



## VILLAGE OF BOYS TOWN

### *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the month of May was chosen as Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen, Nakahama Manjiro, to the United States on May 7, 1843, but also the anniversary of the May 10, 1869 completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad, built with the back-breaking labor of nearly 20,000 Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, during World War II Father Edward Flanagan and Boys Town provided assistance to over two hundred Japanese Americans who had been placed into internment camps by the United States government. Father Flanagan provided a number of Japanese Americans a place to live and work without discrimination or harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members serve as artists, business owners, educators, health care professionals, lawyers and judges, clergy members, first responders and military personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that enrich our history, society and culture, we must also acknowledge a darker aspect of the AAPI experience in America - structural discrimination, prejudice and injustice that most recently manifested itself in racist attacks on Asian Americans related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have distinguished themselves as leading researchers in science, medicine, and technology; innovative farmers and ranchers; distinguished lawyers, judges and government leaders; in the arts, literature, and sports; as war heroes who defended our country from fascism; and peacetime healthcare heroes currently on the front lines of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Asian American and Pacific Islanders' love of family, community, and hard work, they have helped to uphold the founding principles of our commonwealth for generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders strengthen our economy and our communities through their dedication and ingenuity, inspiring the next generation of American innovation by example; and

**WHEREAS**, today more than 20 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live in the United States and through their actions, make America a more vibrant, prosperous, and secure nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED** by Cassie Pinho, on behalf of the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, that May is

## "ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH"

In the Village of Boys Town, Nebraska, we urge all citizens to learn more about Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, and work to combat racism and xenophobia as we celebrate this month with cultural events and educational activities.

Duly adopted this 7th day of May 2024.

Cassie Pinho on behalf of the Village of Boys Town