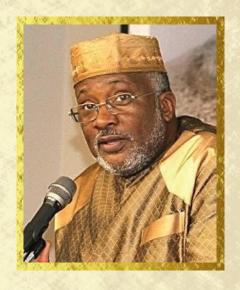
5TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH BANQUET

honoring

IMAM MICHAEL "MIKAL" SAAHIR

as the

2019 INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR





السلام عرايدام

WELCOME TO THE 5TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH BANQUET

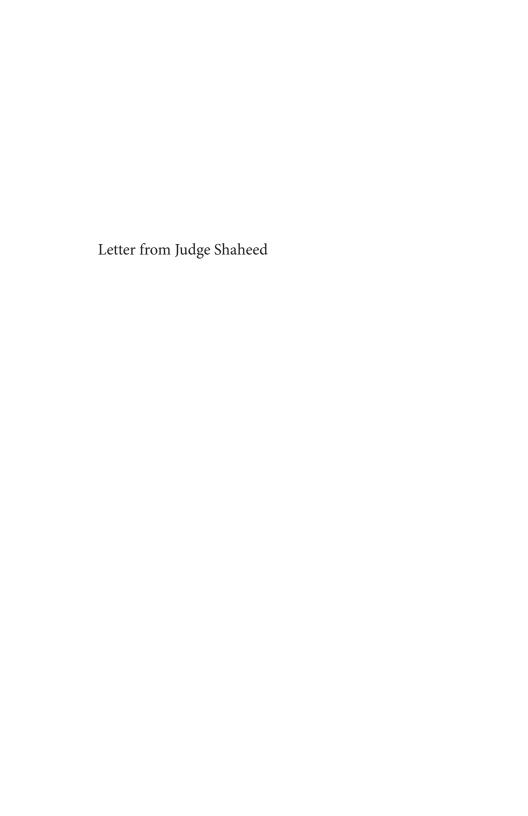
THE CENTER FOR INTERFAITH COOPERATION EXISTS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY IN CENTRAL INDIANA AND BEYOND BY:

SUPPORTING EXISTING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN AND AMONG FAITH COMMUNITIES;

FOSTERING ADDITIONAL INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGH SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND EDUCATIONAL
INTERACTIONS; AND CONNECTING INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES
THROUGH VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSOR!







Music

Kayla Behforouz & Rainie Grant by the main

Welcome

Charlie Wiles - Introduce MCs Virgil and Shelia Boyd

Welcome to Martin University

Dr. Eugene White

Interfaith Blessing

Michael Wilson & Ruth Ellen Homer

Song

Norah Wilson

Dinner is served

Ambassador Award Ceremony

Interfaith Ambassador Video Documentary

Keynotes

Imam Muhammad Siddeeq & Rev. Carol Johnston

Song

Wilmore Sadiki

Award presentation

Judge David Shaheed & Sr. Norma Rocklage

Remarks

Imam Mikal & Carolyn Saahir

CIC's Vision & Call for Support

Reverend Brian Shivers, Judge David Shaheed & Charlie Wiles

Song

Wilmore Sadiki

Interfaith Benediction

Rabbi Lew Weiss & Imam Ahmed Alamine

Menu

Bean Pie

A bean pie is a sweet custard pie whose filling consists of mashed or blended beans, usually navy bean, sugar, eggs, milk, butter, and spices. Common spices and flavorings include vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bean pies are commonly associated with the African American Muslim cuisine, except those containing vanilla extract or imitation vanilla extract because they contain alcohol. The bean pie began with the Nation of Islam movement and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad but today this pie is common in many Muslim American diets.

Reverend Brian Shivers, Judge David Shaheed & Charlie Wiles

Music Credits:
Credits Credits Credits Credits Credits



Welcome.

On behalf of the state of Indiana, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2019 Interfaith Banquet. Congratulations to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation on hosting this event!

Our state is proud to be home to many religious institutions. People of all faiths in Indiana and across this country represent the very best of what it means to be faithful Americans. I have the sincere hope that this event can further strengthen the bonds between Hoosiers of all faiths.

Tonight, we have a chance to honor an individual as the 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. Imam Michael Saahir has inspired Hoosiers through his leadership in building interfaith communities throughout Central Indiana. His commitment to Hoosiers of different faiths encourages constructive dialogue and empowers our communities.

I wish you all the best for a successful event tonight and for your mission of taking our state to the Next Level by promoting faith and friendship in our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Holcomb

EMC Howard



CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION for Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir

Please accept this Congressional Recognition in honor of receiving the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. We gather today not only to recognize your many accomplishments but to honor you for using these platforms to uplift countless individuals. For years you have helped bridge gaps between-communities; building relationships and bridges between brothers and sisters of the Islamic, Jewish, and Christian faiths. Your guidance has been instrumental in the spiritual development of those in our community and I have no doubt your service will have a lasting impact. Best wishes and I pray you will continue to be blessed with health, longevity, and happiness.

This Congressional Recognition is rendered on behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana this 24th Day of March, 2019.

Andre Carson Member of Congress



OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN W. BROOKS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FIFTH DISTRICT

March 24, 2019

Dear Mr. Saahir,

It is my great pleasure to join your friends and family in congratulating you on being named The Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year! It is a true honor to have you as a leader in our great state.

Your dedication and commitment to strengthening and fostering interfaith relationships throughout our community is something you should be extremely proud of. We all come from different walks of life, backgrounds and faiths, and it is important that we can work together to ensure the health and vitality of our towns, cities, and neighborhoods. Individuals like yourself are an inspiring example to all of us and I thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for our community.

Once again, congratulations on being named the 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. I wish you the very best as you continue to make a lasting difference here, in the Hoosier state.

Sincerely

Susan W. Brooks Member of Congress

MAN W BIDAKA)



March 24, 2019

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 5th Annual Interfaith Banquet presented at Martin University by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

This celebration of religious diversity is an opportunity for Hoosiers from across the spectrum of spiritual beliefs and faith backgrounds to share in fellowship and entertainment. The Center for Interfaith Cooperation's mission to build stronger connections among faith communities and foster an interfaith network is vital for the success of Indianapolis—after all, our city is only made stronger when we celebrate our differences.

Tonight, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir on being named the 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year, for their incredible dedication to the interfaith community in Central Indiana and around the world. Imam Saahir's extensive involvement in the Muslim community and long list of achievements in interfaith collaboration demonstrates his ability to unite people in their diversity. As global societies continue to change, he and his wife Carolyn remain foremost leaders in the faith community, advocating for understanding, sincerity, and love.

To all in attendance tonight, I thank you for your commitment to connecting the diverse faith communities in Indianapolis. I wish attendees, honorees, and special guests all the best for an enjoyable evening.

Best regards,

Joseph H. Hogsett

Mayor

City of Indianapolis





March 5, 2019

Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir Nur-Allah Islamic Center 2040 E. 46th Street Indianapolis, IN 46205

Dear Imam Saahir:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on becoming the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's "Interfaith Ambassador of the Year" – an honor that is fitting and a testament to your dedication of helping build a thoughtful and welcoming community.

It is a privilege to recognize Hoosier individuals who have made significant contributions to their community with selfless devotion. The citizens of Carmel join with me in sending hearty congratulations and best wishes as you enjoy the many accolades you will undoubtedly receive for the well-deserved honor.

Very truly yours,

James Brainard Mayor

Congratulations to Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year

Thank you for your years of community service as a religious leader at Nur-Allah Islamic Center and for your 38 years of dedication and service with the Indianapolis Fire Department.



Thank you to our Gold Sponsors

Congratulations Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir on your outstanding work in interfaith engagement in Central Indiana. Your years of service to the community are greatly appreciated and we thank you!



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Plainfield

2412 E. Main St. Plainfield, IN 46168

COMING SOON

Brownsburg

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Greenwood

5853 N. SR 135 Greenwood, IN 46142

Noblesville West

2602 Westfield Road Noblesville, IN 46060



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God came to my house and asked for charity.

And I fell on my knees and cried, "Beloved, what may I give?"

"Just love," He said. "Just love."

-St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) translation: Daniel Ladinsky

Thank you, Imam Saahir For bringing all our community your love.

Bill and Lynn Jackson

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors

Congratulations Imam Saahir! 2019 Interfaith Ambassador of Year

Sachiko & Charlie Wiles In loving memory of Jeanne Parker Wiles (1936-2014) & Masahiro Utsumi (1931-2014)

Long may you run...



Imam Saahir with Reverend David Berry visiting Petra on an interfaith journey to the Middle East in 2004

Thank you to our Interfaith Leader Circle Associate Sponsor



Your friends at the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana recognize and value the interfaith work and community service you have done over the years! We join in celebrating you as Interfaith Ambassador of the Year.



Thank you to our Interfaith Leader Circle Associate Sponsor





Second Presbyterian Church celebrates Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir and his tireless work to deepen understanding and strengthen relationships between people of different faith and ethnic backgrounds in Central Indiana and beyond.

Thank you to our Interfaith Leader Circle Associate Sponsor



Thank you to our Silver Sponsors

Today, we honor someone who makes a difference every day.



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UNIVERSITY of INDIANAPOLIS

The University of Indianapolis congratulates

Imam Michael "Mikal" Saahir

2019 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year

"As-Salaam-Alaikum"

From you, we have learned the significance of this Muslim greeting: "Peace to you!"

Some of us met you at interfaith events in the 1990s. Others met you during the Jewish-Christian-Muslim Scripture Trialogue Study of Jonah in 2002. Still others of us worked alongside you in the Children of Abraham Habitat for Humanity projects.

You have also been a good friend of UIndy's chaplains. We are grateful for the counsel you have offered our campus ministry groups regarding programming with Muslim students. You helped us make arrangements for space for Muslim women and men for daily prayers and Koran study. Your advice has been practical and wise.

Like many others in Indianapolis, we have benefited from the interfaith hospitality you have offered groups visiting Nur Allah Islamic Center, where you have patiently explained Muslim religious practices and beliefs. More recently, UIndy students in First Year Seminars have also benefited from your presentations about Islam.

We give thanks for all that you have given the city of Indianapolis across the years. We give thanks for our shared work through the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

Michael G. Cartwright, Vice President of University Mission and Students and Staff of the Office of Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs McCleary Chapel Ministries, University of Indianapolis