



City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of Mayor Harvey L. Ward, Jr.

Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, they brought with them to America their 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, Arab Americans have also enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, the history of Arab Americans in the USA remains neglected or defaced by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the forms of crimes and speech; and

WHEREAS, Arab American issues, such as civil rights abuse, harmful stereotyping, and bullying must be combated in the forms of education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, they 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 incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

National Arab American Heritage Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in this special observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of April, A.D., 2023.




Harvey L. Ward, Jr.
Mayor