

Proclamation

Arab American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the first group of Arab immigrants arrived in the US in the 1880's to escape economic instability and war and have been an integral part of American society; and

WHEREAS, they brought with them to America strong family values and a common desire to foster a community in which families can live and thrive; and

WHEREAS, their history includes memorable figures such as Private Nathan Badeen who died fighting against the British in the Revolutionary War, the early Yemeni Community in Dearborn Michigan which greatly contributed to building the Ford Motor Company, the late Dr. Michael Debakey, a Lebanese-American cardiovascular surgeon and medical educator who became chancellor emeritus of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and our very own, Ahmad Alaswad, Fort Bend County's first Chief of Staff of Syrian descent; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans express a persistent streak of optimism and positive feelings and are overwhelmingly proud to be Americans despite harmful stereotyping, civil rights abuse and bullying; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans' accomplishments are as diverse as Fort Bend County itself and whose valued presence has added to the cultural mosaic of our community;

THEREFORE, I, Ken R. DeMerchant by the power vested in me as County Commissioner of Fort Bend County Texas, Precinct 4 celebrate the contributions Arab Americans have made to society, and do hereby formally recognize April 2019 to be

Arab American Heritage Month

in Fort Bend County, Texas this 22nd day of March, 2019 and urge all citizens to join and support the County's celebration of the rich heritage of our Arab American residents.



Commissioner Ken R. DeMerchant