

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, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have distinguished themselves as leading researchers in science, medicine, and technology, as innovative farmers and ranchers, as respected lawyers, judges, and government leaders, as prominent contributors in the arts, literature, and sports, as war heroes who defended our country, and as peacetime healthcare heroes on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver has hosted many important guests, but few were more extraordinary than three Japanese sailors, survivors of the Hojun-maru. The 49-foot ship left the Port of Nagoya in October of 1832, to journey to Tokyo and was caught in a typhoon. Her rudder snapped and her mast and rigging were rendered useless and at the mercy of the currents, the 14-member crew drifted out of control for 14 months. Only three sailors survived to our Washington shore and were then brought to Fort Vancouver. Today, a monument near the Fort's Visitor Center honors them; and
- WHEREAS, Japanese Americans also served as soldiers at Vancouver Barracks, like Private Kensichi Hayashi, a Japanese American soldier who served in the 28th Spruce Squadron at the post during World War I; and
- WHEREAS, Vancouver has only one Sister City and we celebrate our cultural and economic relationship with Jojo, Japan frequently, but especially during our annual Sakura Festival; and
- WHEREAS, present-day inequities faced by Japanese American communities are rooted in our Nation's history of exclusion, discrimination, racism, and xenophobia against Asian Americans. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have endured a long history of injustice — including the Page Act of 1875 and the incarceration of Japanese American citizens during World War II that happened here in Washington State; and
- WHEREAS, during AA and NHPI Heritage Month, we acknowledge AA and NHPI have lived and worked in Vancouver for more than 200 years, contributing into Southwest Washington's economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science and technological developments despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to prevent and limit these achievements and contributions; 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 Japanese 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 8th day of May, 2023.


ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR