



SPECIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 11-2024

A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION AWARDED BY SOUTH BEND AT-LARGE COMMON COUNCILWOMAN RACHEL TOMAS MORGAN CELEBRATING OCTOBER AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Whereas, in 2009, the United States Congress passed a resolution to officially recognize October as Filipino American History Month to recognize and celebrate the history, culture and contributions of Filipino Americans to the nation; and

Whereas, on October 13, 2024, James Mueller, Mayor of the City of South Bend, Indiana proclaimed October 2024 as Filipino-American Heritage Month in South Bend; and

Whereas, the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States on October 18, 1587, when the first Filipinos set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

Whereas, Filipino Americans are the third largest Asian American ethnic group in the United States, with roughly 4.1 million living in our nation, and over 12,000 living in Indiana; and

Whereas, South Bend and the larger Michiana region are proud to be home to thousands of Filipino Americans who contribute greatly to shaping, advancing, and enriching our community; and

Whereas, founded in 1989 as People Power for Progress, and renamed in 1994, the mission objectives of the Filipino American Association of Michiana include: fostering fellowship and sense of community; preserving the rich heritage of the Filipino culture, art, and history among its members; promoting awareness of this rich culture in the community at large through educational and cultural activities; and aiding social and educational programs in the Philippines and local community; and

Whereas, Filipino men and women have contributed economically to our community as business owners and executives, and setting examples as model citizens and public servants while making valuable contributions to all areas of life, including government, business, education, arts and sciences, medicine and healthcare, public safety, and the military by serving to protect our freedom and putting their lives on the line as healthcare, emergency services, and law enforcement professionals; and

Whereas, the theme for 2024 Filipino American History Month focuses on “Struggle, Resistance, Solidarity, and Resilience,” a theme that underscores the indomitable spirit of the Filipino American community; and

Whereas, this theme explores the many systemic challenges Filipinos have endured in the United States and includes the ways that Filipino Americans have organized to fight against injustice - either within their own communities or alongside other racial and ethnic groups, while at the same time, the theme also celebrates the many ways in which Filipinos have successfully overcome adversity throughout history.

Now, Therefore, be it publicly and proudly Proclaimed as follows:

Section I. The South Bend Common Council joins the Filipino American community in celebrating their important contributions to our city and our nation;

Section II. The Council invites all residents to recognize and celebrate the vital role our Filipino Americans have played in our city and our nation’s history, as well as their outstanding achievements today and into the future.



Section III. The Council encourages all members of the South Bend and Michiana communities to continually engage in efforts to learn, respect and engage the heritage of the Filipino American community.

Section IV. I, Rachel Tomas Morgan, commit to continue the Filipino American tradition of service to country and community as South Bend's first Asian and Filipino-American elected official.

*Signed and Approved this 12th Day of October 2024 in the City of South Bend,
County of St. Joseph, in the State of Indiana.*

Rachel Tomas Morgan

Rachel Tomas Morgan, At-Large Member
South Bend Common Council

