



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State is proud to join in the nationwide celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and invites New Yorkers of all backgrounds to experience these rich cultures and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders' past and present contributions; and

**Whereas**, AAPI Heritage Month is celebrated in May to highlight 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 – a project critical to America's growth and largely attributable to the labor of Chinese immigrants; and

**Whereas**, we honor the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have given so much to this state and nation, including over 1.6 million who live here in New York and continue to find success in many areas – business, medicine, education, law, public service, science and technology, the arts, sports, and entertainment; and

**Whereas**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have faced challenges throughout history and have always demonstrated resilience in overcoming social, economic, and cultural obstacles; during this year's observance of AAPI Heritage Month, New York State hosts a new exhibit in the State Capitol that highlights the life and art of celebrated photographer and activist Corky Lee who chronicled past and present struggles of AAPI communities, including throughout the Covid-19 health crisis that took Lee's life at 73 years of age; and

**Whereas**, New York State is committed to building bridges of understanding and respect among all races, cultures, and nationalities, and as a civilized society, we condemn all violence, bullying, prejudice, and crime rooted in hatred and ignorance; we are disgusted by the number of these incidents committed against the AAPI community that has increasingly been the target of physical and verbal assaults, and many forms of discrimination that impact them and their families; and

**Whereas**, as a renowned champion of human rights, New York State is working to address these critical issues and to stopping acts of violence against AAPI communities by eliminating harmful social attitudes and stereotypes, promoting criminal justice reforms in order to effectively address and prevent hate-motivated attacks, and prioritizing measures that strengthen overall public safety and security; and

**Whereas**, during this month-long observance, AAPI communities across the state will hold events that enhance our appreciation and understanding of their rich culture and history, and all New Yorkers join in these celebrations and express gratitude 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 2024 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 first day of May in the year two thousand twenty-four.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*  
Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh