



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is proud to join in the national celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month observed annually during the month of May, and invites New Yorkers of all backgrounds to experience these rich cultures and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played in our nation's history and continue to have today; and

Whereas, with origins dating back to 1978, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month highlights two significant milestones in the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: the immigration of the first Japanese individuals to the United States in May of 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May of 1869, an achievement largely attributable to the Chinese immigrant workers who laid its tracks; and

Whereas, we honor the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have given so much to this state and nation, including over 1.4 million who live here in New York State and continue to find success in many areas – including business, medicine, education, law, public service, science and technology, the arts, sports, and entertainment; and

Whereas, throughout our history, New York State has been a champion of human rights and condemns all forms of violence, bullying, discrimination, and crime rooted in hatred and ignorance, and we are disgusted by the number of these incidents committed against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community that increasingly has been the target of physical and verbal assaults; and

Whereas, New York State is dedicated to fighting prejudice towards people of all races, cultures and nationalities, and to building bridges of understanding and respect within our diverse society; we remain committed to confronting this critical issue and to stopping acts of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities by eliminating harmful social attitudes and stereotypes, and through measures that strengthen public safety and security, and that promote criminal justice reforms in order to effectively address and prevent hate-motivated attacks; and

Whereas, during this month-long observance, our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities will hold cultural and educational events that enhance our cultural perspectives, and all New Yorkers join in these celebrations and express appreciation for the many contributions made by our families, friends, and neighbors of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh