

International Hall of Fame Induction of General Ashfaq P. Kayani

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Fort Leavenworth KS

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(as delivered)

Good morning and welcome to Fort Leavenworth and the Command and General Staff College. What an amazing honor it is to participate in this particularly special International Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and to recognize and honor the achievements of an incredible officer...an officer who once was a student here and has continued on to rise to the highest military position in his country.

We also want to say "thank you" to the sponsors. For decades, two organizations - Operation International, a committee of the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International, have touched the lives of our international students and their families.

People to People International's motto is "peace through understanding." Understanding.... grows from interaction – and is on display in the many lifelong friendships formed right here at Fort Leavenworth between our international students and their sponsors.

To our honoree...today, Sir, you join the ranks of the other distinguished officers in the International Hall of Fame. Just to illustrate what an incredible achievement this is....of the more than 7,000 international students that have attended CGSC, only 230 have been inducted – that's only about 3%. When you consider more than 50% of our international students go on to achieve the rank of general officer, our inductee is among a very elite group.

GEN Kayani has certainly distinguished himself since departing the hallowed institution at Bell Hall in 1988. GEN Kayani and I talked of our fond memories as we drove by the rubble that was Bell Hall. Today he serves as the Chief of the Army Staff, Pakistan.

We all recognize that this is a critical time in history. GEN Kayani is a true Soldier and scholar. He is the right man at the right time to lead in such an important part of the world. His dedication to his country, his recognition that we are all in this together, and that the military is necessary but not sufficient sets him apart from many others. He recognizes that we must win the peace through a comprehensive approach, a trait we are trying to emulate in our leader development and education programs at all our Army schools and centers. The challenges of the 21st Century demand multiple nations and organizations working together in order to build a consensus that forges a shared vision of a common goal.

But allow me to reflect on the 1988 academic year and set the scene for you. What was happening in 1988? Let me refresh your memory. In Texas, our country was captivated by the 58 hours of tireless work rescuers dedicated to saving Baby Jessica from an 8 inch wide well in

Texas. In Washington, Oliver North was summoned to testify before televised hearings of a joint Congressional committee formed to investigate Iran-Contra. The image of North taking the oath became iconic, and similar photographs made the cover of Time and Newsweek. In Europe, construction started on the "Chunnel". The Channel Tunnel that linked England with northern France. In world news, Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan

Some other interesting 1988 hallmarks of your time here were the Bangles had the number one song "Walk Like an Egyptian." The movie "The Last Emperor" won 9 Oscars, but the top movie at the box office was "Three Men and a Baby." Spud Mackenzie first hit the commercial scene. The Simpsons had their debut. Although Larry Mize won the Masters Golf Championship that year, Greg "The Shark" Norman was the number one ranked golfer.

Sir, I'm sure you recognize this group of gentlemen here. Section 9D. I must assure all those in the audience today that this Section was more than "Doing Time" as their motto suggests. 4 of the 16 officers, that's 25%, in GEN Kayani's section became general officers. You, Sir, and your family were the first. LTG Xavier De Marnhac of France commanded KFOR AUG 07 – AUG 08. MG Jay Hood is currently the CENTCOM Chief of Staff. BG (Retired) Nolen Bivens served as the SOUTHCOM Chief of Staff until his retirement in JUN 08.

Not only was Section 9D an exceptional group, but GEN Kayani's class of 1988 was a remarkable as well. There were 123 International Military Student from 74 countries. 35 of them have achieved the rank of general officer. Of the 100 officers from Pakistan that have attended CGSC, 73 of them have become general officers...and of those 73, GEN Kayani will be the fourth officer from Pakistan and the sixth graduate from the class of 1988 to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

In talking with some of his distinguished classmates from CGSC, they describe GEN Kayani as being "one of the most brilliant officers in the CGSC graduating class." Another classmate said, "He was an integral part of our staff group and brought a unique perspective." GEN Kayani was, and has always been, a real student of the profession of arms. While at CGSC in 1988, his staff group dedicated much of their time to the study of Air-Land Battle Doctrine and its application in Europe. His classmates recall that GEN Kayani spent hours going through our doctrine and tactics, often knowing it better than the U.S. officers.

Sir, you probably know this picture better than most of us here...the 9th green at the golf course on Fort Leavenworth. For those that aren't aware, GEN Kayani is the president of the Pakistan Golf Federation.

For many of us, especially those that participate in our monthly Commander's Golf Scramble, this is where we see the course from...the sand trap.

While here at CGSC, GEN Kayani also completed the Masters of Military Art and Science program. Then, MAJ Kayani wrote his thesis on "Strengths and Weaknesses of the Afghanistan Resistance Movement." Dr. Baumann, a junior instructor at the time and now the MMAS director at CGSC, reviewed and approved his thesis. 20 years later, MAJ Kayani's work still stands out as exceptional. His thoughtful and systematic analysis combined with a unique

understanding of the Afghan people is particularly relevant to us all today. His recognition of the importance of culture, the need for more than military solution, and strategic communications was evident in his work.

A common description amongst all who remember GEN Kayani during his stay here at Ft. Leavenworth is his dedication to family. GEN Kayani was accompanied by his wife Zahida and his son, Sarosh when he attended CGSC in 1988. They now have two children – Sarosh and Zara.

We want to recognize the contributions of his family in making him the man he is today, and thank them for their continued support. His family, especially his wife Zahida, deserves the praise, recognition, honor, and pride of this event. Zahida, if you could please stand...would you all please join me in a round of applause for the family.

GEN Kayani had three wonderful sponsor families while he was at Leavenworth: Ms. Lola Rogers of Leavenworth who passed away in 2001, LTC and Mrs. Richard Govoni, Richard has unfortunately passed away as well. We are fortunate to have here today his Kansas City sponsor, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Faubel of Leawood, KS.

Gordon, would you and the rest of the Faubel family please stand...please join me in a round of applause for the family.

GEN Kayani also has some very close family friends with us here today, Dr. Nowaz and his wife, also Dr. Nowaz. Dr. Dilcher Nowaz and GEN Kayani attended the Pakistan Military Academy together and served together as instructors at the Infantry School. Dr. Nowaz came to the United States over 20 years ago to pursue a career in medicine. He is now a cardiologist at the Presbyterian Medical Center in Denver, CO. His wife, Samra is also a doctor and is an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Hospital. Sir, Ma'am, thank you for attending.

Now to the man of the hour: GEN Kayani was commissioned in the Pakistan Army on August 29th 1971 as an infantryman. GEN Kayani has served in command, staff, and instructional positions at every level in the Pakistan Armed Forces. In October of 2004, he was made director general of Inter-Services Intelligence. And in November 2007, he was appointed as the Chief of the Army Staff, Pakistan.

To give you an idea of the kind of leader we have here today...one of the first actions GEN Kayani took after having been promoted to Chief of the Army Staff was to spend the Eid al-Fitr holiday with his troops in the field.

GEN Kayani, you have been described by your colleagues and friends as very studious, a quiet professional, and a perfect gentleman. Your work ethic and dedication to excellence has served you well. I could not think of a finer Soldier to be the 231st officer inducted into the International Hall of Fame.

Our sincerest congratulations go to you and your family, and we want to express our sincere thanks on behalf of all those who strive for peace and stability. You are a true role model for others to emulate.

Without further ado, please publish the order!