

The *Anderson Herald Bulletin* ran the following story today on Mayor Ockomon and his wife [coming to Washington to attend the National Prayer Breakfast as guests of Congressman Pence:](#)



[Ockomon to join Pence for prayer breakfast](#)

By Aleasha Sandley, Herald Bulletin Staff Writer

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ANDERSON, Ind. - Mayor Kris Ockomon's citywide prayer breakfast had record attendance last year, but this year, the mayor is moving up.

Ockomon will attend President Barack Obama's National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday in Washington as a guest of U.S. Rep. Mike Pence.

"I'm very honored that Congressman Pence selected myself and my wife to attend," Ockomon said. "I think we've developed a very close friendship over my past couple years in office. We both are big faith people."

Pence, a Republican, and Ockomon, a Democrat, have formed an unlikely relationship as they

have crossed party lines to work toward improving Anderson, Pence said.

"While politics is important in the election season, when it comes to working in the best interest of the city of Anderson, the mayor's office and our office work pretty hard to put political differences aside and work together," Pence said. "I think it's an unusually good relationship across party lines. I give the mayor a lot of credit for that. I think he's someone who puts public interest ahead of party. He immediately reached out to our office and we forged at first an official relationship but it's bloomed into a friendship."

Ockomon has brought faith into his administration by hosting his own annual prayer breakfast and a monthly prayer meeting for staff members. Last year's prayer breakfast had more than 300 attendees from the community.

Ockomon and his wife, Ann, will travel to Washington on Wednesday to attend Thursday morning's prayer breakfast before returning to Anderson on Thursday night.

"Just the fact that we're going to be in (Pence's) company, also in the company of the president, I think that's an awesome statement," Ockomon said.

Pence said he was impressed by Ockomon's showing of faith.

"This year, given the fact that it is a president of (Ockomon's) own party and given what I know about Mayor Ockomon's profound Christian faith, I thought it would be especially meaningful," Pence said. "I hope it reflects that when it comes to faith, there are no political parties."

Pence said in the past he has invited pastors to the prayer breakfast, and last year he invited a Muncie woman who runs an inner-city ministry.

"Anyone who's been to a national prayer breakfast can't help but leave inspired about the universal recognition about the importance of faith," Pence said. "It's one of those very nice

moments where we pause from the hustle and bustle of political life ... it's a very inspiring time."