



PANDA 2010 Honoree

Eddie Basha

Eddie Basha is a man with deep roots in Arizona. Born and raised in the community of Chandler, Basha has dedicated most of his life to making Arizona a better place to live. His advocacy for children and education is legendary.

Eddie is the great-grandson of settlers who came to America in 1884. His grandparents were Arizona pioneers who opened a general store in the mining community of Ray, Arizona, in 1910, two years before statehood. Today, Bashas' is the only family-owned supermarket chain in Arizona. Currently there are 160 stores.

Eddie continues to be an outstanding citizen who has donated his leadership, time and financial support to community projects of all types across the state. Eddie is a leading proponent of quality education. His appointment to the Arizona Board of Regents by Governor Rose Mofford in 1990 concluded in January of 1998. Eddie also served a thirteen-year term on the Chandler School Board. Additionally he was appointed by Governor Bruce Babbitt to the State Board of Education where he served for two consecutive, four-year terms.

Eddie has devoted countless hours toward the plight of the homeless and hungry, health care issues, as a proponent of the arts, numerous political referendums and many other community and civic projects as well.

Eddie and his wife, Nadine Mathis Basha, have passed this strong sense of community and commitment on to their family of six sons.

Honors and Awards (Partial List):

2009 Boy Scouts of America Community Champion Award (10/09)
2009 Az Center for Afterschool Excellence Community Champions for Children Award (10/09)
Nadine/EB were both honored with the award.
2009 Social Venture Partners AZ – Social Entrepreneurs of the Year Award – Nadine/Eddie both were honored for their innovative and philanthropic efforts (04/24/09)
2009 Copper Sword Award / AZ Veterans Hall of Fame (2/09)
2008 75th Anniversary Catholic Community Services Foundation of Tucson; Nadine/EB both were honored with a “Diamonds of our Community Award” (11/14/2008)
2007 Arizona Culturekeeper Award (9/07)
2007 Valle del Sol – Hall of Fame Award Recipient (9/07)
2005 New Directions Inst. (Infant Brain Development), Science of Early Learning Award (5/05)
2005 ASU Martin Luther King Servant Leadership Award (1/27/05)
2004 East Valley Partnership, Dwight Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award (11/16/04)
2004 Arizona Education Foundation, Presidential Award for Excellence in Education (11/10/04)
2004 Rotary International District Conference – Four-Way Test Award (June 25, 2004)
2001 Retailer of the Year Award; Arizona Food Marketing Association (November 2, 2001)
2001 Governor’s Arts Award; Corporate Category; (March 7, 2001)
2001 AZ Historymaker, AZ Historical Society/AZ Historical League (Feb. 24, 2001)
ASU, Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters (May 14, 1999)
East Valley Partnership “Excellence in Leadership Award” (March 23, 1999)
Ernst & Young “Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award” (July 2, 1998)
Arizona Kidney Foundation “Gift of Life Award” (May 9, 1998)
Arizona Women’s Political Caucus “Good Guy Award” (April 30, 1998)
United Way “Coy Payne Lifetime Achievement Award (April, 1998)
Buffalo Soldiers Re-Enactors Assoc Humanitarian Award (February, 1998)
Sirrinc Adult Care “Alma Blue Award” (January, 1998)
Natl. Center for American Indian Enterprise Development - 1997 First American Leadership Award (June 11, 1997)
Tucson Metropolitan Education Commission Crystal Apple Lifetime Achievement Award (May 8, 1997)
National Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha Speaker of the Year Award (March, 1997)
Concerned Media Professionals Education Award (Tucson/October, 1996)
Arizona Human Rights Coalition Humanitarian Award (July, 1995)
National Grocers Association Spirit of America Award (April, 1995)
NAU's Center for Excellence in Education Service to Arizona Education Award (April, 1995)
Franciscan Renewal Center Humanitarian Award (February, 1995)
Chandler Chamber of Commerce Chandler Cup Award (1993)
Chicanos Por La Causa Community Support Award (1993)
Children's Action Alliance Horace Steele Child Advocacy Award (1992)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Appreciation Award (1991)
B'nai B'rith Women Children's Home in Israel A Gift of Love Award (1991)
Arizona Advertising Association Man of the Year Award (1990)
Don Bolles Memorial Community Service Award (1990)
Valley Leadership, Man of the Year (1989)
Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Award (1988)
National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award (1984)

Current Community Service Activities:

Pinnacle West, Board Member

Honorary Director, Arizona for Children, Inc.

Local First Arizona, Member; a private non-profit organization that promotes the economic benefits to a community when locally owned businesses are supported.

Past Community Service Activities:

Proposition 203, First Things First: Early childhood education and health initiative. Successful ballot initiative measure November 2006.

ASU Capital Campaign for Leadership 1997-2001

Chairman, State of Arizona Character Education Commission

Chair of the Salvation Army Campaign "Camp Ponderosa Pines" 1996

Honorary Chair, Black Board of Directors Project Annual Dinner 1996

Honorary Chair, United Cerebral Palsy Association Annual Dinner 1996

Honorary Chair, Boys & Girls Club of the East Valley 19th Annual Dinner & Auction 1996

Board Member - Arizona Town Hall 1996

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Honorary Chair - Boots & Ballet 1997

Board Member – Chandler Unified School District (Thirteen Years)

Board Member – State Board of Education, Concluded 1989 (Eight Years)

Board Member - Arizona Board of Regents, 1990-1998

Honorary Chair - Mother's Against Gangs Annual Dinner, October 1997

Honorary Chair - Childhelp USA Annual Gala, October 1997

Valley of the Sun School Capital Campaign 1997-1998

Arizona Ecumenical Council Foundation Board 1997-1998

Hospice of the Valley Fine Art Auction, Honorary Chair, March '99

American Heart Association '98-'99 Walk Chairman

Religious Instruction Aide at St. Andrew's Parish in Chandler '96 through '99 School Year

Religious Instruction Aide at St. Andrew's Parish in Chandler 2000 through 2001 School Year

Junior Achievement Instructor @ Conley Elementary School in Chandler, 1997-1998

United for Arizona, Board Member

Banner Health Services, Board Member

Ft. Apache Heritage Foundation, Board Member

Scottsdale Artists' School National Advisory Council (March, 2000)

Chair/Anti-Defamation League Fundraiser Honoring Governor Jane Dee Hull October, 2000

Kids Voting Campaign Chairman 2000

Co-Chair, Healthy Children/Healthy Families Initiative/Prop 200

Coalition Partner, Arizonans for Responsible Planning/Vote No on Prop 202

Alexis de Tocqueville Society Member

