

# PROCLAMATION

## ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, DESI HERITAGE MONTH

**MAY, 2024**

**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

**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.

**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 AANHPIs who have helped build and unite this country in each successive generation.

**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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vicki Scaman, Village President of the Village of Oak Park, do hereby proclaim May 2024 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

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Vicki Scaman  
Village President

ATTEST:

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Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk