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Special recognition honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, Lake County joins the nation to recognize May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make our County more vibrant through a diversity of cultures, languages and religions; and

WHEREAS, Lake County pays tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate and honor the invaluable contributions the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have made in all areas of society including the arts, politics, science, education and business; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the heightened fear felt by Asian American communities in the wake of increasing rates of anti-Asian harassment and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lake County condemns these horrific acts of violence and will work to heal and fight against the racism that exists.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RECOGNIZED, the Lake County Board recognizes May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and encourages residents to reflect on and share their contributions, successes and challenges through our history.

DATED, at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois on May 11, 2021.