

By Senator Smith

17-00784-25

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2025 as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" in Florida and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in this state.

WHEREAS, Muslim immigration to the American colonies began with the arrival of indentured workers in the early years of this country's founding, and

WHEREAS, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, many enslaved Africans brought to the United States were Muslim, contributing to the early presence of Islam in America, and

WHEREAS, in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, successive waves of Muslim immigrants came to the United States seeking economic, social, and religious freedom, enriching communities throughout this state and nation across diverse fields, including business, medicine, education, law, and the arts, and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations in Florida and across the nation, offering aid to people of all faiths through humanitarian work, such as medical services, educational programs, food distribution, refugee services, and disaster relief, and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans have made significant advancements in numerous fields, including architecture, arts, business, medicine, law, sports, and government, enhancing the quality of life and cultural diversity in this state and the United States, and

WHEREAS, prominent Muslim Americans such as Fazlur Rahman Khan, a pioneering structural engineer who helped design iconic

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30 buildings like the Willis Tower in Chicago, and Shahid Khan, a
31 Pakistani-American businessman and owner of the Jacksonville
32 Jaguars, exemplify the profound impact Muslim Americans have had
33 on the United States' economy and culture, and

34 WHEREAS, Muslim Americans, such as Keith Ellison, the first
35 Muslim American elected to the United States Congress, and
36 Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, the first Muslim-American women in
37 the United States Congress, have shown the political strength
38 and leadership of Muslim Americans in public service, and

39 WHEREAS, Muslim Americans contribute greatly to this state,
40 including many who are leaders in business, education, medicine,
41 and sports, and continue to shape the state's diverse identity
42 and economy, and

43 WHEREAS, the Muslim-American community in Florida is
44 composed of individuals from more than 77 countries,
45 representing a wide array of ethnicities, cultures, and
46 languages, adding to the state's vibrant multicultural
47 landscape, and

48 WHEREAS, Muslim Americans have served honorably in the
49 United States Armed Forces, contributing to the defense and
50 protection of the United States in every major conflict,
51 including Captain Humayun Khan, a Muslim American who made the
52 ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2004, and

53 WHEREAS, the Muslim-American community faces challenges,
54 including discrimination and misunderstanding, yet it continues
55 to thrive and contribute to the progress of this state and the
56 United States, and

57 WHEREAS, there is a need for public education, awareness,
58 and policies that foster cultural competence and understanding

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59 about the significant contributions of Muslim Americans to all
60 aspects of life in Florida, and

61 WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to recognize and celebrate the
62 rich cultural heritage of Muslim Americans and their
63 contributions to this state and the United States, which is in
64 keeping with the Senate's time-honored tradition of honoring the
65 diversity of cultural backgrounds which enriches this state and
66 strengthens its social fabric, NOW, THEREFORE,

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68 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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70 That the Senate recognizes May 2025 as "Muslim-American
71 Heritage Month" in Florida and celebrates the heritage and
72 culture of Muslim Americans in this state.