



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Filipinos have lived in the United States for more than 425 years, beginning with the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States on October 18, 1587, in Morro Bay, California. The Philippines became an American territory in 1898, following the Spanish-American War; and
- Whereas:** the first known Filipino in the Seattle area worked at the Port Blakely Lumber Mill on Bainbridge Island in Washington Territory around 1883; and
- Whereas:** Washington state is home to the third-largest Filipino population in the United States, and Filipino Americans are the largest Asian Pacific American population in the state, with the vast majority calling King County home; and
- Whereas:** in November 1903, the United States government passed the Pensionado Act, providing funds for Filipino students to study in America. By 1912, more than 200 Filipino students had graduated from American colleges and universities, with the University of Washington enrolling the highest number of Filipinos of any institution in the nation; and
- Whereas:** Filipino Americans have lived and worked in Bellevue for decades, contributing to our city's growth, vibrancy and economy; and
- Whereas:** Filipino American History Month provides an opportunity to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, and recognizes the contributions made by Filipino Americans; and
- Whereas:** today, as leaders, business owners, educators and workers across all industries, Filipino Americans continue to enhance Bellevue's community and culture.

***Now, therefore, I,*** Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **October 2025** as:

## **Filipino American History Month**

in Bellevue, Washington, and urge all community members to celebrate the history and contributions of Filipino Americans to our community.

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Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue