

P R O C L A M A T I O N

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, DESI HERITAGE MONTH - MAY 2025

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Desi Heritage (AANHPID) month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from Asia, India, and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, Desi Heritage has recently been added as a pan-ethnic classification that includes a variety of identities and ethnicities, such as East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander to increase awareness of the cultural identity diversity within the community; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate all of those who are included within the AANHPID community, which is made up of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, representing populations from many countries and islands; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Desi Heritage Month started off as weeklong celebration to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants. It became a month-long celebration in 1990 under the Bush Administration; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders make our Nation more vibrant through diversity of cultures, languages, and religions. There is no single story of the AANHPID experience, but rather a diversity of contributions that enrich America's culture and society and strengthen the United States' role as a global leader. The American story as we know it would be impossible without the strength, contributions, and legacies of AANHPIDs who have helped build and unite this country in each successive generation; and

WHEREAS, during the unprecedented global pandemic in modern history, in which hate and bias incidents against Asian and Pacific Islanders have sharply increased. We recognize that Asian American communities have experienced a 339% increase in hate crimes since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; the Asian American community like other communities of color have a painful history of exclusion, injustices, and disparities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park remains committed to supporting its Asian American population and to condemning all acts of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance. As discrimination

and all acts of hate has no home here in Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park, in collaboration with community partners and the Oak Park Public Library, will celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Heritage Month through a community event on Saturday, May 31 at 9:15 AM at the Oak Park Main Library, featuring cultural programming that honors the rich traditions, contributions, and diversity of AANHPIA communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, Village President of the Village of Oak Park, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as **ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, DESI HERITAGE MONTH** in the Village of Oak Park and call upon the community to attend events, learn, and engage around the vibrant collective history, and culture of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Desi community.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk