



## Grand reception to Hindu US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard in Dallas

October 27, 2015, P.P.Cherian

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Hon. US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard attended as a Chief Guest of Honor at a *family and friends* get together hosted by Dr. Prasad Thotakura in Dallas, TX.

Congresswoman Tulsi appreciated the kindness of Dr. Prasad Thotakura in inviting her for the first time to Dallas when she was running for US Congress four years ago, introducing her to the local NRI community and supporting her in a big way that led to her victory. Mrs. Gabbard specially thanked Dr. Thotakura for his efforts and the leadership in building the largest Mahatma Gandhi Memorial in the USA in Irving, TX. Tulsi requested all Indian Americans to participate enthusiastically in the mainstream election process since it is everyone's civic responsibility to choose right leaders to lead the country.

Dr. Thotakura introducing, Tulsi Gabbard, the first and only Hindu Congressmember in US, mentioned that people admire her because of her simplicity, clarity of thoughts, openness and accessibility. She created history twice – once getting elected to Hawaii State legislature at the tender age of 21 by becoming the youngest legislature in the county and the second time getting elected as the first Hindu Congressmember in the US House of Representatives.

Tulsi also served as a Captain with fellow soldiers in Iraq war on two deployments in the Middle East. Tulsi was sworn in to the US Congress, taking her oath on the Bhagavad Gita, a historical event. Tulsi currently serves on the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and she is the Vice Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Tulsi is a strict vegetarian, doesn't drink alcohol, and practices Hinduism with prayers, kirtan and mala. She has met with Prime Minister Modi thrice for the first time in New York, then in New Delhi and in California recently. Tulsi is

someone who has been featured quite prominently in the media.

Dr. Thotakura urged Congresswoman Gabbard's help and support in releasing Bhagavad Gita by US President Obama, a multimedia presentation with all 700 slokhas narrated in English and recited by the famous singer Mr. Gangadhar Sastry, India to which she responded positively.

Along with Dr. Prasad Thotakura family members – Mrs. Swarupa, Mr. Sai Sathish, Dr. Prasanthi, Mrs. Kalavathi, Mr. Rao Kalvala, Mr. Murali Vennam, Mr. Chalapathi Kondrakunta, Dr. C.R. Rao, Mrs. Kalpana & Mr. Ramesh Bhatia, Mr. Arun Agarwal, Dr. Tarakumar Reddy, Mr. Ramasurya Reddy, Mr. Venkat Potturu, Mrs. Grace & Mr. Suresh Vuluvala, Dr. Ritu & Mr. Pankaj Khanduri, Mr. Balu, Mr. Srinivas Suddala, Mr. Venkat, Mrs. Uma Yalamanchi, Dr. Sat Gupta and Mr. Sunil felicitated Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard for her dedicated service to the nation.