

Office of the MAYOR

CITY OF GROTON
CONNECTICUT

Proclamation

Muslim American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, the City of Groton is proud to recognize the contributions of the Muslim community and declare the month of January as Muslim American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Muslims are the world's second-largest religious community, practicing the Islamic faith. With 1.9 billion followers worldwide—representing approximately 25% of the global population—there are an estimated 3.45 million Muslims in the United States from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, making up approximately 1.1% of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, Muslims first arrived in North America among enslaved Africans, of whom historians estimate nearly 30% were Muslim. Their beliefs, resilience, and cultural traditions contributed to the early fabric of the United States, including service in every major war beginning with the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, Muslim scholars, scientists, artists, and thinkers have made profound contributions throughout history - advancing philosophy, mathematics, chemistry, physics, astronomy, medicine, music, architecture, literature, and the arts. Their philanthropy, humanitarian work, and civic engagement continue to enrich the United States socially, economically, and culturally; and

WHEREAS, nearly 150,000 Muslim Americans reside in Connecticut, representing one of the most vibrant and diverse Muslim communities in the nation. Their contributions help strengthen the local economy, enrich community life, and enhance the cultural diversity of our state and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton is committed to supporting the rights, dignity, and inclusion of all its residents. We stand firmly against prejudice and bigotry in all forms and proudly celebrate the diversity that strengthens our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jill Rusk, Mayor of the City of Groton, do hereby proclaim the month of January **MUSLIM AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH** in our community, and encourage all residents to honor, celebrate, and learn from the rich history and contributions of Muslim Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the City of Groton, this twentieth day of January, 2026.

Jill Rusk

Jill Rusk, Mayor, City of Groton

