

Press release ~ Israel Leadership Institute ~ October 2017

**Kay Ivey**, Governor of Alabama is announced the 2017 recipient of The Israel Leadership Award ~ Hundreds of Jewish and Christian leaders are expected to gather on November 18<sup>th</sup> for the event where Ivey will be honored ~ **Eeki Elnor**, founder and CEO of The Israel Leadership Institute: “Ivey has demonstrated an outstanding leadership and her support for Israel is one of its kind” ~ **Deputy Speaker** of the Israeli Knesset, MK **Hilik Bar**: “ As we celebrate this year the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem, I could think of no other leader in Alabama like Governor Ivey to deserve the award” ~ Israeli Brigadier General **Gal Hirsch** will arrive for the ceremony from Israel to present the award to the Governor ~ *The Alabama-Israel Leadership Gala 2017* will be held in Huntsville, on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 (at The Epicenter, 4839 Calvary Blvd., Tanner).

The second Alabama-Israel Leadership Annual Gala is dedicated this year to celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the liberation and unification of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

The Gala is organized by the Alabama-Israel Task Force (**AITF**), in cooperation with its Israeli partner: The Israel Leadership Institute. The two institutes work together in recent years towards creating outstanding opportunities for the two states to cooperate and engage in mutual projects, and primarily to build bridges between leaders of communities in Alabama and Israel. AITF was founded and is led by co-chairperson Ms. **Laura King** and Mr. **John Buhler**.

The event will include the ceremony of The Israel Leadership Award, where Governor Kay Ivey will receive the **2017 Israel Leadership Award**, for her leadership and strong support of Israel. Israeli leaders are expected to greet the Governor for the occasion, and Israeli Brigadier General – Gal Hirsch will attend the event - and together with Eeki Elnor will present the award to the governor.

USA laureates of the award since 2011 – Political, Academic and Community leaders in three different US states - have been chosen for their personal leadership; their commitment to their public mission; their strong support for Israel, and their unique contribution to the relationships between Israel and their state.

The Steering-Committee of The Israel Leadership Institute has made this decision based on the recommendation of the leadership of The Alabama-Israel Task Force (AITF), and the announcement was delivered immediately to the Governor.

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