

**San Mateo Union High School District  
Proclamation Recognizing April 1-30, 2025  
As National Arab American Heritage Month**

**WHEREAS**, April is National Arab American Heritage Month. Officially established via a declaration by President Joe Biden in April 2021, it is a time to formally recognize the achievements of Arab Americans and celebrate the Arab American community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to society; and

**WHEREAS**, Arab Americans are not a mere fragment of our society, however, a representation of the people's shared experiences in society; one with our collective humanity — one of diverse backgrounds and faiths, vibrant tradition, bold innovation, hard work, commitment to community, and remarkable devotion; and

**WHEREAS**, An estimated 3.7 million Americans have Arab roots, according to the Arab American Institute, with ancestries traced to 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and others; and

**WHEREAS**, Through the ubiquitous presence of Arab Americans, their roots are amongst the entirety of the United States; their contributions to our society are unwavering and reach from the east to west coast; and

**WHEREAS**, California, to our advantage, is home to a wide cultural spectrum of diverse people. We know that our diversity is our greatest gift. Our state is fortunate to have the largest Arab American population in the country with more than 715,000 Californians of Arab descent; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Mateo Union High School District serves, recognizes, and appreciates numerous Arab American students and their families. The District cultivates shared communities with every student in mind, thus including Arab Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to achievements of Arab Americans in classrooms, businesses, medicine, humanities, and politics, including representation as elected officials in the U.S. Congress, the achievements of Arab Americans are reflected in the life and achievements of individuals like Dr. Charles Elachi, Lebanese-American professor (emeritus) of electrical engineering and planetary science at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). From 2001 to 2016 he was the 8th director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) during which time 24 missions were launched supporting the JPL's mission to explore space in pursuit of scientific discoveries that benefit humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, we see Arab American Heritage month as an opportunity to lift up the the profound and wide-ranging contributions of this vibrant community in all facets of our society and remain committed to doing so outside of the confinement of Arab American heritage month; and

**WHEREAS**, we also recognize that, even as Arab Americans enrich our Nation, many continue to face prejudice, bigotry, and violence. Arab Americans are exponentially larger than the stereotypes in which they may be unjustly associated with; and together through advocacy in our District – instances of prejudice and violence will be combatted and disrupted at the root of the cause; and

**WHEREAS**, we as a District are grateful for the rich experiences Arab Americans bring to our classrooms and workplace and for the exquisite contributions they make to our schools; and community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Board of San Mateo Union High School District that April is designated as National Arab American Heritage Month and that SMUHSD calls upon schools, staff, students, and families to observe April as National Arab American Heritage Month by celebrating and recognizing the past, present and future contributions made by Arab Americans in our country and in our school community.

**SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Passed and adopted on the 27th day of March, 2025.



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Superintendent

Robert Griffin

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President, Board of Trustees