

# NJDMAVA Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging



We are midway through the month of May and spring is in full swing! Spring is a symbol of rebirth and new beginnings, making it the perfect time to reinvigorate your diversity and inclusion efforts. The NJDMAVA Office of DEIB team is proud to share its May 2023 Newsletter! It is here that we will showcase our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Please keep in mind that this is just a sample of the many observances during the month of May. Our hope is that by regularly sharing our Diversity calendar, it will help you increase your awareness of the many diverse holidays in addition to the mainstream events.



The observance raises awareness in an effort to support those who live with mental and behavioral health issues as well as their families and loved ones. Some great ways to support others with mental health difficulties include staying calm, being patient, avoiding judgment, and maintaining social contact.

## National Military Appreciation Month

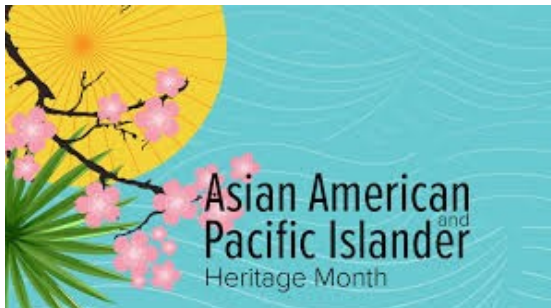
honors the service and sacrifice of members and spouses of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard.



## AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

Every May since 1963, this observance celebrates Americans over age 65 and how they contribute to society in the U.S. The 2023 theme is *Aging Unbound*, which offers an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereotypes. The goal is to promote flexible thinking about aging – and how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included. Acknowledging their contributions and creating programs to meet their needs is critical to ensuring everyone is cared for.

In 1990, the U.S. government established Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in order to recognize the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans, Pacific Islander Americans, and Native Hawaiians and pay tribute to their many generations who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. Communities often celebrate with festivals and educational activities for students.



### What can you do?

- ◆ Watch a documentary about Asian American history
  - ◆ Visit an AAPI museum
- ◆ Listen to podcasts from the AAPI community
  - ◆ Buy books from AAPI-owned bookstores
  - ◆ Read books from AAPI authors
  - ◆ Discover AAPI horticulture

Since 2006, the month of May honors American Jews and their contributions to the US.

### Did you know?

- ⇒ In 1654, 23 adults and children from Brazil formed the first US Jewish community
- ⇒ The Jewish American Businessman, Adolphus Simeon Solomons joined Clara Barton and others to form the American Red Cross in 1881
- ⇒ The poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty, "The New Colossus," was written in 1883 by a 34-year-old Sephardic Jewish American Poet named Emma Lazarus.
- ⇒ Jewish immigrant Irving Berlin wrote the iconic anthem "God Bless America" while serving in the US Army in 1918 during WWI.
- ⇒ More than 500,000 Jewish Americans served in the armed forces during WWII.
- ⇒ In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg became the first Jewish American woman appointed to the US Supreme Court
- ⇒ Albert Einstein, a Jewish American mathematician and physicist, was named "Person of the Century" by *Time* magazine in 1999.

