



City of Ellensburg

PROCLAMATION

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Whereas, in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which permanently designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month to be celebrated with the appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

Whereas, we acknowledge the exclusion, racism, discrimination, physical attackers, incarceration, and deportation Asian/Pacific Americans have historically endured and the racism, discrimination, and physical harassment which people who are Asian/Pacific continue to endure; and

Whereas, Asian/Pacific Americans and their descendants have contributed greatly to the enrichment of life in the United States including the Chinese workers who helped build the first transcontinental railroad in the United States, completed on May 10, 1869; and by 1920, Japanese owned dairy cows supplied about half of the milk consumed in Seattle, and nearly seventy percent of the berries, fruits and vegetables consumed in Washington State; and

Whereas, we recognize the contributions of Asian American residents to the City of Ellensburg, such as:

Pak and Hong Huie, who established the New York Cafe at the corner of 3rd and Main in 1911, where the Cafe became the cornerstone for the Ellensburg Restricted District, home to many Japanese/Pacific American residents and other peoples of color for several years; and

Bun Yom, who opened the first Thai restaurant in Ellensburg and published his story, "Tomorrow I Am Dead" chronicling his imprisonment in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge, his ultimate escape and survival, and his immigration to Ellensburg with his family in 1984; and

Sergeant Larry Singer Lee, who served honorably as part of the Washington Calvary, Troop A; and the 268 Company, 134 Battalion Military Police Corp, in World War I, 1916-1919; and

Solomon Laingo, a Philippine immigrant and highly decorated Tech V soldier in World War II, serving our country in exchange for his citizenship, whose decorations are on display in the Kittitas County Historical Museum; and

Tokio and Machi Ota, one of many Ellensburg area Asian-American families, who became part of the 112,000 Asian-American residents on the West Coast, incarcerated in internment camps as a result of Federal Executive Order 9066 after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941; and

Officer Nelson Ng, Ellensburg Police Department, who died in the line of duty in 2008; and

Whereas, the City of Ellensburg recognizes and honors many other Asian/Pacific-Americans residing herein who contribute each day to the strength and vibrancy of our community.

Now, Therefore, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim May 2021 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in Ellensburg, and encourages all citizens to join in this observance by building bridges of understanding and friendship with our Asian/Pacific American neighbors.

Signed this 3rd day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Tabb", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Tabb
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Betty Leader", written over a horizontal line.

Attest: Betty Leader
City Clerk