

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Lao American community has made significant contributions to the cultural, social and economic fabric of the United States over the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Washington state is home to the 4th largest population of Lao Americans in the country, with over 13,000 Laotians residing in the state; and

WHEREAS, Lao Americans have demonstrated remarkable resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity, including the challenges of displacement, resettlement and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS, significant legislation such as the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act (1975) and the Refugee Act (1980) have facilitated the resettlement and integration of Lao refugees, and the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act (2000) has recognized the contribution of Lao American Veterans to the U.S. military, and Lao Americans have built thriving communities and contributed to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our state; and

WHEREAS, the Lao American community has enriched our state with their vibrant traditions, including unique language, arts, cuisine, and festivals, fostering greater cultural understanding and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Lao American community has shown unwavering commitment to education, entrepreneurship and civic engagement, contributing to the prosperity and well-being of our state; and

WHEREAS, it is an immense pleasure to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lao American heritage and resilience, honoring the legacy of those who have paved the way for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim 2025 as the year we celebrate

50 Years of Lao Heritage and Resilience

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 16th day of May, 2025



Governor Bob Ferguson

