

# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State's greatest strength is its diversity of people, including many thriving Asian and Pacific Islander communities that uphold honored cultural traditions rooted in ancient history, and New Yorkers join them with great celebratory flourish to usher out the old year and welcome the arrival of Lunar New Year 4719; and

**Whereas**, representing the most important holiday observed by Asian and Pacific Islander communities, the Lunar New Year – or Spring Festival – traces back over millennia as the means by which to mark the passage of time based upon the cyclical pattern of agricultural production, and so this longest holiday of the year originally represented the period of time when farmers could enjoy a deserved rest from their work in the fields to be with their families; and

**Whereas**, according to custom, the Lunar New Year begins with the new moon on the first day of the first lunar month, this year on February 12th, and ends fifteen days later with the full moon on February 26<sup>th</sup>, and the celebration of the traditional Lantern Festival; we hail the “Year of the Ox,” the second animal sign of the zodiac – symbolizing prosperity through hard work and diligence – as those born under this sign exemplify the qualities of fortitude, resilience, patience, determination, and dependability; and

**Whereas**, in these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, nowhere is the sense of unity more visible than among New York's diverse communities that maintain important traditions honoring their history and heritage; while this health crisis asks each of us to exercise safety and respect through social distancing, we join in spirit with those who preserve the meaning of the Lunar New Year holiday through virtual programs that reflect various traditions of the Lunar New Year cherished by our Asian and Pacific Islander communities, as they proudly honor their ancient legacy by paying respect to their ancestors, and welcome friends and neighbors of all backgrounds to share in one of their most distinct traditions; and

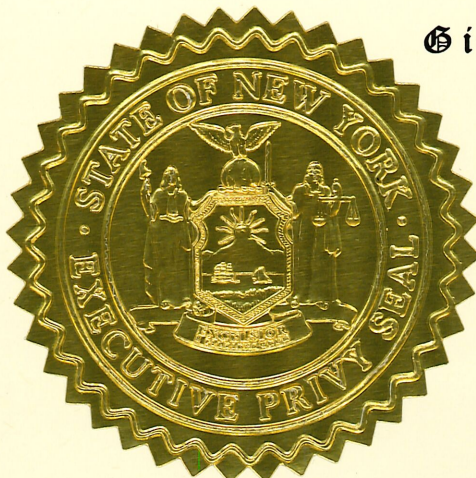
**Whereas**, New Yorkers recognize that our vibrant Asian and Pacific Islander communities contribute daily to the strength of America and add to our state's reputation as a center of diverse cultural wealth, and the rich symbolism of the Lunar New Year Holiday provides an opportunity for all to reflect in hopeful anticipation of the year to come; and

**Whereas**, the Lunar New Year is a time of thanksgiving and, as we reflect upon its meaning, all New Yorkers recognize its values have universal relevance for all humankind and help strengthen the foundation upon which communities are built and thrive; furthermore, we join in spirit with our Asian and Pacific Islander communities and wish them the very best in welcoming Lunar New Year 4719, as we look forward to an end to the worldwide suffering and loss in the near future and to peace and good health for all;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2021 as

## LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day  
of February in the year two thousand twenty-one.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa