

UPF Washington DC Commemorates Parents' Day 2016

Tomiko Duggan
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Washington, D.C. – On Sunday, July 24th, UPF USA – Washington DC office held a National Parents Day program at the Founder's Room of The Washington Times.

The establishment of Parents' Day was the result of the efforts of a bipartisan, multiracial and interfaith coalition of religious, civic and elected leaders who recognized the need to promote responsible parenting in our society and to uplift ideal parental role models, especially for our nation's children. The celebration in July of Parents Day would build and expand on the celebrations of Mothers Day in May and Father's Day and June.

A Congressional Resolution that was signed into law on October 14, 1994 by President Clinton determined that the fourth Sunday of every July would be a national holiday to honor the crucial role of all parents in supporting the life of the nation.



Included among the 54 attendees and UPF supporters at the UPF USA – Washington DC office National Parents Day program were some special guests: H.E. Thelma Patricia Phillip Browne, Ambassador of St. Kitts and Naves; Grand Sufi Sahibzada Riaz Sultan, a direct descendant of a great Sufi of Subcontinent of Pakistan; and previous National Parents Day awardees from 2002, Minister and Mrs. Amar Nath Gupta and from 2003, Dr. and Mrs. Zulfiqar Kazmi.

In her welcoming remarks Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, Executive Director, UPF USA – Washington, DC Office, presented the historical background and vision behind the commemoration of National Parents Day. In recognizing the official support for 2016 Parents Day holiday from congressional offices and government officials, she referred to UPF Founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon's frequent holding up the ideal of the family as the "School of Love" and as a training ground for the character of future generations. She said "Today is a day to honor our parents and rededicate our commitment to raise children by manifesting

the highest standard of unconditional true love so that children will know they are loved by, nurtured, and protected, and will continue that tradition in creating their own good families.”

Mrs. Mabrouka “Mimi” Hassanein, Senior Fellow and Middle Eastern Community Liaison in Montgomery County, Maryland was an energetic, embracing and inspirational keynote speaker. Mrs. Hassanein, emigrated from Egypt 40 years and became the first Muslim woman to become a councilmember in Montgomery County. She shared her life experience and education into American culture as a mother who discovered the surprising nuances of American life and culture through her involvement in volunteering for her children’s schools and support of the local PTA

Following the keynote speaker was the ceremonial recognition of new UPF Ambassadors for Peace. They are the following: Mabrouka Hassanein, Senior Fellow and Middle Eastern Community Liaison for Montgomery County; Grand Sufi Sahibzada Riaz Sultan, a direct descendant of a great Sufi of Subcontinent of Pakistan; MIMOZA Dajci, President, “Peace and Love”; and Fawzia Etemadi, Member , Afghanistan High Peace Council and Organizer for “Sport for Peace” in Afghanistan

After Mrs. Nanae Goto offered songs “You Raised Me Up” and “God Bless America”, the program concluded with the recognition that National Parents Day provides an opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to all parents for their selfless commitment to raising healthy children and the accompanying lifelong commitment to nurturing relationships with others.

UPF US – Washington, DC office has received the Proclamation and supporting letters for the National Parents Day from the following officials.

Senator Ben Cardin, United States Senate – Maryland

Senator Mark R. Warner, United States Senate – Virginia

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings – House of Representative Seventh District, Maryland

Congresswoman Donne Edwards – House of Representative Fourth District, Maryland

Rushern L. Baker III – County Executive, Prince George’s County, Maryland

Council Brandon T. Todd, Councilmember, Ward 4, Washington, DC

Council Kenyan R. McDuffie, Councilmember, Ward 5, Washington, DC

Thank you for commemorating for the National Parents Day, 2016!

