

CITY OF SPOKANE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Matsutaro and Hatsume Kawaguchi exemplified courage, resilience, and dedication to family and community throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Kawaguchi family was among the thousands of Japanese Americans forcibly removed from their home and sent to internment camps, yet they endured this injustice with grace and strength; and

WHEREAS, after the war, the Kawaguchis resettled in the Spokane area, farming near Nine Mile Falls and later establishing their home in the Latah Valley, becoming valued members of the local community; and

WHEREAS, Matsutaro Kawaguchi was a gifted bonsai artist whose work—including many trees still on display in Spokane's beloved Nishinomiya Tsutakawa Japanese Garden—continues to enrich our city's cultural and natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Kawaguchi family's story stands as a powerful testament to the enduring strength of Japanese American families and their immeasurable contributions to Spokane's history:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim August 22, 2025 as

MATSUTARO AND HATSUME KAWAGUCHI DAY

in Spokane.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
18th day of August 2025.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor

