



**Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC)  
Texas State Chapter**

(Non-profit, Nonpartisan, Non-religious, National Organization)  
P.O. Box 610865, Dallas, TX 75261

[www.inamfc.org](http://www.inamfc.org)

*Annual Awards Banquet*  
“connecting the communities — making a difference”

Jan 16, 2004

Bedford, TX

Dallas/Ft. Worth



**Dr. Krishna Reddy, CA**  
Founder/President

### **Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC)**

#### History:

Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC), a non-profit, non-partisan, non-religious, national organization was founded in 1990 by Dr. Krishna Reddy of California, is commitment to promote stronger relations between the United States and India, the two largest democracies in the world. IAFC has been thoroughly educating the policy making body of the United States and has made diligent efforts to promote cordial Indo-US relations. Though IAFC is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA and has another office in Washington D.C., the establishment of several active and prominent chapters throughout the USA has allowed IAFC to operate as a vast network to promote its mission.

#### Achievements:

- IAFC has been recognized twice by the US Congress for its outstanding role in building better and stronger Indo-US relations
- IAFC has played a key role in making the 'Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans' as the largest caucus in the US House of Representatives increasing the caucus' size from 6 members to over 170
- IAFC hosts Legislative Conferences every year in July at Washington D.C., in which more than 150 US Congressmembers, Senators, and other dignitaries from both Democrat and Republican parties attend
- IAFC has established links between Indian Parliament and US Congress
- IAFC annually recognizes the contributions made by Indian Americans, who are involved in all aspects of cultural and economic life

#### Mission:

IAFC's mission is to create political awareness among Indian Americans, and maintain an ongoing dialogue with local, national and international policy makers as well as to educate, encourage, and involve Asian Indian Americans with voter registrations, volunteerism, community service, and youth leadership training, better the ties between the USA and India, protect the interests of the Indian-American community, promote global democracy, and support developing countries.

## Ambassador Agnihotri



**Bhishma K. Agnihotri**

*MA, LLB, LLM, LLD (Hon.)*

**Ambassador-at-Large for NRIs & PIOs (Global)**

Realizing the tremendous standing and importance of Indians settled abroad, Government of India created a special position of Ambassador-at-Large for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) worldwide. In August 2001, Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee selected the most deserving and qualified person to be the first ever Ambassador at Large for NRIs/PIOs (global). Shri B.K. Agnihotri represents 22 million Indians settled abroad and is a bridge builder for a global family of Indians.

Everyday, he is addressing the concerns and issues of the countrymen settled abroad whether first generation, second generation or generations which came 150 years ago like in Caribbean islands, Guyana, Surinam and Trinidad & Tobago etc. From one corner of USA to another he has met and has explained his vision and has amassed hundreds of volunteers to help him in his noble mission and pursuits.

His interaction with Heads of States (some in Caribbean of Indian origin) has brought them on board for better coordination with non-resident Indian Diaspora and also with India.

His goals of global Indian family, connecting NRIs and PIOs back to India in its growth and development and not losing coming generation have been very much at the heart of all programs and activities which he has undertaken.

Ambassador Agnihotri is doing all this without any rest or break with the true spirit of a dedicated and committed person.

Lawyer by profession, Ambassador Agnihotri holds two advanced degrees in law from University of California at Berkley and New York University. In 1975, he was appointed as a Dean of State Law School....so far the only person of Indian origin as head of an American Law School. Man of the year, Justice Award, Humanitarian award are among many of the awards that Ambassador has received in his distinguished career. State of Louisiana declared May 12, 1995 "Agnihotri Day" for his contribution.

Ambassador Agnihotri is married to Mrs. Krishna Agnihotri, who resigned her position as a Professor to join him in New York. They have three professional children.

## Congresswoman



### Eddie Bernice Johnson:

Eddie Bernice Johnson has a distinguished 30-year career as a legislator and public servant. She is currently serving her sixth term in the United States House of Representatives representing the 30th Congressional District of Texas.

Congresswoman Johnson is the immediate past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, which leads the legislative agenda for millions of Americans who rely on the Caucus to the "Conscience of the Congress". She has been a leader in the United States Congress on science, technology, transportation, election reform and civil rights issues, and she currently serves as the Ranking Texan on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She also serves as a Deputy Democratic Whip.

Throughout her career as a nurse, business executive and public official, Congresswoman Johnson has received numerous awards and accolades recognizing her leadership. In 2001, she was voted as one of the "10 Most Powerful Black Women in America" by Ebony Magazine.

Born in Waco, TX, Congresswoman Johnson counts among her greatest accomplishments her son Kirk and three grandsons, Kirk Jr., David, and James.

## Assemblyman



### Upendra Chivukula

A truly a ground up politician, Upendra Chivukula is the first Asian Indian American elected to the NJ state assembly and he is the fourth Indian American elected to the state office. Serving on Boards of several civic and public organizations in Franklin and Somerset counties gave Upendra his start in political arena. He was a member of delegation to Democratic National Convention in 1996 and 2000. Serving as a 5<sup>th</sup> ward councilman of Franklin Township, he ultimately became the Mayor of the same township. His record of service on various Commissions and committees in the state of New Jersey and Eastern States is very impressive. Governor Florio appointed him to be a public member on NJ State Board of Social Work Examiners. No doubt that one of the US Senators described this energetic Indian American as a "tireless public servant".

By profession, Upendra is Electrical Engineer with Master's degree and served as a Senior Member of Technical staff for 18 years at well renowned technical giant and factory of innovations AT&T Bell Labs.

We salute Upendra for his humility, sense of fairness and loyalty to his ideas that have won him the respect of leaders at all levels of government and private sector.

## IAFC, TX State Chapter

- Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) Texas State chapter was inaugurated by Padmabhushan Hon'ble. US Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) on Jan 26, 2003
- IAFC, TX State chapter was successful in persuading four Republican US Congressmebers – Hon. Pete Sessions, Hon. Jeb Hensarling, Hon. Michael Burgess, and Hon. Kay Granger – to join 'Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans'. Hon. Eddie B. Johnson and Hon. Martin Frost both Democrat US Congressmembers are already members of India Caucus
- IAFC, TX State chapter has established a direct communication link with the US Congressmembers, Senators and several City Mayors
- IAFC, TX State chapter is successful in gaining the support of 22 Mayors and 11 US Congressmembers of Texas State to serve on the Advisory Board of Directors of the Texas State chapter (The list is still growing)
- IAFC, TX State chapter has proficiently worked with local and national policy makers, mainstream communities, and organizations. IAFC, TX State Chapter is recognizing and rewarding three mainstream non-profit organizations including American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, and KERA 90.1 Radio Unlimited at '2004 Annual Awards Banquet'
- IAFC, TX State chapter is recognizing the talents of Indian American youth and rewarding them with merit scholarships
- IAFC, TX State chapter is providing internship opportunities to Indian American youth at US Congressmembers' offices in DFW as well as Washington D.C.
- IAFC, TX State chapter is involving youth to provide school supplies to the needy students and basic supplies, medicines and food products to the homeless people

Welcome Address – Prasad Thotakura, Texas State Coordinator, IAFC

Color Guard – Long Horn Council, Boy Scouts of America

US & India National Anthems – Vidisha Babbili

Inaugural Lamp lighting ceremony – Mayors from several cities, Dignitaries

"IAFC overview" – Dr. Krishna Reddy, CA; Founder/President, IAFC

"Get going, it is not too late" – Upendra Chivukula, Hon. State Assemblyman, NJ

"Checks presentation" to American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America & KERA 90.1 Radio Unlimited

"Winning - against all odds" – Swati Dandekar, Hon. State Assemblywoman, Iowa

"Kathak" - classical Indian dance style - by Sunayana Rao

"YOU" make a difference – Eddie B. Johnson, Hon. US Congresswoman

Recognizing the talented Indian American youth and presenting merit scholarships

Vote of Thanks – Manju Bansal, General Secretary, IAFC

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IAFC Sincerely Thanks .....

Mayuri Indian Restaurant, official sponsor and caterer of IAFC Annual Banquet

Dr. Binger, Superintendent, HEB ISD for providing a beautiful venue

Asian Flower Designer for floral arrangements

City Color for their unconditional support in graphics and printing work

Covenant Trophies for their professional plaques and mementos

New York Life Ins. Co. for their bighearted support

aitc for their generous sponsorship

Hot Breads for their munificent sponsorship

Gopal Indian Vegetarian Cuisine for sponsoring "Youth Scholarships"

Royal Catering for their professional guest services

Deviben & Jashbhai Patel (freedom fighter of India) for sponsoring "Youth Scholarships"

NMS Photography for their excellent professional digital photography

Raj Videography for their quality video footage

All dignitaries for their presence here at this banquet

All youth scholarship winners and community organizations for being here with us this evening

Last but not least, the scores of volunteers, attendees and well-wishers

..... for their unconditional support



**Swati Dandekar**

In November 2002, residents of Iowa House District 36 - one-third rural, majority Republican and an overwhelmingly non-minority district in Eastern Iowa - elected Swati Dandekar, an Indian American, to represent them

Swati Dandekar was born in Nagpur, India. She received BS degree in Chemistry and Biology from Nagpur University and a Master's degree in Dietetics from Bombay University.

In 1973, she with her husband Arvind moved to Cedar Rapids. A year later they moved to Marion, the suburb she still calls home. She settled into a life of raising her two sons, Ajai and Govind, and becoming an activist in community and school activities. Her family was her top priority, but the community and school offered her additional opportunities to contribute to society. School volunteering allowed Dandekar the chance to blend contributions to the family and community needs.

Ms. Dandekar was the president of Sustainers and chair of the diversity committee of the Junior League of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was also involved in the Linn-Mar Booster Club, the Phoenix Club Leadership Team, and the Boy Scouts of America Hawkeye Area Council. Ms. Dandekar was a recipient of the J.C. Penney Education Golden Rule Award (2000), on the Linn-Mar Foundation Wall of Fame (1982), and honored as a 100-Hour per Year School Volunteer each year for several years.

Now in the Iowa State House of Representatives Ms. Dandekar is a strong advocate of improving educational opportunities in Iowa and believes that public education spending is an essential investment in the state's future. She believes the state should take an active role in stimulating the local economy and creating quality jobs. She also believes in providing property tax relief in order to encourage new businesses to local areas.

Sky is the limit for this talented young Indian American Mulgi. We are with you, M'am.



Samir Patel, a 9-year old charmed his way to a tie in 3rd place at Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. during May 28-29, 2003. Samir is the youngest ever to reach this level. Samir was National Spelling Bee Champion during 2001 North South Foundation in Washington D.C. at age of 7.

Son of Jyoti and Sudhir Patel from Colleyville, Texas Samir is home schooled. He is an active child and has varied interests. Amongst his favorite subjects are math, history, geography, science and language. Reading, his favorite past time, began at early age. Since then he has read books on many subjects. His hobbies include piano, tennis, soccer, football, singing, computer, judo and drama.

In Samir's words "I am extremely proud of my achievement; it required hard work and dedication. I give a lot of credit to my Mom who helped me prepare by studying the words, their meanings, roots and origins, and also learning some spelling rules. I would advise future contestants to do the same.

Samir – you are one of a kind. We are all proud of you. Best of Luck!



**Nilay Vora**, son of Upendra and Manik Vora of Carrollton, was declared as a winner of the prestigious British Marshall Scholarship. The Marshall Scholarships were established in 1953 as a British gesture of thanks to the people of the United States for the assistance received after the Second World War under the Marshall Plan. This British scholarship, worth \$50,000 is given to American students who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership potential. Prominent former Marshall Scholars include the US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, US Secretary of the interior, Bruce Babbitt and the scientist and inventor Ray Dolby.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Nilay Vora was raised in Carrollton, TX. His education began at Greenhill School in Addison, TX, where he completed kindergarten through twelfth grade, completing his high school career. At Greenhill School, Nilay was recognized frequently by his teachers as being an outstanding student in Mathematics, Science, and Humanities.

Nilay, we are proud of you for this extraordinary achievement.



**Sai Gunturi**

Sai R Gunturi, this tenacious 13-year-old Indian American from Dallas, Texas, won the 2003 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee championship, held in Washington, D.C., by spelling correctly the word '**pococurante**', which means nonchalant. Sai's entry into this nationwide contest was sponsored by The Dallas Morning News. This ninth grader, who attends St. Marks School, took home cash prize of \$12,000, an engraved cup and many other prizes.

He plays the violin and studies Indian classical music. He had come first in the Hellenic history and Greek derivatives category at the National Junior Classical League Convention.

This was his fourth appearance at the national finals; in 2000 he tied for 32nd place; in 2001 he tied for 16th place and in 2002 he tied for the seventh place.

Gunturi's sister, Nivedita, had tied for eighth place in 1997 and along with his parents and younger brother cheered him on to this victory.

Our heartiest congratulations to Sai.



### NEIL K. AGARWAL

Niel Agarwal, a tenth grader at J.J. Pearce High School, Richardson selected to serve in TILT (Teens in Leadership Training), inducted into National Honor Society, National Beta Club and REACH program.

Neil is the founder of " The Donaid Corporation" a non-profit organization that helps raise money to support teachers with their projects and also the founder of the Math Club at Richardson North Jr. High.

Neil, a straight 'A' student throughout his academic career is the winner of the "Presidential Award", "Honors Texas History Award", "District Cultural Arts for Poetry", "Seventy-five Hours of community service" from the Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Neil participated in reading books to children, playing Board games with patients and helped raise \$5,000 to Scottish Rite Hospital through annual book sale.

Bright future ahead for this young boy. Good luck!

## American Red Cross

American Red Cross, based in America with a charter to serve globally, provides relevant humanitarian services that help people be safer, healthier and more self-reliant. The programs offered by Red Cross are wide-ranging, touching the lives of young and old throughout the world. The variety of services include home delivered meals, food pantries, rides to medical appointments, homeless shelters, transitional housing, caregiver education and support groups, friendly visitors, Lifeline®, hospital / nursing home volunteers, fuel assistance, Head Start, latchkey programs, language banks and many more.

We all are familiar with the recent massive earthquake that shook up the province of Kutch in the state of Gujarat. The American Red Cross immediately sent \$25,000 from its International Response Fund to help jump start relief operations for the earthquake struck area of Gujarat. An American Red Cross international response worker was in New Delhi when the earthquake hit and immediately began working with the Indian Red Cross to identify emergency needs and to provide relief for victims.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is FREE, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people.

We thank you for being a part of today's program and American Red Cross for their selfless service.

## KERA 90.1

### **KERA 90.1 Radio Unlimited**

KERA 90.1, North Texas' source for NPR news, is committed to providing in-depth coverage of the issues of importance to the communities it serves. The North Texas public radio affiliate airs such popular national programs as "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered," "The World," "BBC World Service," and "A Prairie Home Companion." The station also airs two locally produced talk shows – "The Glenn Mitchell Show" and "The People's Agenda." The station's staffers and programs have earned local, regional and national awards, including four 2003 Katie Awards for journalistic excellence. KERA 90.1 currently boasts one of the country's fastest growing audiences.

In conjunction with KERA 13 – the PBS affiliate for North Texas – KERA 90.1 has developed a long-term, multi-ethnic local initiative. Grants and underwriting have allowed KERA to create a Latino Advisory Committee, and a Multi-ethnic Advisory Group is currently being assembled. KERA's efforts have resulted in educational projects, community-based events and activities, and extensive partnerships.

This year, the station will present a joint lecture series in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas, focusing on international issues and will offer events and activities in conjunction with the airing of a new PBS series "The New Americans." In Spring 2004, KERA will partner with the Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC) to present a screening event for one of "The New Americans" episodes, which focuses on a computer programmer who emigrated from Bangalore, the Silicon Valley of India.

## **BSA**

### **Boy Scout of America at a Glance**

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America— incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916—is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

The Boy Scouts of America, headquartered in Irving, TX, is the nation's widely accepted youth organization for character development and values-based leadership training. Their mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes. They are taught and are expected to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. All of this is done while offering fun and adventure. Since its inception in early 1900's, it has helped shape the lives of over 110 million youngsters.

We are proud to support this irreplaceable organization.



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Congressman **Ed Royce** (R-CA)  
Congressman **Gary Ackerman** (D-NY)

**Founder/President**

**Dr. Krishna Reddy, CA**

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**Kay Granger** (R-Fort Worth)  
**Ralph Hall** (D-Rockwall)  
**Jeb Hensarling** (R-Dallas)  
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