



WHEREAS, the history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the United States is a long and honorable one, as generations of these men and women have helped our nation grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS, their determination to uphold America's promise of freedom and opportunity for all has come even in the face of official acts by our federal government, of which the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, the first major restriction on immigration based on nationality and race, and the Japanese Internment Camps during World War II are but two; and

WHEREAS, from their labors on plantations in Hawaii, the mines in California, and on the first transcontinental railroad, there is no doubt that Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to every aspect of our society, such as:

- Steve Chen, a co-founder of YouTube, was central to the early internet boom;
- AAPI communities have forever changed the national food palate by bringing dishes like sushi, Korean barbeque, pho, curry, falafel, and ramen into everyday American dining;
- Anime and manga have become a cultural wave with conventions, cosplay events, and art communities that have become major parts of American pop culture;
- Karate, judo, taekwondo and other martial arts, along with yoga and meditation, have become an important part of American sports, recreation, and self-care;
- AAPI leaders have been strong voices in environmental activism, especially those from Pacific Island nations that stand the most to lose due to climate change and rising oceans;
- Numerous AAPI leaders have served in the United States Congress. Hawaii was the first territory to send a Pacific Islander to the House of Representatives (in 1900) and was also the first state to send a Pacific Islander to the U.S. Senate (in 1990). Since 1957, 41 Asian Americans have been elected as U.S. Representatives and nine as U.S. Senators. Currently, there are 22 Members (16 Representatives, 3 Delegates, and 3 Senators) who are Asian Americans or Pacific Islander Americans;
- Authors, such as Amy Tan (*The Joy Luck Club*) and Maxine Hong Kingston (*The Woman Warrior*), have shaped American literature with stories that explore identity, family, and migration and held the American imaginations as the former was on the New York Times Bestseller List for over 40 weeks and the latter was named as one of the 50 best memoirs of the last 50 years;
- AAPI communities have built cultural bridges through festivals, art, education and celebrations like Diwali, Holi, and Lunar New Year, thereby fostering deeper understanding and relationships across cultural groups;
- Films from Bollywood and others, such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, the Korean film *Parasite*, which won numerous awards, and more recently, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, *Moana*, and K-Dramas on Netflix, along with the emerging phenomenon of K-Pop music have become major genres in American entertainment;

WHEREAS, 48 nations make up the Asian continent, from Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in the west, through Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan in Central Asia, to Nepal and India in the south, to Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines in Southeast Asia, the countries of Japan and Korea in the east, and everywhere in between, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have brought so much diversification of cultures to American shores; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the current percentage of Asian alone and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander alone make up 11.9% of the total population of Williamson County, up from 4.8% in 2010, an almost 148% increase!

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims May 2025 as

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

for the first time in Williamson County and encourage our residents to continue their neighborly ways in welcoming the considerable contributions that the Asian and Pacific Islander Community make in our county.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: _____

Steven Snell, County Judge

As Presiding Officer and on behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court