

By Senator Smith

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 2026 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, between the 16th 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 Floridian Muslim Americans such as Shahid Khan, a Pakistani-American businessman and owner of the

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Jacksonville Jaguars, and Alli A.B. Majeed, Brevard County's longest serving county judge, exemplify the profound impact Muslim Americans have had on Florida's economy and legal system, and

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans, such as Christopher Benjamin, the first Muslim American elected to the Florida House of Representatives, have shown leadership in public service, and

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

WHEREAS, the Muslim-American community in Florida is composed of individuals from more than 85 countries, representing a wide array of ethnicities, cultures, and languages, adding to the state's vibrant multicultural landscape, and

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

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

That February 2026 is recognized as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" in Florida to celebrate the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in this state.