Anna May Wong

During years of intense racism and discrimination against Asians in the United States, Anna May Wong's appearance in mainstream media helped to humanize Chinese Americans. Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans were stamped with the stereotype of being the perpetual foreigner, being displayed in films as their stereotypes. Anna May Wong carried many "normal" roles in her acting career and helped to establish herself as a Chinese-American citizen acting in Hollywood roles. Wong's hybrid image dispelled contemporary notions that the West and East were inherently different.

Fred Korematsu

Fred Korematsu was a civil rights activist who objected to the internment of Japanese Americans. Korematsu was a Japanese American who was detained during World War II due to his Japanese ancestry. After his unlawful arrest and conviction, he appealed his case to the supreme court.

Jade Snow Wong

Jade Snow Wong was a writer and ceramic artist. Born and raised in San Francisco. Wong was the fifth daughter of a family of immigrants from China. Wong was recognized for a series of works throughout her life and has worked with numerous local bay area organizations including the SFPL, Asian Art Museum, Chinese Culture Center, the CHSA, and Mills College. Wong also published two autobiographical books describing her troubles balancing her identity as an Asian American woman while growing up in a household of Chinese traditions.

Kala Bagai

Kala Bagai was one of the first South Asian women to immigrate to the United States of America. Following her arrival in San Francisco in 1915, a supreme court ruling in 1923 (United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind) Bagai and other South Asians had their naturalized American citizenships revoked. Bagai and her family struggled throughout the years from fear of deportation until Congress passed the Luce-Celler Act in 1946.

Patsy Mink

Patsy Mink was an attorney and politician from Hawaii. Throughout Mink's life, she dealt with personal discrimination as an Asian American woman. She dedicated her career to creating public policies to open doors for women and minorities in the United States. Mink was the former Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States.

Susan Ahn Cuddy

Susan Ahn Cuddy was the first female gunnery officer in the United States Navy. Susan Ahn Cuddy became the first Asian American woman in the Navy, and after 4 years of serving, she reached the rank of lieutenant. This was at a time when anti-Asian sentiment in the country was high and women were still battling over sexism in the military. Cuddy struggled through rampant discrimination and became the first Asian-American woman to join the US Navy.

Wong Kim Ark

Enacted the 14th Amendment through the Supreme Court which grants birthright citizenship to all persons born in the United States regardless of race or nationality.

Wong Kim Ark was born in the United States and would travel to China to visit his family. On one occasion while returning home, immigration officers barred his entry as an excludable Chinese person. The 14th amendment has protected the rights of many birthright citizens in the United States and was a key means for immigrants of all backgrounds to help establish their rightful legal citizenship in their homes.