

- WHEREAS, on this day, we celebrate the interfaith understanding that His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh brought to our area; and
- WHEREAS, with the establishment of Gobind Sadan USA, as the first such center outside of India, we have benefited from the love of God and concern for all people, especially those in need among us, that he modeled; and
- WHEREAS, we saw how forgiveness in the face of hate helped heal our community, following the post 9-11 arson attack; and
- WHEREAS, we as a society need to learn to live together in harmony. Babaji has shown us how we can move beyond tolerance to respect and honor each individual and each tradition and live as one human family; and
- WHEREAS, we are proud that Babaji chose this area in upstate NY to establish his first center outside of India, as a gift to us and a model for a truly pluralistic civil society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOANNE M. MAHONEY, County Executive of the County of Onondaga, do hereby proclaim February 20th, 2009 to be

Interfaith Understanding Day in honor of His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Onondaga to be imprinted this twentieth day of February, two thousand and nine.

Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive