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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

In celebration of HANUKKAH The Festival of Lights



Wednesday, December 16, 2009

THE MENORAH

The 1873 silver Hanukkah menorah is a rare piece of craftsmanship from the Christian Viennese silversmith Cyrillus Schillberger. A superb example of the Gothic Revival style, it was presumably donated to a congregation in the Moravian town of Prostějov by the children of Gabriel and Pearl Spitzer.

On the menorah's back plate is a medallion garlanded with two olive branches held on each side by a heraldic lion, a widespread symbol in Judaism for the tribe of Judah. The medallion is topped by the crown of the Torah, symbolizing majesty and sovereignty, and bears a Hebrew dedicatory inscription which indicates the menorah was a gift made by the children to the memory of their father, Gabriel, the son of Rabbi P. T. Spitzer and his wife Pearl.

The menorah symbolizes the victory of good over evil, freedom over oppression, knowledge over ignorance, and it is hoped that its light will bring joy and enchantment as well as inspiration.

This year's menorah is on loan to the White House through the generosity of the Jewish Museum in Prague, which Mrs. Obama visited in the Spring.

COMMANDER SCOTT MORAN, USN

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Commander Scott Moran was raised in Silver Spring, MD, and was commissioned in 1990 through NROTC program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he earned a BS degree in both Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. He has held a variety of operational and staff officer positions throughout his career. Commander Moran is currently deployed to Iraq as the Deputy Commander, Joint CREW Composite Squadron ONE (JCCS-1) charged with developing, fielding, maintaining, and testing a variety of electronic systems designed to protect service members against Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices (RCIEDs).

Commander Moran is married to Alison Buckholtz, and they have two children, Ethan and Esther. Alison is a professional writer who has written extensively about her experiences as a Navy spouse and mother.

PROGRAM

Remarks by THE PRESIDENT

Lighting of the Menorah

Alison Buckholtz, Ethan Moran, Esther Moran Family of Commander Scott Moran, USN

Selections by KOL SASSON

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MAOZ TZUR STRONGHOLD OF ROCK Traditional Hanukkah Song

Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati, lekha na'eh leshabe'ah.

Tikon beit tefilati, vesham toda nezabe'ah.

Le'et takhin matbe'ah mitzar hamnabe'ah.

Az egmor beshir mizmor hanukat hamizbe'ah. O mighty stronghold of my salvation, to praise You is a delight.

Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.

When You have prepared the slaughter for the barking foe,

Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

KOL SASSON

Kol Sasson has brought rich and unique entertainment to local and national communities since 1997. Founded by students at the University of Maryland, this a capella group wanted to share their love of music with the local Jewish community. Kol Sasson has since recorded four original CDs, performed around the country for audiences ranging from religious school children to senior citizens, and provided music at functions spanning from Jewish Simchas (Celebrations) to government agency events. Most notably, Kol Sasson has performed for the National Security Agency, the 2008 International Hillel Summit, for former Governor of Maryland, Robert Ehrlich, and in the White House for President George W. Bush.

The food preparation for this evening's event is under the strict rabbinical supervision of Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Lubavitch Center of Washington (Chabad), in cooperation with the Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington.

> All meats are Glatt Kosher, All baked goods are Pas Yisroel, All wines are Mevushal, All foods have been prepared Lemihadrin with a Mashgiach Temidi.

