Philip Vera Cruz dies in his hometown of Bakersfield, CA at the age of 89.</p> <p>1995 Raid on El Monte, CA sweatshop uncovers enslaved Thai garment workers.</p> <p>1999 As a result of the El Monte raid, Assembly Bill 633, the toughest sweatshop legislation in the nation, is passed in CA.</p> <p>Joseph Ito is gunned down by white supremacist — Buford Furrow.</p>



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	<p>2000 Twenty-two Asian American veterans were finally recognized for heroism and are awarded the nation’s highest military award — the Medal of Honor. Many were Japanese Americans who volunteered for service from internments camps where their families had been relocated during WWII.</p> <p>2001 Elaine Chao is appointed as Secretary of Labor; she is the first Chinese American and the first Asian American woman to be appointed to a President’s cabinet in U.S. history.</p> <p>2003 A new law (PL 108-170) is signed by President George Bush; it provides for official recognition and Veterans Administration (VA) medical care for approximately 11,000 living WWII Filipino veterans.</p> <p>2008 U.S. Senate passes S.315 to award pension benefits to WWII Filipino veterans who fought under U.S. command. However, the House of Representatives fail to pass the bill and the bill is now officially dead.</p> <p>Barack Obama’s election to be the nation’s 44th president marks a milestone in U.S. history.</p> <p>2009 President Obama includes in his Cabinet: Attorney General Eric Holder (Justice) — first African American to hold this position; Secretary Steven Chu (Energy) — first Asian American to hold this position; Gary Locke (Commerce) — first Chinese American to hold this position; Secretary Hilda Solis (Labor) — first Hispanic woman to serve as a secretary in Cabinet; Secretary Eric Shinseki (Veterans Affairs) — first Asian American to hold this position.</p> <p>U.S. Congress passes HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — the economic stimulus bill. The Act includes Filipino WWII veterans’ legislation.</p>	<p>2002 (June 9) — Lily Chin dies at age 82 in Farmington Hills, MI. (October 23) — Beulah Quo (Kwoh) dies at age 79 in La Mesa, CA.</p> <p>2004 Amric Singh Rathour successfully challenges his dismissal over New York Police Department (NYPD) uniform policy and becomes an NYPD traffic officer.</p> <p>2005 (March 30) — Fred Korematsu dies at age 86 in Larkspur, CA.</p> <p>2008 (August 14) — Former Thai slave laborers become U.S. citizens.</p> <p>2009 As part of HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Filipino veterans finally succeed in gaining recognition for their military service as U.S. veterans. Surviving veterans to receive one-time payments of \$15,000 to Filipino American veterans residing in the U.S. or in the Philippines, and \$9,000 to veterans who are Philippine citizens. It also contains a provision for spouses and protects eligibility for benefits currently received by veterans.</p>
2003 U.S. invades Iraq.		
2005 Hurricane Katrina devastates Louisiana and Mississippi.		
2006 Lt. Ehren Watada, contending that the War in Iraq is illegal, becomes the first commissioned officer to refuse orders to deploy to Iraq. His first court-martial in 2007 ends in a mistrial. On May 6, 2009, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals drops the government’s case against him.		
2008 The U.S. suffers disastrous economic downturn in all major sectors. The economic crisis is felt worldwide. Barack Obama, Democratic Senator from IL, is elected to be the nation’s 44th President; making him the first president of African American descent in the history of the U.S.		
2009 Eric Holder is appointed as the nation’s first African American attorney general. The U.S. Congress approves HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the economic stimulus bill, which includes legislation regarding Filipino World War II veterans.		

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