



# City of Ellensburg

## PROCLAMATION

### Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month 2022

**Whereas**, May is a celebration of Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures, languages, and religions and a recognition that these peoples, as individuals and groups, have enriched the United States' culture and society and strengthened its global connection; and

**Whereas**, these AANHPI communities have contributed significantly to make our Nation more vibrant through their diversity of cultures, languages, and religions; and

**Whereas**, we acknowledge the AANHPI communities continue to experience exclusion, racism, discrimination, physical attackers, incarceration, and deportation and a lack equity in this country; and

**Whereas**, "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. From laying railroad tracks, tilling fields, and starting businesses, to caring for our loved ones and honorably serving the country in uniform, AANHPI communities are deeply rooted in the history of the United States;"<sup>2</sup> and,

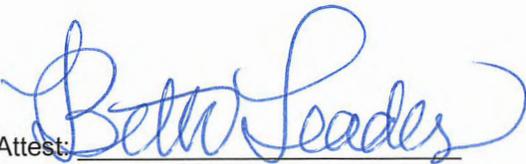
**Whereas**, historically, many residents made significant contributions to the City of Ellensburg, such as:

- Bun Yom, who opened the first Thai restaurant in Ellensburg and published his story, "Tomorrow I Am Dead" chronicling his imprisonment and escape from the Khmer Rouge, and his immigration from Cambodia to Ellensburg with his family in 1984; and
- Solomon Laingo, a Philippine immigrant and highly decorated Tech V soldier in World War II, serving our country in exchange for his citizenship; 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 American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders 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 2022 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 2nd day of May, 2022.

  
Attest:  
City Clerk

  
Mayor

**Citations 1-2: A Proclamation on Asian American and Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2021, President's Briefing Room, April 30, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-asian-american-and-native-hawaiian-pacific-islander-heritage-month-2021/>**