

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPs) 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 Vietnam War had profound and lasting consequences for both the Vietnamese and US soldiers. We all mourn the 58,000 Americans and 3.8 million Vietnamese lives lost from this haunting moment in American history; and
- WHEREAS, Between 1975 to 1992, almost two million Vietnamese risked their lives to flee oppression and hardship after the Vietnam War, in one of the largest mass exoduses in modern history. Escaping, approximately 800,000 found freedom in foreign land, many were captured and brutally punished, and as many as 400,000 did not survive the journey; and
- WHEREAS, the state of Washington has the third largest population with over 75,000 Vietnamese residents; and
- WHEREAS, The Vietnamese American community in Clark County was formed when the first wave of Vietnamese immigrants and refugees settled in this region. Recognizing the need for a formal structure and support as the refugees and immigrants adjusted to this life, volunteer Vietnamese community leaders organized and established the Vietnamese Community of Clark County (VNCCC); and
- WHEREAS, The VNCCC organizes the annual Vietnamese Lunar New Year and Autumn Festival to provide Vietnamese Americans the space to gather, connect, and build a sense of community. These cultural events are also the main medium for bridging cultures. In addition, VNCCC regularly makes home visits to community members to offer support and learn about community needs; and
- WHEREAS, the VNCCC continues to be the center of the Vietnamese American community in Clark County. The Community envisions a supportive and inclusive society where individuals care for one another and continually commit to justice and peace; 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 Vietnamese 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 15th day of May, 2023.

Anne McEnery-Ogle
ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR