



Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Whereas, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed each year in May to celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders throughout the United States; and

Whereas, the month of May was selected to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, an achievement made possible through the labor and perseverance of thousands of Chinese immigrants; and

Whereas, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders have played a vital role in shaping the social, cultural, economic, and civic fabric of communities across the nation, including contributions in public service, education, healthcare, business, science, the arts, and community leadership; and

Whereas, these communities represent a broad and diverse group of cultures, languages, and traditions that enrich the shared heritage and identity of the United States and our local communities; and

Whereas, this year's theme, "Power in Unity: Strengthening Communities Together", highlights the importance of collective strength, community connection, and collaboration across the diverse communities, and emphasizes the role of unity, bridge-building, and shared stories in strengthening communities and advancing understanding across cultures; and

Whereas, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was formally established by the United States Congress in 1992 through Public Law 102-450, which permanently designated the month of May to recognize the contributions of Asian Americans, and the observance is now widely recognized as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to more fully reflect the diverse histories, cultures, and contributions of these communities;

Now, therefore, the Town Council does hereby proclaim that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month be celebrated from May 1-31, 2026, and calls upon all residents in the Town of Erie to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

Dated this 12th day of May, 2026.

Andrew J. Moore, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Stamp, Deputy Town Clerk