

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Filipino Americans make up one of the largest Asian American ethnic groups in the United States today; and

WHEREAS: The earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first Filipinos set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS: In 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States to recognize and celebrate the rich culture and traditions the Filipino community has shared with our State and our nation; and

WHEREAS: During World War II, more than 260,000 Filipino and Filipino American soldiers answered the call to action and bravely served and sacrificed under the American flag with Arkansas native General Douglas MacArthur. The Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act unanimously passed through Congress and was signed into law in December of 2016; and

WHEREAS: Filipinos make up over 13 percent of all foreign-born healthcare workers in the United States, more than any other country. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, they put their lives on the line as healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS: Of the 85,000 Asian American Pacific Islanders who make Arkansas home, Filipino Americans make up the third largest group in the state; and

WHEREAS: It is necessary to instill in our youth the importance of education, history, and ethnic diversity in creating eminent role models, establishing proud cultural identities, and producing exceptional citizens of this nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2022, as

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN ARKANSAS

and I encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of Filipino American men and women in our communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston

John Thurston, Secretary of State