

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is appropriate and right to celebrate a diversity of cultures and heritages, and such celebration serves as a reminder that despite our differing backgrounds, everyone in New York is bound by a common hope for a better and more inclusive future for our children; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those months that are set aside to serve to enhance the cultural enrichment of the State of New York and preserve the heritage of Arab Americans; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, The Arab American community has a long and integral history in the United States; and

WHEREAS, For centuries, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society, including medicine, law, business, technology, government, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans' resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed have truly added strength to our great democracy; 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, Tens of thousands of Arab Americans have served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq after September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 people of Arab American descent living in New York; and

WHEREAS, Men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture, strong work ethic, and dedication to education while embracing the American spirit of opportunity and helping us build a better nation and State for all; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the history of Arab Americans in the United States may often be neglected or defaced by misconceptions, bigotry, and anti-Arab hate in the forms of crimes and speech; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and celebrate the contributions to cultural diversity, economic growth, and the overall development of our State and nation made by the Arab American community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2022, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.