



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, throughout the month of May, citizens across this state and nation pay tribute to the rich culture of Asian/Pacific Americans and the theme of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month 2008, "*Leadership, Diversity and Harmony – Gateway to Success*," acknowledges the many nations and ethnicities that Asian/Pacific Americans represent and the significant contributions they have made to American society that have helped strengthen fellowship, added to our prosperity, and enriched the cultural spirit of this nation; and

Whereas, this observance invites New Yorkers of all backgrounds to celebrate the time-honored traditions of our Asian/Pacific American communities, further increasing our appreciation of the various distinctive cultures of Asia and the Asian Pacific region, promoting unity among all individuals of this heritage; and

Whereas, New York State welcomes the opportunity to host events related to the annual celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, as it is an excellent means by which citizens of diverse ethnic backgrounds can experience the uniqueness and vibrancy of customs upheld by those of Asian/Pacific ancestry; and

Whereas, recognizing their positive impact upon the social, economic and cultural development of this state and nation, we are grateful that Asian/Pacific Americans continue to realize significant accomplishments through their proficiency in many areas – medicine, science, education, business and the arts – which helps advance New York State's growth and progress as an international leader; and

Whereas, we are delighted to honor the past and present history of various countries of Asia and the Asian Pacific region and pay tribute to those who brought their knowledge, initiative and insight to this country, adding to the expansion of a technological industry that is a base of our global competitiveness and a source of opportunity for future generations; and

Whereas, it is fitting that New Yorkers join with our Asian/Pacific American communities in this celebration of cultural pride, acknowledging the courage and determination of those who opened doors of opportunity for contemporary Asian/Pacific Americans, with gratitude for their ongoing contributions to the greatness of this state and nation;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth
day of April in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor