

City of Gainesville, Florida  
Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United States is home to more than 3.5 million Arab Americans representing a diverse array of cultures and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Arab community began immigrating to the US in the late 1800s fleeing war, persecution and economic hardships; and

WHEREAS, Since migration to America men and women of Arab descent have shared their cultures and traditions with neighbors and friends; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans trace their origins to 22 Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa; and

WHEREAS, Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures and public servants will engage in special events that celebrate the Arab community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, Individual states, including Arkansas, Hawaii, Michigan, New York, North Carolina and Virginia, have recognized April as Arab American History Month in years past; and

WHEREAS, 2021 marks the first time the U.S. State Department has designated April as Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Our neighbors of Arab descent have helped to infuse our nation with strong values, work ethic, and dedication to education and diversity of faith traditions that have strengthened the foundations of our democratic republic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April, 2021 as

**Arab American History Month**

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in celebrating the Arab American culture and way of life and working together to create a peaceful and diverse society, where every individual is treated equally and feels safe.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 9th day of April, A.D., 2021.

  
Lauren Poe  
Mayor

