



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is home to one of the largest Arab American populations in the United States including one of the largest Palestinian and second largest Jordanian populations in the country; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is home to a proud and vibrant Arab American community that has undoubtedly impacted culture and industry by influencing the arts and education, business and government, social service, and scientific and technological advancements near and far; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have fought and made the ultimate sacrifice for this country in every war of the 20th Century in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, including Michael Monsour, a Navy Seal who received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Bush; George Julwan, former Four Star Commander of NATO; James Jabara, the First Jet Ace in Korea; and Christa McAuliffe, the First Teacher in Space who died on the Space Shuttle Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the notable contributions by Arab Americans have helped us build a better State and Nation, including Congresswoman Donna Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Awarded Medal of Freedom; Congressman Ray LaHood, former Secretary of Transportation; Senator Spencer Abraham, former Secretary of Energy; Senator George Mitchell, former Senate Majority Leader; Governor John Sinunu, former White House Chief of Staff; Ms. Candy Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Ralph Nader, Consumer Advocate; Dr. Farouk El-Baz, NASA designer of space shuttle; and Nobel Prize winners Ahmed Zewail (Physics) and Elias Corey (Chemistry); and

WHEREAS, April has been designated as Arab American Heritage Month to celebrate the cultural heritage, achievements, and contributions Arab American's have made in Chicago and across the country:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim April 2021 to be ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN CHICAGO and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the many contributions of Arab Americans.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor