



COMMUNITY COLUMN JUN 4

## U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley visits Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Irving



*Deborah Fleck, Metro content coordinator/Letters Editor*



Nikki Haley spends most of her time handling global issues as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She took time out of her busy schedule to do something less demanding: She placed flowers at the feet of the the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in Irving.

Haley attended the memorial groundbreaking on May 3, 2014, when she was governor of South Carolina. The Indian American Friendship Council invited her back to tour the completed plaza.



Dr. Prasad Thotakura hands a memento of appreciation to Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, at a luncheon at the Four Seasons in Irving. Courtesy photo (ZATAR1974)

Dr. Prasad Thotakura, chair of the memorial, gave Haley a tour of the memorial, which includes not only the 7-foot tall bronze statue of the revered Indian peacemaker but also a seating area and a wall of black plaques with quotes in gold from other leaders.

After the May 23 tour, the memorial's board hosted a luncheon for Haley at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas. Thotakura said the ambassador was asked several questions about global issues, as well as a personal question.

"When asked if she is going to run for U.S. president, Nikki, with a great smile, politely stated that her utmost priority now is to focus on her current job," Thotakura said.

In closing, Thotakura and other board members presented Haley with a plaque of appreciation.

To learn more about the memorial, visit [mgmnt.org](http://mgmnt.org).