Resolution recognizing and honoring the service and sacrifices of the Filipino Nurse community; recognizing the disproportionate impact that the Filipino nurses and their families have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic; and expressing gratitude to them for their contributions and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

WHEREAS, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and May 6 through May 12, 2021 is National Nurses Week; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 exacerbated existing inequities in the healthcare industry, and specifically highlighted the acute Filipino nurses deaths; and

WHEREAS, While Filipino nurses make up 4% of all the nurses in the United States, they make up 31.5% of all nurse deaths from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Given the nature of nurses work, they are the frontline healers of our medical community and are the most at risk for contracting and dying from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American nurses have become the most impacted frontline medical workers in the country’s fight against COVID; and

WHEREAS, The history of Filipinos in the nursing field date back to the 1898 Treaty of Paris, where the U.S. took the Philippines from Spain and ruled over the Philippines as a territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Even after the Philippines was recognized as a sovereign state in 1946, the United States retained control through unequal agreements that benefited the U.S. and its citizens at the expense of Filipinos; and

WHEREAS, The Philippines under U.S. control was under new wave colonialism practicing “benevolent assimilation” of the Philippines into U.S. culture; and
WHEREAS, “Benevolent assimilation” was part of colonization and was used to shift the narrative and portray colonialism as one of friendship, in which Filipinos were viewed as “little brown brothers” to be civilized under the guise of benefiting the Philippines, which included the training of Filipinos in healthcare, but was actually a part of the U.S. manifest destiny ideology to advance colonial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. pointed to the presence of disease and “primitive dirty uncivilized ways of Filipinos,” toting the narrative that Filipinos needed Americans to colonize and uplift them specifically through the lens of health care; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. established nursing schools in the Philippines and actively recruited Filipina women and actively discouraged Filipino men from entering the nursing profession; and

WHEREAS, For decades, nurses in the Philippines nursing schools were being trained through Americanized medicine; and

WHEREAS, When the U.S. started to experience nursing shortages in the 1960’s partly because of feminism and the movement of American women shifting from “support roles” in healthcare to lawyers and doctors, it was not until then that the U.S. began seeing a big wave of Filipino nurses migrating to the U.S. following heavy recruitment of Filipino nurses who were American-trained and who spoke English into the U.S. workforce; and

WHEREAS, This was made possible due to the historic immigration bill, the 1965 Immigration Act, which gave preference to immigrants with special skills, like nursing and those who were seen as able to contribute the most to U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos became the largest immigrant group to work in American nursing; and

WHEREAS, Filipino nurses in particular have spent their careers doing hands on work concentrated in critical care, such as being in Intensive Care Units, Emergency Rooms,
Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Transplant Teams, disproportionately serving in high risk departments, which can begin to further explain why so many Filipino nurses died during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Many nurses came back from retirement to assist in the pandemic; and
WHEREAS, Nursing is intimate hard work and during a pandemic often times it was nurses who sat at the bedside of patients who died alone in hospitals, displaying the highest commitment to those they served and directly worked with; and
WHEREAS, The deaths of our frontline workers this past year and those in the Filipino Nurse Community are deeply felt and highlight the critical need to better protect nurses, health care providers and those on the frontline; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and honors the service and sacrifices of the Filipino Nurse Community; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco thanks the nursing community for all their work, and specifically recognizes the Filipino Nurse Community and the added inequity that was faced and will commit to amplifying Asian and Pacific Islander voices; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will commit to advocating for better support systems for Asian and Pacific Islander frontline healthcare workers.
Resolution recognizing and honoring the service and sacrifices of the Filipino Nurse community; recognizing the disproportionate impact that the Filipino nurses and their families have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic; and expressing gratitude to them for their contributions and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

May 18, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210553

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/18/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

File Number: 210553
Date Passed: May 18, 2021

London N. Breed
Mayor

05/28/2021
Date Approved

05/28/2021
Date