

Celebrating the Contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders

In 1992 Congress passed a law (<u>Pub.L.102-450</u>) that officially designated May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month." Every year during May we celebrate the contributions that generations of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) have made to our history, society and culture. Now more than ever we must recognize their contributions, proudly celebrate the diversity that makes up Virginia, and work together to advance our efforts beyond the festivities. This May, as public servants we must focus our efforts on supporting Asian citizens, Asian-owned businesses, and Asian employees.

To better support our fellow Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander coworkers and citizens, **learn and understand** the history of different Asian communities in the U.S. and take actionable steps to continuously engage in learning opportunities; **recognize** that AANHPI representation at all levels of government and organizations is fundamental to better represent the diversity of the people we serve and identify strategies to increase their presence; and finally, **support** AANHPI-owned businesses, which were deeply impacted by COVID-19.