



Proclamation

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2026

WHEREAS, the month of May is nationally recognized as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, honoring the histories, cultures, and contributions of AANHPI communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI communities represent a rich diversity of cultures, languages, and traditions across East, Southeast, and South Asia, as well as the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, including Native Hawaiian communities; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month originated in the 1970s through advocacy efforts to recognize and honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of AANHPI communities, evolving from a federally designated week into a month-long commemoration that reflects key historical milestones and over time, being formally established as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to more fully reflect the diversity, experiences, and significance of these communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian identity is distinctly recognized within Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month to affirm the unique indigenous history, culture, and lived experiences of Native Hawaiian communities, separate from Asian American immigrant narratives; and this inclusion, formally recognized in 2021, reflects the importance of acknowledging the historical context of Native Hawaiian communities, including the impacts of colonization, cultural disruption, and ongoing efforts toward cultural preservation, self-determination, and equity; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) has announced the 2026 theme, “Power in Unity: Strengthening Communities Together,” which highlights the importance of shared strength, storytelling, and building bridges that connect and uplift communities; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI communities have deep roots in the United States, with contributions dating back centuries, including early immigrant labor that helped build critical infrastructure such as the transcontinental railroad, while also enduring periods of exclusion, discrimination, and injustice such as restrictive immigration policies and wartime internment that continue to shape the ongoing pursuit of equity and belonging; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have strengthened every facet of American life, including science, medicine, education, government, business, arts, culture, sports, and civic leadership; and

WHEREAS, visionary Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander leaders and movements have shaped the nation and advanced justice, representation, and opportunity, with legacies including but not limited to the leadership of Patsy Mink, the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Congress; Daniel K. Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, influential U.S. Senators and champions of civil rights; Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian

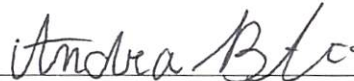
American elected to Congress; Hiram Fong, the first Asian American U.S. Senator; Grace Lee Boggs, a philosopher and community organizer whose work advanced racial and labor justice; Yuri Kochiyama, a lifelong civil rights activist; King Kamehameha I, who unified the Hawaiian Islands and remains a foundational figure in Native Hawaiian history; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Joliet Township Government Board hereby recognizes May 2026 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and encourages all residents to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of AANHPI communities, and to reflect on the importance of unity in strengthening our communities together.

ADOPTED this 19th day of May of 2026.



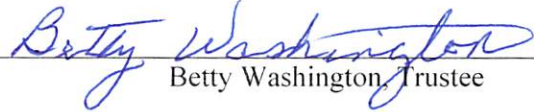
Quinn Adamowski, Trustee



Andrea Bibian, Trustee



Archie Gavin, Trustee



Betty Washington, Trustee



Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST: 
Kendra Landfair, Township Clerk