Sapphire Anniversary Celebration

www.capaa.wa.gov
Program

Presentation of the Colors  
Washington State Army National Guard

National Anthem  
Sarah Chun Fook

Invocation  
Khmer Language Arts & Culture Academy

Welcome  
Executive Director Toshiko Hasegawa

Honoring Our Predecessors

Greetings from Governor Jay Inslee

Remarks from our Sapphire Sponsors  
Bryan MacDonald - Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management, BECU  
Dr. Huiwu Lai - 505 Global

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson

CAPAA Vanguard Award:  
Reynaldo O. Pascua  
Presented by 1st Vice Chair Lisa Dickinson

CAPAA Lifetime Achievement Award:  
Diane M. Narasaki  
Presented by Chair Tyati Tufono-Chaussee

Silent Auction Results  
Live Concert - Island Bound
Washington State Commission on
Asian Pacific American Affairs
P.O. Box 40925
Olympia, WA 98504

Welcome and thank you for attending the Sapphire Celebration observing the 45 years of outstanding state service from the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. I commend you all for your accomplishments that have showcased and improved Asian Pacific American communities in our state.

The commission advocates for Washington’s Asian Pacific Americans who are a vital component of our state’s thriving economy and diverse workforce. They represent these communities in state government to ensure they have a voice in policy making that will affect their well-being. For nearly half a century, the commission has served our state by increasing racial equity and civil rights, as well as access to quality education and affordable social and health services for our Asian Pacific American residents. I am proud of the strides we have made and the many more to come.

Thank you to the 12 commissioners and staff who work tirelessly to make impactful changes that are inclusive and equitable for all Washingtonians. Thank you to the communities that they serve, who are imperative to the prosperity and well-being of our state. Again, congratulations to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs on a remarkable 45 years of service.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rep Eric Pettigrew
37th Legislative District

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Master of Ceremonies:

Lele Happy Tian

Born in Guangdong China, Lele “Happy” Tian moved to the United States at the age of fifteen. She earned her degree in public relations at University of Washington and went on to work at Microsoft. Happy speaks two Chinese Dialects and english, and has stayed very involved with the greater Chinese community by organizing community building events and fundraisers, the 40th Anniversary of China - U.S. Diplomatic Relations Summit Conference in March 2019. She travels the world to promote international trade, driven by her passion to bring cultures together. She has built in a lot of production skills after she has been travel globally. She is also a renowned pageant competitor, and holds titles including Miss Chinese Seattle First Princess (2009), Miss Mill Creek (2010), Miss Spirit of Miss Washington (2011). She modelled in Asian Fashion Week and served as a judge for Miss Universe of China (2016), the Voice of UW (2016) and The Voice of China (2017). Miss Spirit of Miss Washington USA 2011.
CAPAA Lifetime Achievement Award:

Diane M. Narasaki

Diane co-chaired the Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases, which supported the coram nobis legal team’s work to vacate Gordon Hirabayashi’s World War II convictions for violating the Japanese American curfew and exclusion orders in U.S. District Court in Seattle. His appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found in 1987 that the military orders issued against Japanese Americans were “based upon racism rather than military necessity.”

She was Executive Director at the Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO) from 1987 to 1991, when LELO was fighting for justice in the courts and Congress for the AAPI and Alaska Native Wards Cove workers, who endured racially discriminatory, plantation-like working conditions in the Alaska canneries. Diane chaired the Minority Executive Directors Coalition Racial Profiling and Police
Dear Asian and Pacific Islander Community,

I am excited to share that we as a community can come together to celebrate the Washington State Commission on ACACIA INDIANS AND AMERICAN ASIANS (CAPAA). With more than 45 years of service, CAPAA has championed our rights to foster an empowered and unified Asian and Pacific American (APA) community. More specifically, the organization’s work has improved our lives by ensuring access to participation in fields such as government, business, and education. Because of CAPAA, Washington State is more reflective of our people, our interests, and our aspirations.

As a fellow Asian American, I can fully attest to the importance of our community, and I recognize CAPAA’s success in being the embodiment of our support and engagement. With these thoughts in mind, I would like to express our thanks to CAPAA and the APA community as a whole for making Washington State a national role model for what it means to be culturally inclusive.

I take pride in standing alongside the Asian and Pacific Islander community and I look forward to my continued support of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Thank you for your passionate work.

With warm regards,

Mila Santiago-Gregerson
Representative 33rd Legislative District

Accountability Task Force and co-chaired the Seattle Community Police Commission when it formed in 2013.

From 1995 to 2018, Diane served as Executive Director at Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS), one of the nation’s leading pan-AAPI social justice and multi-service organizations. During her tenure, ACRS grew to meet the evolving needs of AAPI’s and others by expanding its culturally competent behavioral health programs, human services, civic engagement activities, and approximately 300 staff and over 700 volunteers, who collectively speak 40 languages and dialects and reach over 35,000 community members annually.

She also served as a CAPAA Commissioner from 1996 to 2003, and in 2014, President Barack Obama appointed her to his President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She co-founded the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition in 1996, a statewide coalition to advocate for AAPI’s at the state level, and helped secure and defend critical rights and services, including a social safety net for immigrants and refugees, expanded access to democracy, and more equitable access to state programs and opportunities for AAPI’s and other English language learners.

After 23 years at ACRS, Diane retired on December 3, 2018. She remains an ardent advocate for civil rights and social justice. Diane is married, with three stepdaughters and four grandchildren.
Reynaldo Pascua is from Sunnyside, WA, and former Commissioner on the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. He served two full terms, (1974-1976) and 2007-2013), and served as Vice-Chair during the second appointed term. He is a trustee for the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) and President of the Filipino American Community of the Yakima Valley, of which he's been a board member for thirty years.

Reynaldo developed a close relationship with Larry Itliong of the United Farm Workers while he founded Western Washington State College's Asian Student Union at Western Washington State College. He traveled to stay with the Itliong Family for four days and audio-recorded interviews about Larry's thoughts about the Union and UFWOC movement. Reynaldo went on to help organize grape boycott...
Congratulations to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs on your 45-year of operation! As the first elected Vietnamese American to the state legislature, I recognize the importance of this commission as we begin to see representation for people of color in our government. Like CAPAA, I strive to ensure the voices of my community are heard in our government, that communities are involved in policies that will affect them, and that I am advocating for policies that can help and benefit our communities. I could not do any of this work without the tremendous effort and work laid by CAPAA for the last 45 years, as well as the work that they continue to do.

Representation provides us the ability to culturally socialize youth, promotes a sense of pride which in turn leads to a sense of self-esteem. The first time I walked onto the senate floor as an elected official, I remember feeling as though I did not belong, and I kept waiting for someone to come and tell me that I wasn’t allowed to be there. I am determined to make sure that everyone feels welcome in government, not just our community.

Throughout the past 45 years of operation, CAPAA has made incredible strides towards equity and inclusion. As a result of their hard work and dedication, we now see legislation advocating to close the achievement gap in schools around Washington State, work being done to address the disparities in healthcare access, a huge push for linguistically and culturally appropriates forms of addressing various issues that may arise, and countless other inestimable important projects. This work CAPAA does, the resource they provide, the advocacy they encourage, and the doors they open could not be more crucial. It is with much gratitude and appreciation that I write this letter of congratulations to CAPAA on their extraordinary work thus far, and to wish them well on their future endeavors. I look forward to working together in the future to help highlight the voices of our community members in our state government.

Best,

Senator Joe Nguyen, 45th Legislative District
Thank You to Our Food Donors

Featured cuisine from around Asia and the Pacific Islands:

- Cakes of Paradise
- China Harbor, Vincent Ha
- D’Unik Filipino Restaurant - Thelma Sevilla
- Everest Kitchen
- Filipino Community of Yakima Valley - Berenise Pascua
- Filipino Community of Seattle - Velma Veloria
- Go Poke
- Green Leaf
- Hmong Association of Washington
- Kona Kitchen, Chris Chaussee
- Maruta’s, APACE
- Mayuri Bakery
- Queen’s Deli (White Center)
- Sweet Rice
- Vieng Thong

Washington State Senate
Senator Manka Dhingra
Deputy Majority Leader
45th Legislative District

March 11, 2019

Greetings CAAPAA Commissioners (old and new),

As State Senator, and member of the APA community, I am truly honored to extend a thank you to CAAPAA for all of the hard work you have done over the last 45 years as we celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Commission.

I greatly appreciate and respect the work that the Commission has accomplished around the areas of civil rights and justice, education, health and human services, and economic development.

This occasion is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our community and to share it with our friends, family, and fellow Washingtonians. The Commission continues its commitment to ensuring opportunities for the Asian Pacific Islander community across Washington is indispensable. Thank you for investing in and strengthening our state.

I look forward to celebrating with you all at CAAPAA’s 45th Anniversary Celebration.

Sincerely,

Manka Dhingra
State Senator, 45th Legislative District
March 15, 2019

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
P.O. Box 49925
Olympia, WA 98504-0925

Dear CAPAA Members and Supporters,

Thank you so much for your 45 year commitment to equity, diversity and support of Washington’s Asian and Pacific Islander communities. This service has been critical to Asian Americans like myself, and to my neighbors in the 47th Legislative District.

We are living in an era of change. At the Federal level, we’re witnessing intolerance and hate. People are being marginalized and oppressed. But in Washington, we’re continuing the decades-long work in pursuit of equity. We’re seeing more people of color in positions of power, we’re expanding access to healthcare, we’re creating more educational opportunities, and we’re working to reform the criminal justice system.

I have no doubt that the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs has been a key player in this important work.

I look forward to working with the Commission in coming years, and that together we can bring much-needed change and progress in Washington State. Thank you again for all that you have done, and continue to do to support communities throughout our state.

In gratitude,

Mona Das
47th Legislative District
April 13, 2019

Dear Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs,

Congratulations to the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs for 45 years of contributions to the Asian Pacific American community in Washington State. I am honored to be a part of your Sapphire Anniversary Celebration taking place on April 17th, 2019.

CAPAA became a state agency in 1971 and has since ensured that Washington’s Asian and Pacific Islander community has a voice in our state government. CAPAA’s representation has been fundamental in shaping policies and services that support the unique needs of immigrant and refugee families of Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds. The agency’s work in community outreach and advocacy for a historically marginalized demographic has made great strides in the fight for social justice.

CAPAA grew from grassroots activism during the civil rights movement into an institutionalized force for empowerment, paving pathways for opportunities, and connecting our communities across Washington’s education, health and socio-economic systems. Meanwhile, the agency engages individuals in preserving their cultural heritages and languages thereby strengthening community bonds in our collective APA community. It is because of your hard work and dedication that I recognize and honor you today.

I sincerely wish you much continued success in all your future endeavors as we all stand together in the fight for equity and justice.

In Solidarity,

Bob Hasegawa
Washington State Senator
11th Legislative District
Legislative Assistant: Sam Cho
Session Aide: Jenny Chang
Services Team: Echo NH
March 25, 2015

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
P.O. Box 40915
Olympia, WA 98504-0025

Dear Ms. Hanagan,

As the Director of the Washington State Women’s Commission, I wish to congratulate CAPAA on its 45th anniversary! As a newly established commission within state government, I have a special appreciation for the work of fellow commissions like CAPAA that are dedicated to providing community voice and input to state government.

Like CAPAA, we have a role in advising the governor, state legislature, and state agencies on the various issues, laws and programs impacting Washingtonians, and we look forward to continued collaboration and partnership in the future.

On behalf of the Washington State Women’s Commission, thank you for your continued service to Washington and best wishes for a successful event, with many more years of effective advocacy to come.

I look forward to celebrating with all of you at CAPAA’s Sapphire Anniversary Celebration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gonzales
Director, Washington State Women’s Commission
March 5, 2019

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
Sapphire Anniversary Celebration

I am honored to congratulate the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) on their Sapphire Anniversary Celebration. Since 1974, CAPAA has been committed to being a voice for Washington’s Asian Pacific American communities, working in partnership with our communities and state leaders.

CAPAA has consistently addressed challenges and opportunities in the areas of education, health, and human services, economic development, and more. It is because of the contribution and commitment of leaders like CAPAA that our great state will be able to meet the challenges ahead and emerge stronger.

Thank you, CAPAA, for your dedication to improving the lives of Washington’s Asian Pacific American communities over the past 45 years.

Sincerely,

Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of Public Instruction
April 13, 2019

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
1110 Capitol Way South, Suite 220
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs:

Congratulations for 45 years of successfully changing lives – not only for the Asian and Pacific Island communities you serve, but for all Washingtonians. Your legacy of empowering historically underrepresented communities gets to the heart of who we are as a state. Washington is stronger and shines brighter when it reflects a diversity of voices, cultures, religions, identities, and ideas, and when we lift each other up. Thank you for your commitment to this truth.

Reflected in our wonderful state population are Washingtonians with heritage from more than 40 Asian and Pacific Island nations, and our state is better for it. Throughout our history, Asian Pacific Americans have contributed greatly to our economy, our government, our schools, our culture, and so much more. For nearly half a century, CAPAA has been dedicated to honoring these contributions, ensuring that Washington’s Asian Pacific Americans communities have equal access to information and programs, and that state leaders and policymakers understand their needs and concerns.

The work you are doing will last for generations to come. Congratulations on this incredible milestone, and I wish you another 45 years (and more) of successful advocacy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hilary S. Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands
March 11, 2019

To: Ms. Hassewa

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
1110 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: CAPAA’s Sapphire Anniversary Celebration

Dear Ms. Hassewa,


As the longest serving insurance commissioner in the United States, I appreciate the valuable contributions the commission makes to education and development of a culturally diverse community of individuals and organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Your efforts are vital to the protection and resiliency of individuals and the communities where they live and work.

I would like to express my gratitude for the dedication of the commission to this effort. You are a strong and welcome voice for the community in state government. Your commitment and dedication make life better for so many.

I wish you the best for a successful and enlightening anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

Mike Kreidler
Insurance Commissioner
Greetings Commissioners!

Thank you for inviting me to the 45th anniversary of the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (WA CAPAA). While I am not able to attend this event in person, please know that I am with you in spirit. As the first Indian American woman elected as a Washington State Senator and to the United States Congress, I have a special appreciation for the work of state agencies like CAPAA that are dedicated to providing community voice and input into government operations. Before I came to Congress, I founded OneAmerica, the largest immigrant rights organization in the state of Washington, that works with state agencies like CAPAA to make sure our communities have a seat at decision-making tables on the state level.

The commission’s role as a conduit for various community-based organizations in advising the governor, state legislature and state agencies on the various issues, laws and programs impacting the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities living in Washington State is invaluable. The impact WA CAPAA has had in bringing in and elevating API voices will continue to positively impact the lives of countless Washingtonians. Thank you to WA CAPAA for your continued service to our community and best wishes for a successful event - with many more years of effective advocacy to come! Please don’t hesitate to contact me or my office if there is anyway we may be of service to you in the future.

Best wishes,

Pramila Jayapal

Pramila Jayapal
Hello Friends,

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs as you celebrate your 45th anniversary. What an impressive milestone! I regret that I am unable to join you today but I am thrilled to help recognize this momentous occasion.

For nearly 50 years, CAPAA has worked to inform its constituencies on laws and policies that affect their well-being. It works to ensure the voices of Asian Pacific Americans are heard in state government and that CAPAA advocates for policies and services that would best support its community’s needs. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize all the outstanding work CAPAA has done for the Asian Pacific American community in Washington State.

Throughout my Senate career, I have worked hard to fight for economic opportunity, equitable access to healthcare, and inclusive family policies - whether it’s advocating for healthcare that is affordable for all or helping working families afford childcare. This work would be deeply hindered without organizations like CAPAA, whose members continue to offer their support to inform policymakers in ways that best serve Washington State’s communities.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event and I hope you have a wonderful time.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
United States Senator
April 2019

Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs  
PO Box 93025  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on CAPAA’S Sapphire Anniversary Celebration. Celebrating 45 years of service to the Asian Pacific American community is an opportunity to thank you for your leadership and commitment to ensuring inclusivity at all levels in our state. Without a voice that speaks singularly to our life experience, we risk invisibility.

I am honored to serve on your Washington State Supreme Court as the first member of the API community. Serving as a judge is truly an honor and a privilege.

As you contemplate the future and the next 45 years of CAPAA, I ask that you consider the needs of our courts. The judicial branch needs your continued advocacy for an array of services that will make each one of our courts around the state more accessible, more transparent, and more just. Your support for court interpreters and court security is more important than ever. Full and safe participation in every court hearing is critical to delivering our promise of justice for all.

Thank you for your hard work and advocacy.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Yu  
Justice

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A Message from the Governor

April 15, 2019

I am pleased to congratulate the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) on its 45 years of public service. Since its inception, CAPAA has been committed to ensuring the participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the fields of governance, economic development, education, and health and human services.

Growing Washington’s economy, strengthening our schools, and bringing a culture of performance and efficiency to state government relies, in part, on the duties carried out by dedicated members of the community. For 45 years, leaders from Washington’s APA communities have served as CAPAA staff and commissioners. Together, they have worked tirelessly to bring the concerns of the 47 distinct Asian Pacific communities to the awareness of the Governor’s Office, policymakers, and state agencies alike. Similarly, the work of CAPAA has educated the APA community about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being.

I would like to thank CAPAA for its commitment and partnership in working to improve the lives of Washington’s Asian Pacific American communities.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor
April 13, 2019

Dear Friends,

I am honored to be here to celebrate the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs’ 45 years of valuable service to Washington state. CAPAA’s dedication to advocacy, civil rights and justice inspires me in my work as your Attorney General.

I am committed to protecting the people of Washington and the civil rights afforded to them by our state laws and the Constitution. That is why I created the Wing Luke Civil Rights Division, dedicated to one of our state’s pioneering civil rights leaders.

Wing Luke was a fearless civil rights lawyer for the Attorney General’s Office in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He left the office to run for Seattle City Council, winning the election in a landslide and becoming the first Asian American elected to public office in the Pacific Northwest.

Since its creation in 2015, the Civil Rights Unit has doubled in size and confronted some of the most important issues facing Washingtonians. We have stopped unconstitutional executive orders, obtained relief for workers experiencing discrimination and sexual harassment by their employers, and blocked attacks on immigrants and refugees. We do all of this work in the name of Wing Luke.

I will do everything in my power to carry on this legacy and defend Washingtonians against discrimination and injustice.

Thank you for all you do to make our state a more equitable and welcoming place to live.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Attorney General
RW17be