

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPIs) Heritage Month is an annual celebration every May that recognizes the historical and current contributions of individuals and groups of Asian, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent within the United States. The AA and NHPI umbrella term includes communities from the entire Asian continent, including East, Southeast and South Asia, the Hawaiian Islands, and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of last year, there were about 24.3 million people of Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States was in 1587 in California and 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in Louisiana and 1888 in Washington State; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver recognizes the proud history of Filipino Americans, whose heritage spans a colonial, political, economic, and cultural relationship with the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the United States took possession of the Philippines as a territory in 1898, but didn't grant independence until 1946; and
- WHEREAS, more than four million Filipino-Americans live in the US, 300,000 US citizens reside in the Philippines, and Washington State is home to the fifth largest Filipino American population in the nation; and
- WHEREAS, we support, celebrate and honor our Filipino-Americans who have served our country in uniform, started new businesses, and worked the frontlines of the pandemic as health care workers, first responders, and educators as they have always embodied the heart, courage, and values that define our Nation's character; and
- WHEREAS, the Filipino American Association of Vancouver has raised funds to help victims of typhoons, evacuees of volcanic disasters, scholarships for students pursuing a post-high school program, PPEs for hospitals and dental supplies for students; and
- WHEREAS, the FAAV visits and donates clothing to the seafarers stranded at the Port of Vancouver during Christmas and donates food for our Clark County Food Bank and helps with the Meals on Wheels People; and
- WHEREAS, this month we proudly celebrate the rich culture and history of Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander heritage and history in the City of Vancouver, as we dedicate ourselves to working together to address the challenges that still face so many of our neighbors and members of the Vancouver community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as:

## **Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

and urge all members of our community to learn more about Filipino heritage and join us in striving to make our community vibrant, safe, prosperous and inclusive for all.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 22nd day of May, 2023.



*Anne McEnery-Ogle*  
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR