

April is National Arab American Month

The first **National Arab American Heritage Month** Celebration took place in Washington, DC in April of 2017 at the New America. Along with various displays of Arab culture, including a fashion show, dancing, and singing, this event marked an important milestone for the recognition of Arab American Heritage Month to be celebrated nationally.

The Arab World is formerly comprised of 22 countries, represented by the League of Arab States. These countries include Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. **Palestine is comprised of the West Bank and Gaza.*

In the Arab American home, you can find elements of ethnic pride and ancestral heritage. This might be in the form of artifacts carried by immigrants, pictures of villages, and/or general symbols of Arab identity.

Arabs are people who can encompass all religious faiths. The three Abrahamic traditions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism) are the faiths primarily represented among Arab peoples. All three of the Abrahamic faiths share a lineage of certain prophets, and as such bear some commonalities in traditions and faith elements (among other differences).

The category “Middle East” refers to a region of the world that is linked by a shared location, but ***not*** a common culture. Therefore, Arab Americans ***should not*** be referred to as Middle Eastern Americans.

During the month of April, the Arab American Foundation formally recognizes the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM). Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and non-profit organizations issue proclamations and engage in special events that celebrate our community’s rich heritage and numerous contributions to society.

The President of the United States recognized the month of April as National Arab American Heritage Month with a special commemorative letter to our organization. In 2022, Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and 45 state governors issued proclamations commemorating the initiative. Additionally, the following states have passed permanent legislation designating the month of April as NAAHM: Illinois, Oregon, Virginia, Indiana (Senate), and California.

Please see the below websites to learn more about this heritage month and the wonderful people that belong to the Arab American community.

[ArabAmerica.Com](https://www.arabamerica.com)

[The Story of Arab Americans’ Beginning in America](#)

[NAAHM Slides](#)

[Who Started the Movement?](#)

[The First NAAHM Celebration, 2017](#)

