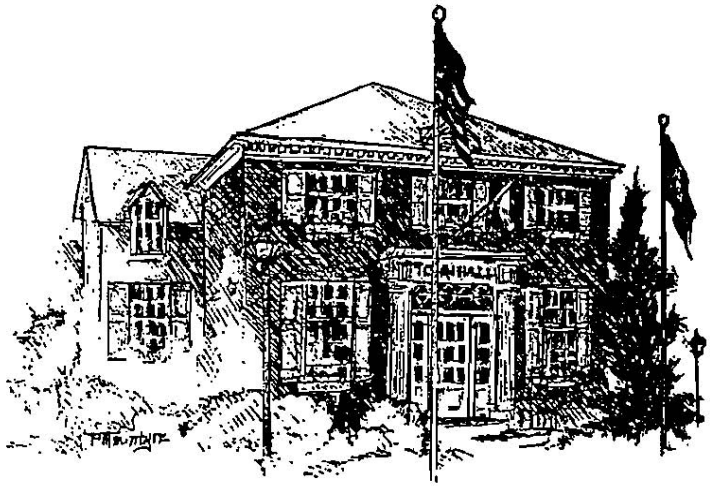


TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
MAY 2026

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides an opportunity to recognize the diverse cultures, languages, histories, and lived experiences of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, whose roots span Asia, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Islands and whose contributions have helped shape communities across the United States.

The observance reflects a commitment to honor these communities and their enduring influence. First recognized by Congress in 1977 as a weeklong celebration, the observance was expanded in 1992 to encompass the entire month of May and was formally inclusive of Native Hawaiians beginning in 2021. May was selected to mark significant moments in American history, including the arrival of early Japanese immigrants in May 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869, a monumental achievement made possible through the labor and sacrifice of Chinese workers.

Today, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities represent the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, growing over four times as rapidly as the total U.S. population and expected to double to over 47 million by 2060. Despite rapid growth and increasing influence, these communities remain among the most understudied, underscoring the importance of intentional recognition, education, and inclusion.

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims May 2026 as **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** to honor the individuals and generations whose leadership, innovation, and perseverance have strengthened our nation and Town.