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NEWS

Former Tarrant County GOP vice chairman Shahid Shafi recognized for religious freedom fight

Shafi, a former Southlake city council member, is among the Museum of the Courageous' first class of honorees.



Tarrant County Republican Party vice chair Dr. Shahid Shafi addresses a press conference after a meeting of Tarrant County Republican Party executive committee at Faith Creek Church in which members executive committee members voted 139-49 to keep Shafi in his role as vice chairman. Shafi has been named to the inaugural class of The Museum of the Courageous as a result of standing up against the push for him to leave his position with the party. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

Dr. Shahid Shafi, a former Southlake city council member and ex-vice chairman of the Tarrant County Republican Party, has been recognized by a national organization for standing up for religious freedom.

The New York-based Museum of the Courageous acknowledged Shafi's story this week as one of nine across the country in which citizens "took a stand against hate and injustice through courageous acts." He was named to the museum's inaugural class.

"My experience embodies everything that is good about our country: Equality, liberty and justice for all," Shafi said.

A campaign against Shafi began just after he was appointed to his post as vice chairman of the Tarrant County GOP. A Tarrant County GOP precinct chair was one of the first to take issue with Shafi, claiming that he supported Shariah law and was tied to terrorist-affiliated groups, though the doctor denied the allegations.

At a statewide vote in January 2019, following months of media coverage about the push to remove Shafi and **condemnation of the effort from prominent statewide Republicans**, including **Sen. Ted Cruz, Gov. Greg Abbott** and Land Commissioner George P. Bush, executive committee members voted 139-49 to keep Shafi in his role.

Nevertheless, Shafi stepped down from his role as vice chairman of the Tarrant County Republican party, following the controversy.

Because the large group of supporters within the party voted against his removal, those "Texas Republicans," as the museum names them, were also chosen as inductees.

Other inductees in the first class include Darnella Frazier, the 17-year-old who filmed the murder of George Floyd, "sparking a global uprising to confront racism and police brutality" and Pittsburgh's Faith Community, who "exemplified courageous leadership, coming together in solidarity across religions to stand firmly against acts of hate in the wake of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in America's history" in 2018.
