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**March 2015** 

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## Governor McAuliffe commends Rev. Hasan K. Zarif for 30+ year's community service.

**Rev. Hasan Kalem Zarif** dropped out of high school at 16, and later became a popular radio disc jockey, "Dr. Soul," on WANT 990 in Richmond. After such a promising start in radio, Hasan's life took a fateful turn for the worse and he was convicted of a crime and sentenced to life in the State Penitentiary of Virginia. But God was not through with him yet!

While incarcerated Zarif took advantage of counseling, academic and vocational education and spiritual and religious guidance and training to begin anew. He utilized the time he had to serve behind those walls as one would an institution of higher learning. We all have been the beneficiaries of the transformation of Hasan Zarif. He worked diligently and unceasing while incarcerated on self-improvement. He attained a G.E.D and he earned certification in Business Management from the Elizabeth Bryant School of Business Technology. He completed a myriad of religious and biblical study course that enhanced his life and his devotion to helping others.

Zarif exhibited such extraordinary progress that through the advocacy of churches, organizations, prison administrators and his family, he was granted parole after 17-years of incarceration. The best was yet to come! In 2007, his **Civil Rights** were restored and in 2009 then Gov. Tim Kaine granted Chaplain Zarif a **Simple Pardon.** 

Hasan hit the ground running. He didn't re-enter society with his hand out. He re-entered offering a hand up to others through his volunteer efforts.

He became a Religious Volunteer with the Virginia Department of Correction. He became the Director of Prison Ministries for Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church in Richmond. He was elected Executive General Vice-President of Prisons' Ministries for the Allegheny East Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He also volunteers in numerous organizations.

From 1998 to 2001, Mr. Zarif worked as a Case Manager for the Richmond Community Action/Virginia CARES, Inc. program. In this capacity he assisted offenders with various re-entry needs (including housing, employment, treatment programs, etc.). He worked closely with state and local community corrections/ parole staff to ensure a smooth transition for offenders as they returned to their communities. He also began regularly speaking and teaching in various DOC prisons' Productive Citizenship (life skills) programs. Due to his ongoing work as both an instructional and religious volunteer, the Department of Corrections in 2001 granted Mr. Zarif the status of Regional Volunteer, allowing him to expand his work into DOC prisons in both the Central and Eastern Regions. In 2007, Mr. Zarif became a State-Wide Volunteer allowing him to enter all state prisons.

In 2001, Mr. Zarif joined the staff of Goodwill Industries of Central Virginia, Inc. as Program Manager of the Medical Adaptive Equipment Program. In this capacity, one of his duties was to assist offenders being discharged from the Department of Corrections who had a need for medical equipment. In January of 2007, Mr. Zarif was appointed as the Re-entry Coordinator for Goodwill Industries of Central Virginia, Inc. Through a new agreement between Goodwill Industries and Chaplain Service and Prison Ministry, Inc., Chaplain Zarif began serving as Special Projects Coordinator for Chaplain Service. In this role, he also served as a liaison between Richmond area Churches and Chaplain Service. Mr. Zarif is passionate about getting churches and individuals more involved in ministry to offenders. He has spent more than 30 years rebuilding God's Community as well as becoming an Advocate for non-violence, restoration of rights, and re-entry programs. Mr. Zarif has received numerous awards & letters of commendation and recommendations in recognition of his achievements. He is presently employed as the Re-entry Specialist (Certified Work Force Deveoplement Professional) at Goodwill Industries Serving Hampton Roads and Central Virginia.

If you would like to have Rev. Zarif to participate in a Worship Service, Bible Study, Motivational Workshop, Employment Workshop or other events you may reach him at (804) 662-0270.

TOTAL TOTAL