

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society including in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have an important presence in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in Alexandria, contributing to the rich diversity of our city and its vibrant culture, businesses, schools, workforce, and civic activities; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends throughout our city as public servants and as active community members; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans embody resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great democracy; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Arab American ancestry and cultural heritage educates our fellow Americans and counters misconceptions, bigotry, anti-Arab hate, civil rights abuses, and harmful stereotyping; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; and

WHEREAS, the extensive contributions and rich heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALYIA GASKINS, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2026 to be:

“NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens, all while recognizing and expressing deep gratitude for the contributions that Arab Americans have made to the City of Alexandria, and our country, and we encourage our citizens to join us in this special observance and recognition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 28th day of April 2026.

MAYOR ALYIA GASKINS
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk