

A High Honor

Mike Yakawich

June 26, 2011

On Sunday, June 19, 2011, the city of Billings, Montana held a re-dedication ceremony of the city civic center, Metra Park Rimrock Auto Arena, which was destroyed by a tornado on Father's Day a year ago in 2010.

To prepare for this ceremony, the county commissioners called upon the Billings Clergy Association (BCA) to organize an interfaith program. The president of the BCA, an Episcopal priest, a Rabbi and I were able to lead a committee to organize this aspect of the program. This was an interfaith blessing of the Metra held at 4 p.m. the exact time one year ago when the tornado struck and demolished the Metra. Over a number of meetings, we prayed, planned and prepared for this historic ceremony.



Pastor Mike Yakawich

After 20 years as a member of this Association, it was the first time I was asked to be in an official position representing the BCA. The ceremony was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was a great honor to be on stage with a number of other interfaith leaders. It was even a greater honor to introduce Chief Leon Rattler, spiritual leader of the Blackfeet Nation, who gave the Native American Blessing of the building.



Chief Leon Rattler

It strikes me that when we do not give up and continue to give, blessings do come. Over countless meetings with the BCA, it has been a great opportunity to meet and get to know the many fellow clergy working in our community. To be invited to organize and lead this re-dedication ceremony has been a high honor.

After the program, the county commissioners and the Mayor expressed their gratitude for the program. It was a great day for our community to shine. In all of this, I give all glory and appreciation to our Heavenly Father.



County Commissioner