



Suncoast Association of Chinese Americans



BACKGROUND OF THE HOLIDAY (ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TRADITIONAL CHINESE HOLIDAYS BESIDES LUNAR NEW YEAR, MOON FESTIVAL)

The story best known in modern China holds that the festival commemorates the death of the poet and minister **Qu Yuan** (c. 340–278 BC) of the **ancient state of Chu** during the **Warring States period** of the **Zhou Dynasty**. A cadet member of the **Chu royal house**, Qu served in high offices. However, when the king decided to ally with the increasingly powerful state of **Qin**, Qu was banished for opposing the alliance and even accused of treason. During his exile, Qu Yuan wrote a great deal of **poetry**. Twenty-eight years later, Qin captured **Ying**, the Chu capital. In despair, Qu Yuan committed suicide by drowning himself in the **Miluo River**.

It is said that the local people, who admired him, raced out in their boats to save him, or at least retrieve his body. This is said to have been the origin of **dragon boat races**. When his body could not be found, they dropped balls of **sticky rice** into the river so that the fish would eat them instead of Qu Yuan's body. This is said to be the origin of **zongzi**.

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Saturday June 1st 2019 11 am- 2 pm @ Lake Seminole Park shelter # 8

Chinese traditional food Zongzi served, games and fun !!

10015 Park Boulevard Seminole

Open to public and SACA members. Non-member fees are \$10 per person or \$15 per family. Bring your friends and families