

Sikh Invocation At The Indiana State House

By KP Singh

Posted: March 18, 2010

Kanwal Prakash Singh

In a historic first, the Sikh community of Indianapolis was invited to deliver the Invocation at the opening session of Indiana General Assembly on March 1, 2010. The invitation to deliver the Invocation came from the office of State Representative F. Dale Grubb, Caucus Chairman, and was delivered by long time Indiana resident and international community leader, KP Singh. Drawing inspirations from Sikh spirituality, commandments, and traditions, the Invocation (below) highlighted a spirit and principles of just laws that respect and safeguard human dignity and our shared hopes and prayers. For me, having survived the nightmare of the Partition of India almost 63 years ago, this moment stood as an undreamed-of blessing and a triumph for Indiana's emerging diversity. I felt pride and honor at the significance of the unimagined.



Sikh community representatives receiving the special House Resolution supporting the Sikh American community in central Indiana from Representative Mike Murphy at the opening session of the Indiana General Assembly on March 1, 2010. Photo credit: Greg Mitchell.

State Representative Michael Murphy thoughtfully initiated the passage of special Indiana House Resolution 0035 by the Members of the Indiana General Assembly in support of the central Indiana Sikh community. Copies of the House Resolution were presented to representatives of The Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis, Guru Nanak Sikh Society, and Gurdwara Sri Hargobind Sahibji. All three Sikh Temples are located in the Indianapolis Metropolitan area. The Invocation and Resolution presentations took place at the historic State House in the ornate Chamber of the Indiana General Assembly. The present State House, built in 1888 in Renaissance Revival architectural style with a grand Italian Renaissance interior, is located in the All-American City of Indianapolis that has also served as Indiana's State capitol since 1825.

BRAVE NEW FRONTIER AT OUR DOORSTEPS

The work of interfacing with civic, faith and community leaders, and institutions; learning about our responsibilities and opportunities; discovering and assuring our place in the future cultural

and societal fabric continues at many levels and in many forums in Indiana and the Nation. Engaged citizenship is one way to dispel ignorance and create a positive environment for the pursuit of our individual and collective dreams. Each of us has a stake and a claim to such a vision and its unimagined rewards. The cultural and spiritual tapestry taking shape across our landscape, in our communities and neighborhoods, are adding new layers to the rich mosaic of our national heritage. This brave new frontier at our doorsteps is a cause for celebration, for the strengths and pioneering spirit that it brings to our State and helping us see our future in an increasingly interconnected world. The Sikh Americans need to step forward, see the promise in front of them, and serve their communities with deep commitment, a shared sense of belonging.



KP Singh with Representatives Cindy Noe and Mike Murphy at the Indiana General Assembly before delivering the invocation on March 1, 2010. Photo credit: Robbie Singh

INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Indiana State House, Indianapolis
March 1, 2010
Invocation: Kanwal Prakash (KP) Singh

Inspiration: Sikh Faith Tradition

Representing: The Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis; Central Indiana Sikh Americans

Honorable Governor, Lt. Governor, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Members of Indiana House of Representatives, and special guests:

It is an honor to be with you this morning in this magnificent and historic Chamber. I feel the presence of Indiana's outstanding leaders and lawmakers, some of whom I have the great honor of meeting and learning about over the last four decades. Thank you for your thoughtful invitation to share a few words of inspiration before this august body that has been engaged in people's business for nearly two centuries. Let us together reflect for a few moments on that what above all speaks to our humanity:

Ik Ong Kaar; Wahegurujee Kee Fateh:

One Supreme God; all victories belong to the Amazing Immaculate Lord:

Wonderful Lord, we come to you in deep humility and thanksgiving.

Guide our spirit to celebrate and honor the fundamental Truths:

“IN GOD WE TRUST”

“ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL”

Each Living Being is a “Repository of the same Divine Light,”
All Creation threaded-in, moving forward under One Mighty Canopy of Universal Benevolence;

Anchored in this understanding, personally committing and rightly trusting
That our leaders, lawmakers, educators, ordinary citizens,
Other major contributors to life, liberty, happiness, and opportunities:

Fully recognizing our many dreams, our unique and shared interests;
Passionately exploring promising ideas, visiting every imaginative vision;
Wise stewardship of resources, knowing our changing landscapes and environment;
Tirelessly striving in building prosperous communities across our State that
Assure safety and well-being, rights and freedoms, peaceful pursuits of all Americans
Within the framework of just laws, creative and sound initiatives, our honored traditions.

As lawmakers, civic and faith leaders, professionals, people in every walk-of-life, may we enter
into faith with one another; direct our minds and mandates to the service of our State and our
Nation; safeguard and celebrate universal humanitarian and cherished traditions as a sacred
anchor and as our highest prayer.

Unified in our commitment to serve, may we uphold our laws; wisely mainstream our many
strengths, unique assets, and diverse experiences. We must harness the new pioneering spirit and
daring visions to shape a bright future for Indiana: where every fellow citizen sees himself or
herself as a welcome and proud partner; engaged, prepared, and encouraged to excel, and
confidently compete in the brave new world of tomorrow, today. We know that in time
unimagined rewards will follow. May the Light from above, bless our lawmakers, leaders, and
citizens to fairly enforce our laws; bless all who daily carry great burdens on our behalf, guide us
forward in the uncertain and momentous times on our horizons.

Indianapolis, Indiana USA

Copyright ©2010 IndyStar.com.