



National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) is a time for celebrating the history, contributions, and culture of the diverse population of Arab Americans. In 2017 Arab Americans began a national initiative to coordinate and advocate for an Arab American Heritage Month. In 2019, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a Proclamation making April Arab American Heritage Month (AAHM) and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) issued a congressional resolution for AAHM to be recognized on a national scale.

There are approximately 3.7 million Arab Americans in the U.S. Many Americans mistakenly believe all Arabs share the same culture, language, and religion, and have only recently begun immigrating to the United States. Arab Americans have ancestry in one of the world's 22 Arab nations. The world's 22 Arab nations are Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Yemen.

Despite the long presence and significant contributions to the United States, Arab-Americans are often still seen as outsiders. Arab-Americans are part of American history, from Private Nathan Badeen, who died fighting against the British in the Revolutionary War to the early Yemeni community who greatly contributed to building the Ford Motor Co.

As we celebrate Arab American heritage month, we ask you to go deeper.

Get to know Arab Americans and other people whose background, traditions, thinking and perspective is different from your own.

Open your heart and mind to those around you who can bring you a much richer understanding of yourself.



Notable Arab-Americans

1. Colonel James Jabara, U.S. Airforce—Youngest Colonel in the Air Force and the world's first jet-vs-jet ace.
2. Linda Sarsour, Political Activist, Advocate for rights of all people.
3. Doug Flute, Football Quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner.
4. Candy Lightner, Founder Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
5. Dr. Michael DeBakey, Leader in Surgical Innovation and Chancellor of Baylor College of Medicine. (1979-1996)
6. Maysoon Zayid, Comedian and Political Commentator
7. Entertainers: Paula Abdul, Vince Vaughn, Selma Hayek, Tony Shalhoub and Shakira
8. Recipients of Nobel Prize for Chemistry—Dr. Ahmed H. Zewail (1999) and Dr. Elias Corey (1990)
9. Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Pediatrician and whistleblower of The Flint Water Crisis
10. Dr. Farouk el-Baz, Geologist, Space Photographer and Adviser to all Apollo Moon Landings
11. Dina Habib Powell, Political and Business Leader. Served with Presidents Trump and George W. Bush administrations, President of Goldman Sach's Foundation
12. Christa McAuliffe, Teacher and Astronaut. Member of the Challenger Space Shuttle
13. Rashida Tlaib, First Muslim Congresswoman

Culture - Family:

- Family loyalty and obligation take precedence over loyalty to friends or the demand of a job.
- Family is seen as a person's ultimate refuge
- In all cases, one must defend the honor of family members, even if you think they are wrong.
- Arab men are the head of the household
- The wife operates behind the scenes
- Children are taught profound respect for adults.

Basic Arab Values:

- Dignity, Honor and Reputation are of paramount importance.
- Loyalty to the family takes precedence over all personal needs
- Piety (devotion to religion) is one of the most admirable characteristics
- Religion is a way of life
- Arabs are generous, humanitarian, polite and loyal
- They have a rich cultural heritage
- Clearly defined cultural group "Arab Nation"
- Are misunderstood and victimized by the Western World

To learn more about Arab American history, culture and contribution please go to the following links: <https://arabamericanmuseum.org/>
<https://www.arabamericanhistory.org/>
<http://www.arabamericanstories.org/>



"Star Spangled Banner: Arab American Edition"

<https://youtu.be/pflgrorveQw>

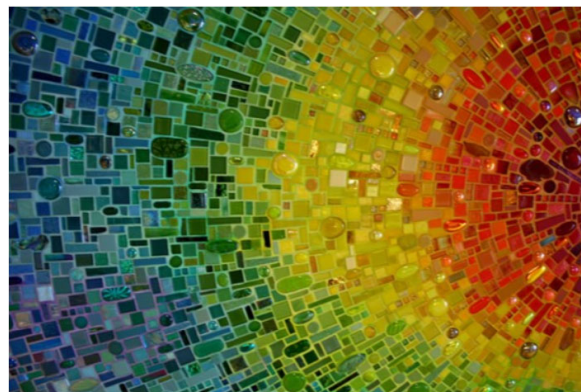
Not all Arabs are Muslim.
Not all Muslims are Arab.

Arabs are an ethnic group
Muslims are a religious group
(Islam is the faith)

"Arab" and "Middle Eastern,"
these terms are not fully inter-
changeable

The Middle East includes non-
Arabic nations such as Iran, Israel,
and Turkey.

Not all Arabic nations are located
in what is considered the Middle
East — including Egypt, Algeria,
and Morocco.



Mosaic, an art form that originated in the Arab region, is also a perfect metaphor for the community - we are composed of thousands of individual beautiful pieces, each unique in their own way while creating a greater whole.

This community is not a melting pot, rather it is a beautiful piece of artwork, a mosaic.



By recognizing everyone's achievements we build our future together.

Stereotyping people on the basis of their race, religion or national origin diminishes everyone.



- 1) In the United States today, are there more Arab-American Muslims or Arab-American Christians?
Answer: Roughly three-quarters of the Arab-American population is Christian, and one-fourth is Muslim.
- 2) Approximately when did Arab Americans begin arriving in significant numbers on the shores of the United States?
Answer: The first wave of Arab immigrants arrived in the United States in the 1880s, mostly from the area around Mount Lebanon. Most of them were Christians, though scholars estimate that about 10 percent were Muslim.
- 3) Which Arab-American poet authored one of the best-selling books of all time?
Answer: The famous poet is Kahlil Gibran, the author of "The Prophet," which has sold more than 9 million copies in the United States alone and has been translated into dozens of languages.
- 4) Name the Arab-American actor who had the lead role in a TV show about an obsessive-compulsive investigator.
Answer: Tony Shalhoub, a Lebanese-American actor, starred on the TV show "Monk".
- 5) Who's the first women's studies professor at Harvard Divinity School?
Answer: In 1999, Egyptian-American Leila Ahmed became the first women's studies professor at Harvard Divinity School.
- 6) A famous Arab American has been a visionary consumer activist and four-time presidential candidate.
Answer: Ralph Nader, who is of Lebanese descent, has worked tirelessly on behalf of consumers and working people in this country for decades.
- 7) This Arab American is the executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies.
Answer: Dalia Mogahed is an executive at Gallup and was also named by President Obama as an advisor to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
- 8) What major international award did the Arab-American chemistry professor Ahmed Zewail win in 1999?
Answer: Ahmed Zewail is the second Arab American to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Elias Corey won the Chemistry prize in 1990.
- 9) This poet was showcased on Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on Broadway.
Answer: Suheir Hammad is a well-known Palestinian-American poet.