

County Commissioners

Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman
Ray D'Agostino, Vice-Chairman
Craig E. Lehman

PROCLAMATION
ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

May 5, 2021

WHEREAS, May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States and their centuries of contribution to arts, sciences, government, military, commerce and education; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County wishes to recognize and appreciate the many vibrant cultures and ongoing contributions and benefits of all our Asian communities to our citizenry and culture, and to express fellowship and welcome; and

WHEREAS, one of the earliest known Asian immigrants came more than 160 years ago when Dr. John Messersmith, a naval surgeon aboard the frigate Susquehanna stationed in China, returned with Mr. Hong Neok Woo in 1855. Mr. Woo attended St. James Episcopal Church, apprenticed as a printer for the Examiner and Herald, became a naturalized citizen in September 1860, and joined the Union Army during the Civil War; and

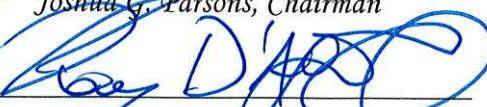
WHEREAS, in just the last decade people from Bhutan, Nepal, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia have settled in Lancaster County, joining our existing Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Filipino and other South Asian, East Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and


WHEREAS, this year we wish to especially acknowledge the contributions of the South Asian Association of Lancaster (SAAL), who hosted Covid vaccine clinics on weekends from February to May, providing vaccines to tens of thousands and were a true beacon of hope and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA do hereby proclaim May 2021 to be "**ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**" in Lancaster County and urge all Lancaster County residents to take the opportunity during this month and beyond to explore the rich history and economic, cultural, and social contributions made by the members of this diverse community; to make a personal commitment to stand against anti-Asian bias and discrimination; and join with members of our Asian American and Pacific Islander community in celebrating the many ways they have made a positive impact upon our County.




Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman


Ray D'Agostino, Vice Chairman


Craig E. Lehman
Board of Commissioners of
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania