

# Imam Dr. Talib Shareef, Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque



**Dr. Talib M. Shareef** is President and Imam of the historic, Nation's Mosque, Masjid Muhammad, in Washington, D.C., an institution with a history dating back to the mid 1930s. The retired U.S. Air Force veteran with 30+ years of distinguished service is a student of the late Imam Dr. W. D. Mohammed, the Muslim-American Spokesman for Humanity.

From offering the opening prayer atop the steps of the hallowed Lincoln Memorial for the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington and honoring Coretta Scott King at Sojourner Douglass College to serving as key speaker at former President George H.W. Bush's Points of Light Conference Faith Summit and hosting presidential candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders, at the Nation's Mosque to address the issue of religious bigotry, Dr. Shareef is a familiar face whether on Capitol Hill, at civic, or religious venues.

He serves as a council member for the National Summit on Non-Violence, a member of the D.C. Mayor's Interfaith Council, and President of the Interfaith Conference based in the nation's capital. He is also Imam and Vice Commander for the National Muslim American Veterans Association (MAVA) and has served as keynote speaker for the Pentagon and Homeland Security Iftars, and co-initiated efforts that led to the U.S. Military commissioning its first Islamic Chaplain.

Internationally, he is just as adept a leader and global citizen as an Advisor to the Global Peace Foundation USA. He participated in the signing of the Abuja Peace Declaration organized by the International Global Peace Foundation and Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria and was also the leader of an interfaith delegation to Italy where he met with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Shareef has met with various local, national and international leaders in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an official guest. He has served as U.S. Imam and Speaker at the World Alliance of Religions for Peace in Seoul Korea, the Global Peace Conventions in South America and Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom; he has traveled with a special delegation to the Middle East for orientation on the complex issues of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship.

On the continent of Africa, he addressed the South African Embassy on the occasion of the Life and Legacy Celebration honoring former South African President Nelson Mandela (R) and led a historic delegation to deliver an address to over 500,000 South African and other citizens gathered for the occasion. As a leading voice against terrorism and violent religious extremism, he facilitated the Peace Forum at the Global Peace Convention at Manila in the Philippines.

The Imam holds a Doctoral Degree from Global Oved Dei Seminary and University, an MBA from American Intercontinental University, and Diplomas from the Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Arabic and Middle East Studies.

Among Dr. Shareef's honors...he was selected Denver's Spectrum Newspaper's *"Who's Who" among African American Leaders*, and selected for *Muslim Journal's* Imam of the Year Award. He is recipient of the *Imam W.D. Mohammed Interfaith Ambassador Award* and the NAACP's *Roy Wilkins Leadership Award*. Dr. Shareef made history as the first U.S. veteran and Imam to open a session of the U.S. Congress with prayer and received the honor of co-organizing and leading the first Islamic congregational prayer at the Washington National Cathedral. He was honored to sit with the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, former President Barack Obama at the White House during Iftar, where the President honored him with recognition of his service.

Under the high patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco, Dr. Shareef is recipient of the Kingdom's highest Royal Medal and honor for his outstanding interfaith leadership.

He and his wife of 39 years, Tahirah, have three children, seven grandchildren, and are the custodial parents of three others and have been foster parents to several children.