

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4682, by Representatives Thai, Zahn, Ryu, Duerr, Gregerson, Santos, Thomas, Lekanoff, Ramel, Cortes, Nance, Berry, Parshley, Kloba, Salahuddin, Eslick, and Barnard

1           WHEREAS, On this 17th day of February in 2026, the people of the  
2 great state of Washington unite to celebrate Lunar New Year, joining  
3 to distinguish Asian American joy, cultures, and beautiful diversity;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The Lunar New Year has been celebrated for thousands of  
6 years, first recorded in the 200s BC and begins on the first new moon  
7 of the lunisolar calendar; and

8           WHEREAS, This year is designated as the Year of the Fire Horse  
9 and is characterized by breakthroughs, bold changes, and freedom,  
10 bringing about a fast pace to life; and

11           WHEREAS, Washington acknowledges both the rich heritage and  
12 historical trauma of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific  
13 Islander ancestors; and

14           WHEREAS, We deeply appreciate the many contributions of the Asian  
15 American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities that have  
16 made Washington a vibrant place for us all to call home, through  
17 building and supporting their communities despite the persistent  
18 discriminations and violence they may have faced in the past and  
19 present; and

20           WHEREAS, The history of Asian Americans in the United States is  
21 marked by exclusion and prejudice, from the Chinese Exclusion Act to  
22 the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the  
23 scars of these events still resonate today; and

1       WHEREAS, Despite these challenges, the Asian American, Native  
2 Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have enriched our nation  
3 with countless contributions in science, technology, arts, and  
4 culture, weaving themselves into the very fabric of Washington; and

5       WHEREAS, Recognizing and celebrating Lunar New Year affirms the  
6 value of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander  
7 communities and fosters a deeper understanding of our diverse  
8 traditions, sending a signal to future generations that their  
9 heritage is respected and celebrated; and

10       WHEREAS, In 2024, legislation was passed in Washington state to  
11 establish Lunar New Year as a state-recognized holiday, sending a  
12 clear message that inclusion matters; and

13       WHEREAS, We highlight the solidarity and strength of the Asian  
14 American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities rooted in  
15 the culture that respects its ancestry and supports its descendants;  
16 and

17       WHEREAS, The Lunar New Year is a time to reflect, to celebrate  
18 family and community, and to learn and understand the past as we look  
19 towards renewal and growth; and

20       WHEREAS, We step into the Year of the Fire Horse not just as  
21 individuals, but as a family united in compassion and community  
22 stewardship;

23       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
24 stand with the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander  
25 communities in times of crisis and in times of celebration, we come  
26 together now to reflect on the year past and envision new beginnings  
27 in acknowledgment of the Lunar New Year; and

28       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Lunar New Year sends a message  
29 of hope and unity, reaffirming our commitment to creating a nation  
30 where every individual feels valued and respected, and where the dark  
31 chapters of our past serve as reminders of the future for which we  
32 must strive.

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