

1,100 Christian Zionist Leaders Celebrate Israel's 70th in Dallas

Dr. Mike Evans, *New York Times* best-selling journalist and founder of the Friends of Zion Museum, hosted a gala in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday as well as the successes Israel and her allies have had over the past few months: the strengthening of relations, the move of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel's capital Jerusalem, the move of the Guatemalan Embassy to Jerusalem and the promise of many more to come.

These successes of Israel and her people feel just as strong for Israel's Christian allies. In Dallas, 1,100 Christian Zionist leaders celebrated the state of Israel just as Israel's allies did at the Friends of Zion Embassy Gala Event. On May 13, just a day before the United States moved its embassy to Jerusalem, Dr. Mike Evans and the Friends of Zion held an event in Jerusalem, Israel, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. At the event, the organization awarded the Friends of Zion Award to U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Senior Adviser to the President Jared Kushner and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt. The award is given to world leaders who have gone "above and beyond" for the state of Israel.

Other than these true warriors for Israel, other friends of Israel who attended were U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Senior Adviser to the President Ivanka Trump, Israeli Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, Governor of Florida Rick Scott, Congressman Lindsey Graham and former Senator of Connecticut Joe Lieberman.

The Friends of Zion, including our late international chairman, Israel's ninth President Shimon Peres, presented awards to President George W. Bush, Crown Prince Albert II of Monaco and Former President of Bulgaria Rosen Plevneliev for their unwavering support for the state of Israel and Jewish people. Dr. Mike Evans and President Shimon Peres had met with Pope Francis in Vatican City. They co-wrote a resolution condemning violence in the name of religion. In December, Dr. Mike Evans presented the Friends of Zion Award to President Donald Trump in the Oval Office.

A little over a week ago, President Trump's Middle East envoy, United States Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, Senior Adviser to the President Jared Kushner and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt were all awarded the Friends of Zion Award at the Friends of Zion Gala Event celebrating the moving of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The Friends of Zion also recently honored President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala for moving the Guatemalan Embassy to Jerusalem. He had been awarded the Friends of Zion Award when he announced his intentions to move the embassy in January.

The Friends of Zion has promised it would give the award to any world leader who moves his or her country's embassy to Jerusalem. The Friends of Zion Heritage Center has become one of the central institutions in the state of Israel, influencing the world and strengthening Israel's relations globally while fortifying the pillars of the Israeli society. The Friends of Zion Museum is one of the newest attractions in the very heart of Jerusalem, inviting visitors from all over the world to experience the courageous stories of the non-Jews who have supported the Jewish people and the state of Israel in the last 200 years.