



A Proclamation Celebrating Asian American Heritage Month

Whereas: The month of May was designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in 1992 to recognize the innumerable contributions, vibrant cultures, and rich heritage of Asian Americans, native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. As some of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups in the nation, these communities represent a multitude of ethnicities, languages and experiences that enrich America.

Whereas: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing to the state's rich history, economy, and culture. Their history in Oregon is marked by a struggle for freedom, equity, and justice, prevailing over the adversity of exclusion, persecution, incarceration, and disparities. These populations have helped advance Oregon's prosperity through their contributions to all fields of education, business, the arts, economic development, science, and technology.

Whereas: In Ashland, Chinese laborers built the railroad linking southern Oregon to the rest of the country. We have recognized that major contribution, through the public art sculpture titled 'Golden Connections' in Railroad Park.

Whereas: 1 in 3 Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have faced hate for their identity within the past year. As we celebrate these populations, we must redouble our commitment to combating the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes. These acts are wrong; they must stop.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tonya Graham, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Oregon, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby acknowledge the month of May as a time to celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to our culture and collective history. I call upon the people of Ashland to observe this month with appropriate reflection and learning and make time to visit Railroad Park and Golden Spike. In Ashland we are Better Together.

Dated May 7, 2024

Tonya Graham, Mayor

Alissa Kolodzinski, City Recorder

