

Proclamation to declare April 2019 to be National Arab American Heritage Month

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

WHEREAS, Victor George Atiyeh, who served as the 32nd Governor of Oregon from 1979 to 1987, was the first Arab American elected as Governor of a State; 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 examples of model citizens and public servants; 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 United States remains neglected and individuals are harmed by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the forms of crimes and speech; and

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

WHEREAS, Arab Americans 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 contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better state and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, we announce that Portland Public Schools celebrate the contributions Arab Americans have made to society, and hereby declare April 2019 to be National Arab Heritage Month in Portland Public Schools. We encourage Portlanders to join us in this special observance.