



City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, despite being subjected to the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act (1882 – 1943), along with other discriminatory laws which restricted their rights and treated them as second-class citizens, nearly 20,000 Chinese Americans valiantly served in the United States military during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, these American heroes defended our nation's democracy in every theater of war and in every branch of service even as they faced prejudice at home and in the military; and

**WHEREAS**, Chinese American WWII Veterans never lost sight of the potential and promise of a nation where all people are created equal; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2018, the United States Congress passed the Congressional Gold Medal Act to award the highest civilian honor – a Congressional Gold Medal – to the Chinese American WWII Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 9, 2020, the Speaker of the House bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Chinese American WWII Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these courageous and dedicated Chinese American WWII Veterans lived in and returned to the great State of Washington and are a source of inspiration for current and future generations of all Washingtonians;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Benson Wong, do hereby proclaim November 13, 2021, as

## CHINESE AMERICAN WWII VETERANS DAY

on Mercer Island, and I encourage all residents to join me in honoring the many contributions and sacrifices Chinese American Veterans made for our country.

**APPROVED**, this 31st day of August 2021.

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Benson Wong, Mayor

