PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION by the Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, declaring the month of October as Filipino American History Month

WHEREAS, the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental United States was the date of October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is home to the third largest Filipino population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Bainbridge Island is the home of a historic Filipino community in recognition of the 1883 documents of Port Blakely, at the time the largest lumber mill in the world, as listing a "Manilla", the first known employee from the Philippines in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1883 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo Parrish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino community played an important role in Bainbridge Island’s rich agricultural history thereby shaping our local rural landscape.

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has recognized the month of October as Filipino American History Month since the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American History Month provides an opportunity to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, recognize the richness of Filipino American ethnicity, and honor the contributions of Filipino Americans, especially their services with distinction in the United States military;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne S. Blair, Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, on behalf of the City Council, proclaim October 2014 and every October thereafter, as

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Bainbridge Island, and urge all persons in the region to join in this special observance.

DATED this 23rd day of September 2014

Anne S. Blair, Mayor