



Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF)

For immediate release

- **For the first time ever: two Huntsville community leaders among recipients of The Israel Leadership Award**
- **Pastor David Nelson and Dr. Richard Brooks are the grantees of The Israel Leadership Award 2016**
- **The two are among four Alabamians to be honored with the award this year**
- **It's the first year that The Israel Leadership Award is presented in Alabama**
- **The Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset will arrive in Huntsville especially for the ceremony**



Pastor David Nelson



Dr. Richard Brooks

The Israel Leadership Award has been one of the most prestigious honors, granted in recent years to political leaders, Church leaders, and public figures around the USA. Two Huntsville leaders: **Pastor David Nelson** of the Rock Family Worship Center, and **Dr. Richard Brooks**, of the Huntsville Hospital (and outgoing president of the Huntsville and North Alabama Jewish Federation) are among recipients this year.

Since 2012, the award was presented to leaders in **New York, Ohio, and Florida**. Honorees were decorated for their long time and remarkable support of Israel.

A unique cooperation in recent years between the Israel Leadership Institute (in Israel) and the **Alabama-Israel Task Force** (AITF), has brought to a deeper involvement of Alabama leaders in promoting a stronger relationship between the two states. The two organizations have been working since 2013 towards conducting cross-leadership training programs – for the benefit of the two parties: Alabama and Israel.

This year, **AITF has recommended** to the Israeli board of The Israel Leadership Award to include four **Alabama leaders** in the list of candidates from all over the USA. Due to their outstanding contribution to the relationship between Israel and Alabama, Pastor **David Nelson**, Dr. **Richard Brooks**, together with State-Senator **Arthur Orr**, and State-Representative **Victor Gaston** have been chosen for the **2016 award**.

The importance of the award can be viewed by the **special arrival of the Deputy Speaker** of the Israeli parliament – **the Knesset** – coming from Jerusalem to present the award to the recipients. The Honorable **Hilik Bar** told the leadership of the AITF: **“I am very excited to be the highest rank Israeli leader to ever visit Alabama, and am anxious to meet the people of this state, that has been a great friend of Israel”**.

The ceremony will take place at **“The Alabama-Israel Leadership Gala 2016”**, on Saturday, **April 9th** 2016, 7PM, at **The Epicenter**, 4839 Calvary Blvd., Tanner. For seats reservations: <http://www.aitf-web.org/>