

Eritrean-Americans in Cincinnati, and Dayton, Ohio, Celebrated 23rd Year of Independence

By Eritrean National Holidays Coordinating Committee

HAPPY 23rd Birthday and YEAR of INDEPENDENCE TO ALL ERITREANS ACROSS THE GLOBE!

Cincinnati, Ohio, 24 May 2014:--

On May 24, 2014, Eritreans and Eritrean-Americans who live in Cincinnati, and Dayton, Ohio, celebrated the 23rd birthday and Anniversary of Eritrean Independence Day with great fanfare and enthusiasm. Due to the hard-working efforts, commitment, and dedication of the local Eritrean National Holidays Coordinating Committee, it was possible to celebrate Eritrea's 23rd birthday, Eritrean Independence Day, on 24 May 2014, which was also celebrated in Eritrea and around the globe.

The celebration party took place in the northeastern suburb of Cincinnati, which is called Walnut Hills, at a place managed by Lebanese and Maronite Groups. The decoration of the hall was fantastic.

*The Theme for this year was **"We Toil Today for a Bright Tomorrow"**.*

More people, than what has been expected, came to celebrate the 23rd birthday of Eritrean Independence, which is a milestone in the growth and development of the new nation. Many young Eritreans known as "new comers" came to celebrate the occasion. After the meal was served, the program started with a moment of silence.

Hadese Alem, chairperson of the National Holidays Coordinating Committee, welcomed the members of the community. Sereke Gaim, chairperson of the local PFDJ, read the message issued by the Eritrean Embassy in Washington, DC. The main message was that all Eritreans at home and abroad must be vigilant, resilient, and united, showing a sense of purpose and commitment to see better days in Eritrea and help their motherland develop.

Doctor Haile Mehansho, chairperson of the Eritrean Community Association, welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation to those who made the event successful. He also presented some slide shows about the progress Eritrea made in the domains of economic, education, health, food security, and internal security sectors.

Ogbazgy Abbay, secretary of the Association, read a statement the mayor of Cincinnati issued proclaiming May 24, 2014, as Eritrean Independence Day. He also congratulated eight Eritrean-American students who completed high school and College education. Two completed high school; three got their Masters, and three earned BA/BS degrees.

Abraham Tesfai, a resident of the city, read a beautiful poem in Tigrigna. The title of the poem was "**Freedom**". He praised all of those freedom fighters who scarified their lives to make Eritrea free and independent. Through his skills and humorous approach he made the participants laugh when he assisted a new bride explain an interesting joke about family life.

During the celebration, food and drinks were served. The food was catered by Mehari Ghebreab and his family. There was also a birthday cake that had the following message: "**Happy 23rd Birthday, Eritrea**"

Leul Fesehaye of Atlanta, Georgia, and his keyboard player, spent the whole evening entertaining the audience. Leul sang many patriotic and nationalistic songs that he composed. He also played several cultural and musical selections that depict the richness of Eritrean melodies. The party continued until 3:00 am. Old and young danced to the beautiful melodies of Tigrigna, Tigre, Saho and other cultural music. The participants danced away the night until it was time to leave the Hall!

The members of the local Eritrean National Holidays Coordinating Committee, especially **Hadese Alem, and Zegeye Ghebremariam** performed an excellent job in planning, organizing, and executing the events of the party. They have shown what it means to work together and in unison. Abedla Beyan, Musie Ande, Tesfai Berhe, Mulugeta Misghina, Abraham Tesfai, and AregayTeweldeberhan, residents of the city, helped in different capacities.to make the even successful.

This year's 23rd birthday for Eritrea was beautiful and well organized. It really was a memorable day for all of those who came to celebrate and enjoy the party. Many participants have commented by stating that this year was the best of all parties.

Based on the feedback received from some of the participants of the Independence Day party, this year's 23rd birthday celebration for Eritrea was something to remember. It is hoped that next year's party will be better than this year! The participants of the party stated that the Organizing Committee for the Eritrean National Holidays has shown its love for Eritrea, the Eritrean people, and its community!

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