



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** the relationship between the Netherlands and the United States of America is the longest unbroken, peaceful relationship the United States has maintained with any nation; and
- Whereas:** Americans and the Dutch have shared values of freedom, tolerance and opportunity since the earliest days of our history, with ties dating back to the early 17th century when the Dutch West India Company established New Netherland and its principal settlements - New Amsterdam and Fort Orange - known today as New York City and Albany; and
- Whereas:** the Dutch people demonstrated their support for American independence during the Revolutionary War, and thousands of American soldiers later gave their lives in the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II, forging bonds of friendship and gratitude that endure to this day; and
- Whereas:** generations of Dutch immigrants have enriched the United States with their language, culture and creativity, contributing to our nation's progress in art, science, education and public service; and
- Whereas:** the Netherlands and the United States continue to share strong partnerships in trade, innovation and sustainability - ties that extend to communities like Bellevue through collaboration in business, education and culture; and
- Whereas:** Dutch-American Heritage Day, celebrated each year on November 16, honors more than four centuries of friendship between our nations and recognizes the many contributions of Dutch Americans to our shared history and civic life.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **November 16, 2025**, as

Dutch American Heritage Day

in Bellevue, Washington and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the enduring friendship between the Netherlands and the United States, and the many contributions of Dutch Americans to our community, our state and our nation.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue