



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

**Whereas:** The relationship between the Netherlands and the United States is the longest unbroken, peaceful relationship with any foreign country; and

**Whereas:** From the very beginning, Americans and Dutch were drawn together by mutual ideals. The Pilgrims resided in the Netherlands for ten years before they set sail for the New World. During the Revolutionary War, the Dutch people demonstrated their widespread sympathy for the American struggle for freedom; and

**Whereas:** The ties between the United States and the Netherlands dates back to the early 17th century, when the Dutch West India Company founded New Netherland and its main settlements, New Amsterdam and Fort Orange—known today as New York City and Albany; and

**Whereas:** Thousands of American soldiers are buried on Dutch soil, having given their lives in the liberation of the Netherlands during the dark days of World War II; and

**Whereas:** From the earliest days of our Republic, people of Dutch ancestry have made important contributions to American history and culture with generations of Dutch immigrants enriching the United States with the unique customs and traditions of their ancestral homeland—a country that has given the world great artists, celebrated philosophers and leaders of international business; and

**Whereas:** Dutch-American Heritage Day is celebrated in both the United States and the Netherlands to celebrate the long-standing friendship between the two countries.

**Now, therefore, I,** Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **Nov. 16, 2024**, as:

## **Dutch American Heritage Day**

in Bellevue, and urge all residents to join in celebrating the relationship between the Netherlands and the United States, and to recognize the contributions of Dutch Americans to Bellevue and our nation's culture and history.

---

Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue