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The Republican Party of Texas

- Highlighting Exceptional Asian American Texas Republicans -

The Republican Party of Texas (RPT) has a history of inclusiveness as it purposely pursued the development of a biracial party.¹ Such inclusiveness remains as people from different ethnic groups continue to emerge and shine in the modern RPT. One such group is Asian Americans who are displaying, engaging, upholding, and sharing Republican principles in communities throughout Texas and within government at various levels.



values, and education.²

The RPT has been blessed to extend auxiliary status to The Texas Asian Republican Assembly (TARA), since June 8, 2013. Their mission is to engage the growing Asian American community and build relationships based on core common values which they share with the RPT. Those conservative values are free enterprise, limited government, fiscal conservatism, national defense, family

The month of May is *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* and, as such, recognition is being given to Andy Nguyen. Andy is a Vietnamese American who's a former president and founding member of TARA. He stood up against socialist approaches to domestic policies. From his perspective, socialism is the gateway to communism. This is a concept he knows quite well, having fled from Vietnam with family members on a small fishing boat, eventually, settling in the United States in 1981.³

Mr. Nguyen had to learn English and adapt to life in America at 14 years old. He eventually joined the Army, serving America for a few years as a soldier. He truly embraced the principles upon which TARA was founded: he has become the president of AIT Technologies, a father of three, an Asian community leader, and in 2011, he was sworn in as the first Asian-American Tarrant County Commissioner.⁴ His life shows that you can truly achieve great things in the land of the free. In his words, “Any individual, if you want it bad enough, you can do it in America...” Such words and the accompanying success truly highlight the valued contributions this Asian-American Republican represents for the great state of Texas and America in general.



Andy Nguyen

His efforts have not gone unnoticed within the Asian community. In 2016, the US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (USPAACC) – Southwest recognized him by awarding him with a Legacy Award for Outstanding Achievement. This organization represents Asian American and Asian American-related groups in business, sciences, the arts, sports, education, public and community services.⁵ Mr. Nguyen has been a Texas Republican grassroots and frontline leader who is much deserving of being highlighted during this *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month*.

The Republican Party of Texas continues to strive towards not only being inclusive, but also recognizing stalwarts among those moving party principles forward. Emerging leaders of diverse backgrounds are at the foundation of the Republican Party of Texas and, no doubt, many more like Mr. Nguyen will continue to rise, lifting individuals, communities, our state, and nation with them along the way! #WeAreTheStorm

Endnotes

¹ Winkler, Ernest W. (1916). *Platforms of Political Parties in Texas*, p.100

² Texas Asian Republican Assembly (2013). *TARA Conservative Principles for Building a Just and Humane Society*. Retrieved from <http://taragop.com/>

³ Tominaga, Takaki. (2020). *Focus: Harris' VP run could draw more Asian Americans to Biden in Nov. poll*.

⁴ Tam, Julie. (2011). *First Asian-American Tarrant Co. Commissioner Sworn In*. NBCDFW.

⁵ USPAACCC-SW. (2021). *About USPAACC Southwest Region*. Retrieved from <http://uspaacc-sw.org/about-us>