

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** since 1979, *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* has highlighted two significant milestones: the immigration of the first Japanese individuals to the United States in May 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May of 1869; and
- Whereas,** after being rescued from a shipwreck by a whaling crew, a 14-year-old Japanese fisherman named Nakahama "John" Manjiro arrived in Fairhaven, Massachusetts in May 1843—becoming the first Japanese person to live in the United States; and he was eventually educated in the United States before returning to Japan as a respected translator and diplomat; and
- Whereas,** roughly 10,000 to 15,000 Chinese immigrants were instrumental in building the western portion of the transcontinental railroad through the Sierra Nevada—an engineering feat that revolutionized American commerce by connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; and
- Whereas,** throughout our history, West Virginia has welcomed people of all backgrounds and has been dedicated to building bridges of understanding and respect within our diverse society; and
- Whereas,** during this month-long observance, our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities will hold cultural and educational events that will enhance the perspectives of all West Virginians; and
- Whereas,** *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* provides an opportunity for West Virginians from all backgrounds to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the roles that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played in our nation's history.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

## *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey  
Governor

*By the Governor:*



Kris Warner  
Secretary of State