Dr. Michael Saba

Class of 1959

Michael Saba PhD. graduated from Bismarck High School in 1959 and was co-valedictorian of his class. Dr. Saba was one of the first Bismarck High graduates to join the Peace Corps. During his time in the Peace Corp, his penchant for helping others, especially children, began. He worked as a teacher in Malaysia and Thailand in the 1960s and helped build a children's hospital in Egypt, setting in motion a passion for helping that led to his involvement in Avera Health, Sanford Health and St. Jude Children's Hospital. He was also a training coordinator for Peace Corps programs in Africa in the early 1970's.

He joined Mobil Oil as Manager of Middle East Affairs in the mid 1970's and has been an international health and business adviser since 1980. Dr. Saba served as the Director of International Development for Avera Health, Executive Director of Development for Sanford Children's Clinics, and Vice President for International Development for ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, among many other positions.
He was the first Executive Director of the National Association of Arab Americans based in Washington, D.C. and past president of the Attiyeh Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation promoting U.S Middle East Relations.

Dr. Saba has written and published four books, including "Ethnic History of North Dakota" which was a North Dakota best seller.

Saba was taken hostage in the Iraq Gulf war in 1990 and after escaping into Jordan was instrumental in negotiating the release of over 1000 American hostages from Iraq and Kuwait. Saba was elected State Representative in South Dakota and served from 2019-2021. Saba speaks five languages and has lived in and visited over 100 countries.