

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN and PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH 2021

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners take pride in recognizing May 2021 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrating the many notable contributions of Asian and Pacific Island Americans who have enriched our nation's history and are instrumental in its future success; and

WHEREAS, after decades of effort, federal legislation co-sponsored in 1992 by Congress members Frank Horton and Norman Yoshio Mineta, after advocacy by congressional staffer Jeanie Jew, permanently designated the month of May as national "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;" and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first known Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869— accomplished with the incredible efforts of approximately 20,000 Chinese workers who endured racist mistreatment and hardship throughout; then followed tragically by President Chester A. Arthur signing in to law the 1882 Exclusion Act on May 8, 1882, suspending Chinese immigration for years and declared Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization; and

WHEREAS, for generations, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have courageously reached for their hopes and dreams and forged a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our nation; often in the face of severe racial bias, discrimination, and legislation; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans represent vastly diverse ethnic groups, including all those who have immigrated to the United States themselves or whose ancestors originated from the continent of Asia and the numerous Pacific Islands known as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia; and

WHEREAS, today we stand in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and assert in the strongest possible terms that anti-Asian racism, intimidation and hate crimes will not be tolerated and have no place in our society; and

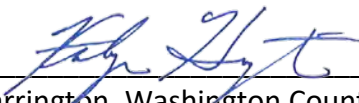
WHEREAS, the triumphs, perseverance and achievements of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to inspire us with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multicultural customs and experiences of their diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islanders have played a significant role in our local history and the community fabric of Washington County with enormous contributions to science, education, agriculture, government, commerce, the arts, and many other fields of endeavor; and

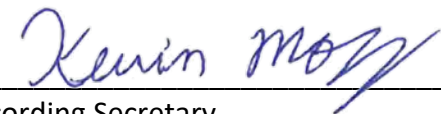
WHEREAS, the theme for this year’s observance is *Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service*, which also reflects Washington County’s strong commitment to an equitable and inclusive organizational culture, dedicated to leading with purpose and passion in service to our diverse community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this fourth day of May, 2021, the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2021 as “Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month,” encouraging all residents of Washington County to share in this special tribute by learning about and celebrating the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who continue to enrich our nation and our local community.





Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair



Recording Secretary

Minute Order