

Alabama-Israel Task Force

Remembering Our Past, Shaping Our Future

LEGACY OF HONOR • MORAL RESPONSIBILITY • GENERATIONAL COMMITMENT • VITAL LEADERSHIP

The Vision - Bridges and Brotherhood

Mission - The Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF) seeks to provide a **bridge** and catalyst for **broader** cooperative efforts and help cultivate an even **stronger** and expanding state-to-state **relationship** between Alabama and Israel for the **mutual benefit** of their people.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Alabama Hosts Regional Night to Stand with Israel 6:30pm Sunday October 26th, 2014

While we are **grateful** for the current truce in the Gaza conflict, and cautiously hopeful it will continue to hold, the recent terror and aggression of Hamas and global show of such vitriol toward Israel and the Jewish people demands not only continued vigilance, but a strong and continuing stand from the friends of Israel at strategic times.

In an effort to not be silent, and make clear the recent expression of support for Israel was not limited to only an immediate crisis, the **Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF)** will be hosting in Alabama high-level leadership from the **Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)** from **Sderot, Israel** to **provide a first-hand update from Sderot** on recent events, and also share the **broader vision of cooperative state-to-state efforts** we are pursuing with the Israel Leadership Institute, including a current Alabama-Israel Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (EPDR) initiative.

We live in a time when anti-Semitic rhetoric grows louder and bolder. We live in a time of growing international hostility toward Israel and the Jewish people - with international leaders publicly calling the holocaust a myth, stating their intent to wipe Israel off the map, and denying any historical Jewish connection to the Temple Mount, Jerusalem, or the Holy Land. We live in a time when a movement to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Israel is further seeking to isolate and delegitimize Israel and the Jewish people worldwide. **Who will stand with Israel in these volatile times?**

Event Brief

Event: Regional Night to Stand With Israel, Hosted in North Alabama

Date: 6:30pm-8pm CST Sunday October 26th, 2014

Location: Calvary Epicenter Campus - located on Hwy 20 at I-65/I-565 interchange ([4839 Calvary Blvd Tanner, AL 35671](http://www.CalvaryAssembly.org))

Host: Calvary Assembly (www.CalvaryAssembly.org) and the Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF) (www.AITF-Web.org)

Purpose:

- Provide regional opportunity to publicly stand in solidarity with Israel in these critical times
- Build awareness of why standing and supporting Israel is especially timely and important with such aggressive growth of global anti-Semitism, hostility, and efforts to delegitimize Israel and the Jewish people
- Provide tangible support of Israel, cultivating the Alabama-Israel relationship, through cooperative efforts and support of the Israel Leadership Institute (ILI) in Sderot, Israel – including the Alabama-Israel EPDR Initiative with the ILI in Sderot.

Host Location:

- Calvary Epicenter Campus - The regional host location is at the crossroads of the valley and gateway to North Alabama, midway between Nashville and Birmingham at the intersection of I-65 and I-565. Calvary Assembly, began in a storefront, has grown to over 2000 in attendance each week at three campuses. It is a recipient of the prestigious Lilly Foundation Award as one of the top-300 Protestant Churches in America.

Historic 1943 Resolution - Special Commemoration:

- In 1943, Alabama led the nation in an official call for the establishment of the Jewish state and homeland. The unanimous joint resolution passed both state houses five years before Israel was reborn as a nation, urging both the United States and the United Nations to action. This call came in the midst of World War II, when the axis powers were not only waging world war against America and Europe, but also seeking the mass murder and systematic extermination of the Jewish people.
- There will be presentation of a special gift to Consul General Aviran - a commemorative plaque inscribed with text from Alabama archives of the 1943 Resolution from Alabama calling for the establishment of the Jewish state and homeland

Leadership Development • Economic Opportunity • Cultural Understanding and Community Partnership • Student Exchange and Academic Cooperation • Strategic Forums For Next Generation Leaders • Joint Initiatives Inspired From Biblical Faith

Declaration – Renewed Commitment in Our Generation:

- There will be highlighted the People’s Declaration that was drafted in Alabama as a Call to Reaffirmation of the Historic 1943 Resolution and Renewed Commitment in Our Generation (<http://www.aitf-web.org/declaration.htm>)

Special Guests or Personal Message:

- Mo Brooks – U.S. Congressman, Host District (AL-05)
- Opher Aviran - Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern U.S.
- Eeki (Itshak) Elnor - Founder, Israel Leadership Institute (ILI), Sderot – Israel
- Brigadier General Gal Hirsch - Chairman of Board, Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)
- Danny Danon – Member Knesset, Former Deputy Minister of Defense (Netanyahu Cabinet)

Additional Details and Background

Speakers (Bio)

Opher Aviran - Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern U.S.

- Bio: <http://embassies.gov.il/atlanta/AboutTheEmbassy/Pages/Meet-the-Consul-General.aspx>

Eeki (Itshak) Elnor - Founder, Israel Leadership Institute (ILI), Sderot – Israel (on the Gaza border)

- Bio: <http://www.aitf-web.org/doc/Eeki-Elnor-Bio.pdf>

The Israel Leadership Institute (ILI)

The Israel Leadership Institute (ILI) serves as one of Israel's most advanced and creative leadership schools with a board of directors that includes some of Israel's most distinguished leaders across a variety of disciplines. The ILI is a non-profit organization based in Sderot, on the Israeli-Gaza border. Its choice of location, in one of the most dangerous places in Israel, has gained the ILI an outstanding reputation as a symbol of the struggle for democracy, freedom, and the fight against terror, and has made Sderot an “epicenter” of leadership development in Israel. The institute vision includes equipping the next generation of leadership in Israel with Biblical values and leadership principles.

- The Alabama ILI Connection: http://www.aitf-web.org/ai_bridge.htm
- The ILI Website: <http://www.israeleader.org/>

The Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF)

The Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF) seeks to provide a bridge and catalyst for broader cooperative efforts and help cultivate an even stronger and expanding state-to-state relationship between Alabama and Israel for the mutual benefit of their people. The AITF facilitates state-to-state cooperation in areas of mutual interest including: Leadership Development, Economic Opportunity, Cultural Understanding and Community Partnership, Student Exchange and Academic Cooperation, Strategic Forums for Next Generation Leaders, and Joint Initiatives Inspired from Biblical Faith.

- The AITF Website: <http://www.aitf-web.org/index.html>

The Alabama-Israel EPDR Initiative

The AITF and ILI have launched a joint initiative to establish an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (EPDR) Center in Israel for the training of emerging young Israeli leaders in different aspects of emergency and disaster response. At a later stage, the center will also provide opportunity for leaders from Alabama to also be trained with their Israeli colleagues. The center is a gift from the people of Alabama to Israel, while both states will benefit from its vital work. It will help Israel confront some of its most complicated challenges in a time when crucially needed, and also provide unique opportunity for cross-leadership training in a field of great interest to both states.

- Alabama-Israel EPDR Initiative: http://www.aitf-web.org/ai_epdr.htm

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

John Buhler - (877) 770-9387 or John.Buhler@AITF-Web.org

Laura King - (877) 770-9387 or Laura.King@AITF-Web.org

Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF) - www.AITF-Web.org



Leadership Development • Economic Opportunity • Cultural Understanding and Community Partnership • Student Exchange and Academic Cooperation • Strategic Forums For Next Generation Leaders • Joint Initiatives Inspired From Biblical Faith