

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 02-064

Proclaiming May 2002 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County remains dedicated to building a community that celebrates and draws strength from its diversity.
- b. Asian Pacific Americans have been a part of the cultural heritage of Oregon and Multnomah County. Their labor was essential to the rapid growth of the State in the late nineteenth century. They worked the canneries in Astoria. They mined in Eastern Oregon. They farmed in the Willamette Valley. They helped build railroads throughout the Northwest. Everywhere they settled in Oregon, Asian Pacific Americans established thriving businesses and helped shape their adopted communities.
- c. The population of Asian Pacific Americans has dramatically increased in the past three decades, from less than 1.5 million nationally in 1970 to approximately 10.6 million in 2000, due in large part to the migration of people from China, Taiwan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Samoa, Guam and other Asian and Pacific Island nations. Their population adds to the many Americans of Asian Pacific descent that have resided in Multnomah County for generations, making Asian Pacific Americans a highly diversified ethnic group.
- d. The Asian Pacific American population in Multnomah County numbers nearly 50,000 (including 10,000 children), or 7.5 % of the County's total population. Among counties, Multnomah County ranks 47th in the nation in its Asian American population.
- e. Whether recent immigrants or descendants of families who have been here for generations, Asian Pacific Americans have added immeasurably to the prosperity and vitality of Multnomah County as involved citizens and essential members of our community. Asian Pacific Americans inspire us to embrace the wider world, and to acknowledge and appreciate the diversity among our neighbors.

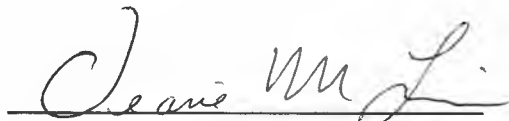
- f. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, established in 1992 during the 102nd Congress, is a time to recognize and celebrate the contribution of Asian Pacific Americans in our community's economic, social and democratic institutions. As noted by the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Asian Pacific Americans have been "MIH" – "Missing in History." It is our challenge to reclaim and re-insert their history, their stories, their faces, and their voices into our everyday understanding.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

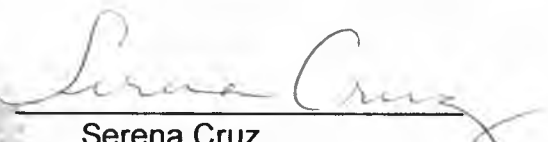
The month of May 2002 to be the first American Pacific American Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. We honor Asian Pacific Americans as integral members of our community and pay tribute to their role in making Multnomah County an ethnically rich and culturally prosperous place to live.

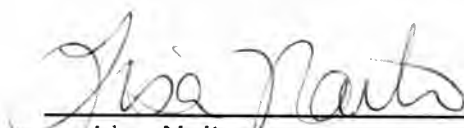
ADOPTED this 9th day of May, 2002.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**


Diane M. Linn, County Chair


Maria Rojo de Steffey,
Commissioner Dist 1


Serena Cruz,
Commissioner Dist 2


Lisa Naito,
Commissioner Dist 3


Lonnie Roberts,
Commissioner District 4