

NAACP NEWS

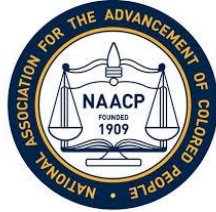
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Francys Johnson, President
Georgia NAACP

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PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

GEORGIA NAACP JOINS MUSLIMS TO HOLD INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MUHAMMAD ALI

Civil Leaders Remember Muhammad Ali as an Activist who fought outside the Ring for all mankind

ATLANTA - On Thursday, June 9, Georgia's Muslim community will hold an interfaith memorial service (6 p.m.) for Muhammad Ali [at the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam](#), Georgia's oldest Muslim house of worship.

In addition to the memorial service, mosques across Georgia plan to conduct funeral prayers for the renowned athlete and humanitarian on Friday after each mosque's weekly congregational service, which begin between 1:45 and 2:00 pm, and end between 2:30 and 3:00 pm.

The funeral prayers, called "salat al-ghaib" (sa-lat all-guy-ib), are performed for Muslims who have died in a distant place.

"One of Muhammad Ali's many iconic moments occurred when he lit the 1996 Olympic flame here in Atlanta," event organizers said. "It is only fitting that Atlanta Muslims unite with our neighbors of all backgrounds to thank God for Muhammad Ali."

During the Thursday evening memorial service, Georgians from diverse communities plan to discuss what Muhammad Ali's legacy means to them.

"Muhammad Ali spoke out against racism and war. He stood up for faith and reconciliation," said Edward Ahmed Mitchell, Executive Director of the Georgia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "He was a role model—not only for Muslims, African-Americans, and athletes, but for all people who champion peace and justice."

"The entire civil rights community celebrates the life and legacy of Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Ali lived on purpose inside and outside of the ring. He refused to bow, beg, or barter for his liberty with a system of white supremacy. He knew the truth, told the truth, and it made him free" said Francys Johnson, Statesboro Attorney and State President of the Georgia NAACP, who will offer words in tribute on behalf of the broader civil rights community.

100 Edgewood Avenue NE, Suite 1610, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

"He was a hero to all of us and he gave all of us hope in the future," said Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu Akel, a Palestinian Christian who met Ali in Atlanta. "He loved his family. He loved his faith in God. He loved living. He loved the community and gave his time to raise money for great causes all over America and around the world."

Georgians interested in attending the memorial service at Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam should RSVP [on Facebook](#) or by emailing info@ga.cair.com. Space is limited.

Participating Organizations Include:

- AtlantaMuslim.com
- CAIR Georgia
- Council of Masjid (Mosques) of Metropolitan Atlanta
- Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta
- Roswell Community Masjid
- Georgia NAACP

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For more information about the work of the Georgia NAACP, please visit our website at www.naacpga.org.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The Georgia NAACP has had an unbroken presence in Georgia since 1917. The Georgia NAACP maintains a network of branches throughout Georgia, from cities to small rural counties. The Georgia NAACP has been the most effective and consistent advocates for civil and human rights in Georgia. The NAACP's half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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