

Royal Saud family builds Masjid at Historically Black College

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين ، والصلاة والسلام على خاتم الأنبياء والمرسلين

In 1981, the daughter of the Late King Khalid ibn Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia made a generous donation of **\$1,000,000** US to Shaw University for the building of an Islamic and International Studies Center, including a Masjid, Library, Lecture Halls, and Offices. This Masjid is known as King Khalid Mosque.

Shaw University –called the mother of African-American colleges in North Carolina is the first HBCU in the Southern United States. The Indigenous Muslims to this area, primarily African-American, have served as care-takers and Imams of this Masjid.

When King Khalid Mosque opened on August 19, 1983 the immigrant Muslims who attended North Carolina State University –just 3.3 miles up the road, did not have a Masjid; rather they were still praying in an apartment complex. The king’s daughter donated one million dollars to Shaw University – the HBCU; **not** N.C. State University a primarily white university.

It was a **black man** – former Shaw University president Talbert O. Shaw; who vehemently attempted to close the Masjid doors forever. An agreement was reached in 2004 to keep the Masjid open, but the university appropriated the entire bottom floor and part of the second floor.

The king’s daughter put the Masjid in the heart of an African American community, just eight minutes from where I was born and raised. This is the first Masjid I visited while still a non-Muslim on military leave. This is the first Masjid opened in the cities of Raleigh and Durham.

As for the false narrative ‘the Saudis don’t contribute to our African American communities’ then we say as Hasān ibn Yazid may Allah have mercy upon him said: “We don’t use anything against the liars comparable to history!”

So praise Allah and show some gratitude to His slaves.

The Messenger of Allah صلى الله عليه وسلم said: “Whoever does not show gratitude to the people has not shown gratitude to Allah” .

May Allah reward the king’s daughter with abundant good for her contribution.

Written by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee...Raleigh/Durham North Carolina



King Khalid Mosque Raleigh North Carolina