

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Cambodian Americans are an important and vibrant part of the cultural fabric of Mecklenburg County, contributing to the community through arts, education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, after enduring the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, many Cambodian families resettled in the United States as refugees in the 1980's, bringing with them resilience, cultural pride, and a deep commitment to rebuilding their lives and contributing to the growth and diversity of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, the **Cambodian Buddhist Society** of Charlotte established a Buddhist temple in the early 1980s, one of the earliest Cambodian institutions in the Carolinas, which for more than four decades has served as a sacred spiritual sanctuary, a gathering place for cultural celebration, and an enduring center of community life for Cambodian residents in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, the **Cambodian Legacy Project**, a Charlotte-based nonprofit organization, works to preserve and celebrate Cambodian culture while empowering Asian American communities through education, cultural arts, youth leadership, and community wellness initiatives; and

WHEREAS, through cultural festivals, traditional dance performances, language education, and community programs, the **Cambodian Legacy Project** has helped thousands of residents' experience and appreciate Cambodian culture, strengthening cultural understanding and unity across Mecklenburg County; and

WHEREAS, April marks the celebration of Cambodian New Year (Choul Chnam Thmey), one of the most important cultural and spiritual traditions for Cambodian people, symbolizing renewal, gratitude, and the passing of cherished traditions from one generation to the next; and

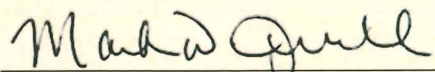
WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County recognize and honor the heritage, resilience, and enduring contributions of Cambodian residents in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim, April 2026, as

“CAMBODIAN HERITAGE MONTH”

in Mecklenburg County and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Cambodian community.

This 21st day of April 2026



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

