Senate Resolution No. 1887

BY: Senator BRISPORT

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to every aspect of American society, such as in medicine, law, business, technology, civic engagement, government, and culture; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to over 300,000 Arab Americans, making it the third-most populated state of Arab Americans in the country; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to major Arab American communities including Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian, Iraqi, Syrian, Moroccan, Yemeni and Sudanese neighborhoods that have been woven into the fabric of New York State's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have brought with them to America their resilient family values, community-oriented hospitality, solidarity with the oppressed, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed which has strengthened our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Many Arab Americans are unable to return to their homelands, often leaving behind friends and family, under the threat of war, occupation, and unrest; and

WHEREAS, Arabs and Arabic speaking individuals have been brought to or have immigrated to America since the 1600s, and have been integral in shaping the immigrant identity of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The first known Arabic speaker to come to North America, Mustafa al-Zammouri, arrived as an enslaved person from Morocco in 1528 and was an important explorer of the present-day American Southwest; and
WHEREAS, Writer Ameen Rihani's 1911 masterpiece, "The Book of Khalid," the first Arab American novel, is an important record of Arab immigration to the community of "Little Syria" in Lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Lebanese-American poet Khalil Gibran's masterpiece, "The Prophet," was a transformative piece of literature, with over 100 translations, making it one of the most translated books in history; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian-American academic Edward Said was a fixture of New York intellectual life and the author of the landmark work "Orientalism," a postcolonial study of Western imperialism in Asia,

North Africa, and the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, According to Census Bureau data, Arabic is one of the fastest-growing languages in the United States; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Arab American in all aspects of American society; and

WHEREAS, The incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Arab American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; The Arab American Association of New York in Bayridge, Brooklyn; The Arab American Institute in Washington, D.C.; and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington, D.C.