

**Ambassador Samarasinghe participated at the Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrated in Wheaton, Maryland**



Under the patronage of Most Ven. Katugastota Uparathana Thero, Maryland Buddhist Vihara in Wheaton in the state of Maryland, Sri Lankan origin American citizens celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the temple premises. Ambassador Mahinda Samarasinghe as the guest of honour graced the event and interacted with the Sri Lankan community who participated celebrating Sri Lankan traditions and customs.

During the event, a proclamation issued by Marc Elrich, Executive of Montgomery County was read out welcoming the 'Sri Lankan New Year' and recognizing and appreciating the contributions of the Sri Lankan community living in Montgomery County.

Ambassador Mahinda Samarasinghe together with Ven. Katugastota Uparathana Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Maryland Buddhist Vihara thanked the Montgomery County executive for issuing a proclamation, welcoming, and appreciating the Sri Lankan community and their contributions to Montgomery County. Ambassador Samarasinghe pointed out that Sri Lanka is a diverse society and as such the traditions of New Years Day reflect this diversity. The link to a caption of this occasion is at <https://youtu.be/ZQRrUJsBJFI>

The festival was attended by a large number of Sri Lankan-origin US nationals including children and members of the staff of the Embassy.







**Embassy of Sri Lanka  
Washington D.C.**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**