

National Parents' Day 2019

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ARBOR BALLROOM, THE WASHINGTON TIMES
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*Left: U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch greets Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1993.
Right: Dr. Moon addressing Members of Congress, staff, clergy and non-profit leaders.*

THE FOUNDING SPIRIT OF PARENTS DAY

On July 28, 1993, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-Founder and Chairwoman of the Women's Federation for World Peace, introduced the vision of a National Parents' Day in her address at the United States Capitol. She emphasized the importance of marriage and God-centered families as the primary solution to social and global problems. She was introduced by U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch, and supported by U.S. Senator Trent Lott, who proclaimed "True Parents Day." Sen. Lott urged his colleagues in the U.S. Senate, and all citizens of our nation, "to recognize and support True Parents Day and the restoration of God-centered families in our society."

Subsequently, a resolution establishing Parents' Day was enacted with bipartisan leadership and strong support in Congress — notably former Rep. Dan Burton, Indiana Republican; Rep. Floyd H. Flake, New York Democrat and now senior pastor of a Queens, N.Y., mega church; and former D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy. In 1994 President Bill Clinton signed a Bill establishing the Fourth Sunday of July as "Parents Day," a recurring and perennial day of commemoration. Since then, churches and community groups across the country have held annual activities designed to celebrate and strengthen families and to honor outstanding parents in their communities.

Parents Day has continued to enjoy Congressional and White House support. "Parents play a crucial role in shaping our lives and the life of our nation," Mr. Clinton said in 2000 in one of his proclamations in honor of Parents' Day. "We owe our parents — whether biological or adoptive, stepparents or foster parents — a profound debt of gratitude for their sacrificial efforts, unconditional love and constant devotion."

"Being a parent is the most important job in the world," President George W. Bush wrote in his 2001 proclamation. "As we hold a newborn in our arms or embrace an older adopted child, the promise we make in our hearts to love, protect and nurture our children stays with us and them forever. We are eternally linked to the children whom we are blessed to parent and to the generations before us who helped shape our lives."



*President Clinton meets with the 1995 Parents of Year honorees
in the Oval Room of the White House.*

Over the years, each state has selected Parents of the Year, with some of them going on to win the National Parents of the Year Award. Past honorees have been recognized not only for raising biological, adoptive or foster children, but also for helping those rebounding from unusual hardships, working for racial justice, helping those with disabilities and organizing projects for needy youth and supporting traditional family values.

*Excerpted from "National Parents Day 2016 Special Report,"
published in The Washington Times, July 21, 2016*

PARENTS DAY 2019 PROCLAMATIONS AND CONGRATULATORY LETTERS

Hon. Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland

Hon. Jim Justice, Governor of West Virginia

Hon. Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina

Hon. Benjamin Cardin, Member of United States Senate

Hon. Steny Hoyer, Democratic Whip, Member of Congress

Hon. Kenyan R. McDuffie, Council Member, Ward 5, District of Columbia

Hon. Brandon T. Todd, Council Member, Ward 4, District of Columbia

Mrs. Aisha Kahn, Member of Democratic Party State Central Committee, Maryland

Hon. Chris Van Hollen, Member of United States Senate

Hon. Trayton White, Sr., Council Member, Ward 8, District of Columbia

NATIONAL PARENTS OF THE YEAR



MR. DANIEL & MRS. ALISA ELLIS

The parenting philosophy that has guided the 24-year marriage of Daniel and Alisa Ellis, has been one of taking personal responsibility for one's culture and community and a lead-by-example manner of instructing their seven children through personal example. The Ellis family is heavily involved in volunteer efforts, including being founding members of "Gathering Families," an online community offering Latter Day Saint families and Judeo-Christian families a place to meet together to discuss ways of sustaining and defending the family as the pillar of society. All the Ellis children, including 9-year-old Caleb, have participated in service projects since childhood - helping neighbors with yardwork, collecting and distributing supplies to international refugees in their area, and a weekly outreach to invalids.

Understanding that the family is the first and best school of love and citizenship for a child, Alisa has served on the Utah State Board of Education and is a tireless proponent of citizen activism in the education process. Involved in the family, faith, and sacrificial service aspects of excellence in parenting, we honor Daniel and Alisa Ellis as National Parents of the Year for 2019.

FAITH COMMUNITY PARENTS OF THE YEAR



BISHOP CARLETON ENOCH & DR. BARBARA RAINEY

Bishop and Dr. Rainey have served as exemplary models of parents for three generations. They are the natural parents of four children and the adoptive parents of two. They have 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Centering on the African Union Methodist Protestant Conference as ministers, pastors, historians and lay teachers, they have spent their lives transitioning seamlessly between the pulpit and the community. In addition to their own family, they have unselfishly helped other youth to attend college with no strings attached. They have participated in boys and girls club sports as coaches and team mother, mentoring basketball and

football teams over the years. They bequeathed this challenge to their own children who have likewise learned to serve in this capacity. Community and faith-based programs they have founded, include loving guidance and mentoring efforts to identify and eradicate the environments conducive to the transmission of AIDS and other social diseases. They are the natural magnetic center for the dispensation of services and support for their large and varied community family.



MR. RIZWAN JAKA & MRS. PRISCILLA MARTINEZ

Rizwan Jaka is chairman of the board of the ADAMS Center (All Dulles Area Muslim Society). He and his wife, Priscilla, the parents of six children, live on the front line of harmony and cooperation among all the world's faiths. The two of them are powerfully involved in interfaith dialogue and affirmative bridge-building. The dialogues are not just among differing organizations, but exist permanently on a deeply familial level. Mr. Jaka's in-laws are Catholic, his cousin is Jewish and his aunt is Protestant. In addition to the official duties of administering the second largest mosque in the U.S., they are leaders of 3,000 youth, including 400 Boy and Girl Scouts in the ADAMS Center. Through the Scouting program they instill in the young people, the practice of selfless service to others. For example, he recently mentored

a boy's Eagle Scout project in which they helped to restore a former slave graveyard in Loudoun. Together they offer a vision of the diverse members of the body of God, rising to principles of unity that exist above all doctrines.

PARENTS OF THE YEAR FOR OUTSTANDING SACRIFICE



ELDER ADRIAN & MRS. ALICE BARNES

Elder Adrian and Mrs. Barnes are the parents of nine children. As an elder at the Rehoboth Church of God in Christ Jesus Apostolic in a West Baltimore neighborhood that has had some hard times, he is the pastor for the young people of the church. This means attending the extracurricular activities at their schools, as well as the constant effort to make sure the children get to church and are fed. They provide funds for summer activities to keep them occupied and out of trouble. Their living example has inspired their daughter to study medicine to become a pediatrician. With a son who deals with epilepsy on a daily basis, and suffering kidney failure himself, the family had many reasons to turn inward. But they have never given in to despair and have never eased back on their mission to help the young.



DR. DAVID & DIANA SALIK

David and Diana Salik have faced daunting challenges as a couple. They weathered the heartache of a disabled child who required 24-hour special care, who died at age two. They endured oppression in war-torn Pakistan before fleeing due to the extreme persecution of Christians. After many years of barely surviving in Pennsylvania, their videography company began to make money. The couple immediately used their money to help impoverished families and Christian refugees in Pakistan. They sent up to \$4,000 per month to Pakistan to help families pay the school fees for their children, and once to help displaced flood victims. In 2011 they lost their major client and were suddenly facing bankruptcy. Their house was foreclosed. Driving for Uber and doing freelance photography, while ignoring their

own plight, they managed to continue sending \$200 a month to help improve the conditions of Christians in Pakistani detention camps. They embody the quality of living for the sake of others.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP PARENTS OF THE YEAR



DR. SALEEM & DR. IVY HYLTON

Dr. Saleem and Dr. Ivy are devoted parents of three and grandparents of five. They are also devoted to interfaith work, a road with get personal significance to them. They began their walk of faith as Christians, then became Muslims, and are now practitioners of a brand of faith that encompasses all traditions. With "my family is my life," as their guidepost, both have devoted their entire lives to supporting their family, and also reaching out to help other families across the country through the founding of Youth and Families in Crisis, LLC which provides training and professional development in restorative justice practices in schools, re-entry programs for youth coming out of jail, along with strategies for domestic violence and coping with life. Dr. Saleem Hylton is a human development program developer, and motivational speaker. Dr. Ivy Hylton is a licensed clinical therapist, author and trainer.



HON. BOB & MRS. UTUFA'ASILI (UTU) MCDERMOTT

Representative Bob McDermott is in his seventh term in the Hawaii State Legislature. Retiring from the Marines as a Captain after the first Gulf war, the couple gave birth to their first of three children. They also rescued five more children from abusive and drug-abuse situations, bringing their brood to eight. "Our children are all bi-racial, and my wife and I are, so they fit in," he said. Today, they are blessed with eight grandchildren and growing. He has been vigilant in protecting the residents of the Ewa District, preventing an objectionable sexual lifestyles program for 10-year-olds that was proposed for public schools in violation of parental rights. Mrs. McDermott serves in two hospitals, applying her training as

a Master of Pastoral Theology, to comfort the dying. She is the spiritual backbone of the family, ensuring regular church attendance and leading the adult ministry at her parish. Adopting children and continual service in the public sphere is their way to return blessings from God. In giving back, they are bright beacons of light, shining by example, for their family and community.



GEN. TOM & MRS. VIRGINIA MULLIKIN

Major General Tom Mullikin, South Carolina State Guard (ret), and Virginia are

the parents of four children, and grandparents as well. But their parental role extends far beyond their physical family. The Mullikins are a powerful force for unity among the races in an area with a difficult history. Using their natural gifts, resources and talents, they mentor and direct young boys and girls of diverse cultures and ethnicities to be able to reach their highest levels of success. Coach Tom Mullikin uses a high school summer basketball program to hone the skills of young and gifted African American boys, to help them go on to universities and play at the college level, one of them even reaching the NFL. Virginia has lent her

leadership skills to numerous volunteer efforts and free medical clinics. They constantly look for ways to leverage motivated youth, hiring some in their law practice and giving scholarships and financial assistance to others. Tom has been confronted with two bouts of cancer, but God has restored his health threefold, and he and Virginia have pledged their lives to the racial reconciliation of South Carolina, America and the world.

NATIONAL PARENTS' DAY 2019 COALITION AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Ki-Hoon Kim, Regional Chairman, Family Federation for a Heavenly USA

Rev. Demian Dunkley, President, Family Federation for a Heavenly USA

Dr. Michael Jenkins, President, Universal Peace Federation International

Min. Reiko Jenkins, National Selection Committee

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