

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society including medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture; and,
- WHEREAS, since migrating to America, people of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also serving as model citizens and public servants; and,
- WHEREAS, Arab Americans have enriched society by embodying the entrepreneurial spirit that makes the nation free and prosperous and a diversity in faith and creed that strengthens American democracy; and,
- WHEREAS, roughly 75% of Virginia's Arab American population resides in Northern Virginia; and
- WHEREAS, Falls Church was once home to "*the mother of Arab American studies*", Dr. Alixa Naff, who spent her life collecting oral histories and artifacts relating to Arab American culture in the 19th and 20th centuries, and whose collection still lives with the Smithsonian today; and
- WHEREAS, the history of Arab Americans in the U.S. has also been tainted with misconceptions, bigotry, and hatred; and,
- WHEREAS, Arab American issues, such as civil rights, stereotyping, and bullying must be combatted through education and awareness; and,
- WHEREAS, the City of Falls Church proudly recognizes the rich cultural diversity that strengthens its community and enriches the lives of its residents; and
- WHEREAS, Arab American Heritage Month is observed each April to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans and to promote greater awareness, inclusion, and appreciation of their role in shaping our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Letty Hardi, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby recognize the month of April 2026 as

### ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

and encourage all citizens to uplift and celebrate the Arab American community members in our City during this month and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 16th day of April, 2026.



  
Letty Hardi, Mayor