

IAFC hosts Diwali dinner with Dallas Mayor Leppert at City Hall



IAFC Board members with Mayor Leppert and his wife.

Dallas: The Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) hosted a Diwali meeting with the Mayor of the Dallas City on November 17th, 2008 at the Dallas City Hall. This event was attended by more than 100 Indian American community leaders along with three Dallas City Council members and Mr. and Mrs. Mayor. Purnima Kumar acted as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Prasad Thotakura, General Secretary of the IAFC, in his welcoming address said "that City of Dallas and its suburbs have been very good for our community. No doubt, those over 100,000 Indians have chosen to make this vibrant metropolis their home. The economic opportunities here coincide with our talents, spicy Tex-Mex food satisfies our palate and weather makes me feel like I am in Hyderabad. The political, cultural and economic systems here are so well designed for us to fully engage and benefit without any discrimination. For that, we are thankful."

But the good news is that now we have realized our shortfall and are fast making up with these kinds of events. May it be a serving dinners at homeless shelter or funds for Katrina or Red Cross - our community is contributing generously.

"On political scene, Indians Americans are running and winning local, state and federal level positions. May it be Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana or a state Senator Swati Dandekar of Iowa? President-elect Obama has named four Indian Americans to his transition team. The man in charge of \$700B bailout package, Neal Kashkari, is of Indian origin. Sunita Williams, the female astronaut of Indian origin, was on one of NASA's longest space exploration journey.

"Mr. Mayor and Council members - I'm very glad to report that very recent India's first mission to the moon was very successful and carried six international payloads including one from NASA at Free of cost. But

of 1,000 books to needy children of Dallas the project headed by Mrs. Laura Leppert.

The Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) is the political voice of 2.5 million Indian-Americans. IAFC provides bipartisan support to candidates for federal, state and local office who support the issues that are important to the Indian-American community. IAFC has been recognized twice in the US Congress for its extraordinary work in building better bridges between the two largest democracies on this earth. IAFC played a key role in getting the Indo-US nuclear deal signed that allows the US companies such as General Electric and Westinghouse to sell atomic reactors and fuel to India.

Dallas City Mayor Tom Leppert in his speech said that "Diwali in USA is gaining an added significance every year in ever evolving American culture. I know that it is celebrated at the White House with a symbolic lighting of the lamp."

tion, banking, medicine, IT and engineering can't be ignored, while your entrepreneurship continues to create new jobs. Your investments in real estates have kept Dallas faring far better than the other US cities, even in this down market.

On the political scene, I hear more and more Indians are contesting for public offices. Indian American Friendship Council has been doing a great job in facilitating this process. You have realized that to make your mark and for your voice to be heard, this area can't be ignored. I invite you to come forward in Dallas area for such contribution and make Dallas

the best, vibrant, most desirable and safest city to live".

Once again, Happy Diwali.....with the lighting of the lamp.....may the illiteracy be eradicated, prosperity be everywhere and we all be blessed with best of health. People applauded Mayor when he announced that he would like to take a trade delegation to India next year.

Mrs. Laura Leppert thanked the IAFC leadership for supporting her initiatives such as Children Bookfare and awareness of the diabetic projects. She sincerely appreciated IAFC for pledging 1,000 books to give away to children.

IAFC Board members Piy-

ush Patel, Tara Reddy, Kundawala, Mita Guha Kalvala, Renee Dutia and Thotakura felicitated the Mayor Tom Leppert and Laura Leppert in an Indian traditional way by offering garland and plaque. Mrs. Dutia, IAFC Board for Diwali in her vote of thanks thanked Mr. and Mrs. Leppert to attend the dinner and volunteers like Mina Geeta, Diane, Purnima, Gaytha, all staff members of City of Dallas and all community leaders who made this so successful and Our Plate Indian Restaurant for providing sumptuous dinner.

Dr. Harb Hayre – Executive Committee Member & Treasurer of India House Inc. passes away



Dr. Harb Hayre

Long time Houstonian Dr. Harb Hayre, passed away very peacefully Tuesday, November 18th at 9.10 pm. with all his family at bedside.