

PROCLAMATION

With more than 6 million Californians of Asian or Pacific Islander descent, California is home to dynamic AAPI communities that are an invaluable part of the rich fabric of our state. During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we celebrate California's incredibly diverse heritage, and the countless ways that AAPI Californians have enriched and strengthened our state and nation.

Since our state's founding, AAPIs have been instrumental in writing the California story and building our state as we know it. We are proud of the immeasurable contributions that generations of AAPIs from varied backgrounds have made as educators, service men and women, entrepreneurs, artists, athletes, community builders and activists, and in positions of leadership at all levels. As one of our nation's fastest growing ethnic populations, AAPIs will continue to play an essential role in driving our state and nation forward and shaping all facets of our society, culture, and daily life.

We must also recognize the discrimination, exclusion, and outright violence that AAPI communities face to this day. Throughout our history, AAPIs have been the target of senseless violence, disenfranchisement, efforts to restrict immigration, and other xenophobic policies at the federal, state, and local level. The echoes of this dark history are evident today in the shameful increase in Anti-Asian hate seen across the country. It is imperative that we confront past and present racism and fight for the safety and inclusion of our AAPI friends and neighbors.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, California pays tribute to the irreplaceable legacy of our AAPI communities, and their many contributions to strengthen our state today and into the future. This month and every month, let us stand up for all members of our California family and work together to achieve the promise of a California for all.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 2022, as "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 11th day of May 2022.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State