

Invocation for the Inauguration
Of
County Executive Isiah Leggett
December 4, 2006
Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

Our gathering here today defies the notion that "nice guys finish last."

In fact, today is an affirmation that nice guys finish first --- and they even become County Executive.

As we inaugurate Isiah "Ike" Leggett and the members of the County Council chosen to serve with him, we celebrate the hope born of new beginnings.

But let us first give thanks.

We are grateful to live in a democracy which cherishes the right of all its citizens to participate in the sacred task of choosing our leaders.

We are also grateful O God to have been the beneficiaries of the stewardship and the outstanding leadership of Doug Duncan and those who have served with him.

As we look to the future ----

We pray for blessings for our new County Government, and those elected to serve the people of this county.

May they guide and serve us well.
May they in turn, be guided by humility, by decency, and by the ethics and virtues of integrity.

We pray that our new County Executive will be granted the fortitude, the wisdom and capacity to grapple with the important challenges facing him and our county.

Like his namesake the Hebrew prophet, may he offer and help to fulfill the prophetic vision of a noble society in which all are treated with compassion.

May this Isiah summon us to pursue justice.
May He inspire us to work for justice and fairness.

May He be an advocate for all, and
May he lead us to reach new heights of greatness.

As the mantle of leadership is passed to him, we recall the words of the
Prophet Isaiah as recorded in the Holy Scripture:

"Mine own eyes have beheld the King, Lord of Hosts....

"VaEshma et kol adonai omer, Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
et mee eslah, umee yelech lanu. 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for
us?'

Va'omar, And I said, 'Hineni. Here I am. Shelaheeni. Send me.'"

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Potomac, Maryland
December 4, 2006