



TURKISH AMERICAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Empowering Turkish Americans

March 17-19, 2011 | Washington, DC



ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

ATAA is one of the leading Turkish American national organizations that represent America's Turkish and Turkic American communities, which today number over a half million. Based in Washington DC, ATAA includes over 60 major local organizations and over 5000 Turkish American activists nationwide. ATAA was established by the American Turkish Association of Washington and the Maryland American Turkish Association in 1979. ATAA pursues the interests of Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey, and supports relations between the United States and Turkey. ATAA provides educational seminars and conferences on grassroots advocacy and civic engagement, hosts academic panels on issues that concern Turkish Americans, corrects inaccurate reports in the media on issues that concern Turkish Americans, responds to local and national legislation effecting Turkish Americans and US-Turkish relations, and promotes Turkish culture and diversity in America. Working as an information clearinghouse, ATAA regularly publishes reference material through its website, electronic communications, and print media. ATAA, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization, is supported by membership fees, donations, and private and public grants.

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FEDERATION OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

The Federation of Turkish American Associations is a non-profit organization which was established in 1956 for the purpose of uniting and supporting the Turkish community within the United States. Today, the Federation is an umbrella organization consisting of over 40 member associations with a majority of these groups located in the Northeast region of the United States. Its major responsibility is to provide support to the Turkish-American community throughout the United States. The Federation also strives to provide maximum exposure of Turkish culture, music, history and overall knowledge of Turkey to the U.S. public. This is achieved through cultural activities and other public relations activities throughout the United States.

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ATAA President's Message

Dear Turkish Americans and Friends of Turkey:

The National Leadership Conference is unprecedented in being jointly organized by the two major and oldest Turkish American national organizations, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA).

The Conference will include the broadest possible spectrum of Turkish Americans and focus on strengthening Turkish American grassroots through civic engagement education and training, and the development of an informed and enabled Turkish American community, especially among the rising youth, that can effectively defend and promote its interests as well as support U.S.-Turkish relations.

ATAA has been a leader in channeling raw political concern (what I have termed as "lap-top patriotism") into refined and focused political activism through the ATAA Turkish American Broad Advocacy Network (TABAN) grassroots and ATAA MediaWatchNow programs.

The new Turkish American public advocacy network has three components: Firstly, advocacy (ATAA, FTAA, TAA, TCA and others.)

Secondly, there is independent campaign financing by groups (TC-USA PAC and Turkish Heritage PAC.) Thirdly, there is the legal defense of our human rights by the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (TALDF).

ATAA is grateful for their support to the Turkish Foreign Mission in the United States, Ambassador Namik Tan, Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce (TOBB,) TCA, TCF, THY, DFH, the ATAA staff, the Boards of Directors and Trustees.

Wishing everyone a successful and memorable Conference.

Warm regards,

Gunay Evinch (Övünc)
President
Assembly of Turkish American Associations



FTAA President's Message

Dear Turkish Americans and Friends of Turkey:

It is my privilege, as President of, and on behalf of, the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) to express to you our excitement at FTAA's being able to co-sponsor, together with the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), the first Turkish American National Leadership Conference, "Empowering Turkish Americans" being held in Washington, D.C. in March, 2011.

This conference is of the utmost significance to Turkey and to the Turkish American Community. In addition to hearing presentations from, and honoring the work of, distinguished leaders from the Turkish government and the Turkish American community, we will have the opportunity to work towards strengthening Turkish American grassroots activities, for the purpose of developing the skills and capabilities that our community can and must utilize to deal with the many challenges that doubtless lie ahead of us in the future.

Our first day will be Turkish American Capital Day which will include Capitol Hill grassroots visits. Our second day is our Solidarity Day, where we will explore issues of Turkish American activism. Our final and third day will include a student and youth program – we literally have something for everyone!

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Gunay Evinch, President of ATAA, Ergun Kirlikovali, President-elect of ATAA, and His Excellency Ambassador Namik Tan for their tremendous efforts and cooperation with FTAA in making this conference a reality.

I wish you all a fulfilling and enjoyable Conference.

Sincerely,

Kaya Boztepe
President
The Federation of Turkish American Associations



Turkish President's Message

I extend my wholehearted congratulations to leaders and members of two leading Turkish-American institutions, namely Assembly of the Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and Federation of the Turkish American Associations (TADF) for organizing the "Turkish-American National Leadership Conference".

Turkey's relations with her friend and ally, the United States, constitute one of the important pillars of the Turkish foreign policy. Both countries' objectives and visions are essentially identical.

Further strengthening and enhancing our relations with the United States bears special importance in providing for regional and global peace, stability and welfare. Sharing same values and interests, Turkey and the United States should work together in coping with the challenges of the 21st century. The "Model Partnership", qualified by President Obama, characterizes the singular as well as layered qualities of our relations on a multitude of fields.

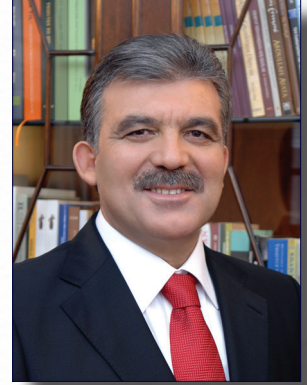
We highly appreciate contributions of the Turkish-American institutions to our bilateral relations. Devoted work by these organizations should continue in promoting the Turkish culture in the United States, in raising the awareness of the Turkish society living in the United States, in supporting our citizens and the individuals of Turkish origin for a better footing in the American society, as well as in helping the young generation Turkish-Americans to learn and like their culture.

Turkish-American institutions also have a leading role and responsibility for enhancing the unity and integrity of the Turkish society living in the United States and for creating a team spirit among them. I trust that you will continue towards fulfilling this task with great success as you have in the past.

I hope that the Turkish-American institutions will continue their activities for developing the constructive understanding and cooperation between Turkey and the United States as well as towards the unity and integrity of the Turkish society.

I renew my congratulations to all individuals and institutions who worked with great dedication for the organization of the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference, which I believe will be very successful.

Abdullah Gül
President of the Republic of Turkey



Prime Minister's Message

I congratulate leaders and members of Assembly of the Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and Federation of the Turkish American Associations (TADF) for organizing the "Turkish-American National Leadership Conference" which convened leaders of the Turkish community living in the United States.

As two close allies and partners, Turkey and the United States cooperate extensively on issues of critical importance ranging from the fight against terrorism to energy security, prevention of nuclear proliferation and global economic crisis in a wide geography, extending from the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East to Central and Southeast Asia.

The cooperation between Turkey and the United States on foreign policy issues of our common agenda aims to contribute to the regional and global peace, stability and welfare. Accordingly, Turkish-American relations are not only important on bilateral, but also on regional and global levels.

Your contributions are critically important in strengthening the bonds between the Turkish and American peoples, in promoting the understanding between our two countries, in developing bilateral tolerance, and, in enhancing Turkey's profile in the United States.

In further developing and strengthening the relations between Turkey and the United States, on the basis of the Model Partnership, we encourage our citizens living in this country be more active in all walks life, and increase their contributions to the American social life.

It is therefore incumbent on the Turkish institutions to work with a single voice and heart for their common objectives. In this context, the Turkish American institutions bear a leading role and an important responsibility.

I renew my congratulations to all individuals and institutions who worked diligently for organizing the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference. I also wish success to this Conference which I believe will contribute to further development of the Turkish-American relations.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey



Ambassador's Message

I congratulate the leaders and members of the Assembly of the Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and the Federation of the Turkish American Associations (TADF) for organizing the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference.

Turkey and the United States are two close friends and allies sharing the same values, ideals and a common vision. As President Obama mentioned recently, Turkish-American partnership has become critical in the face of complex international problems in volatile times. Therefore, further enhancement of this model partnership is incumbent upon us.

Turkish-Americans are an inherent component of this critical relationship. Their invaluable contributions transcend American political, economic, social and cultural life, as Turkish-Americans serve as volunteer envoys to further develop the understanding and cooperation between Turkey and the United States. Today, their numbers exceed several hundred thousand. There are over 300 Turkish-American associations established at every corner of the United States under the roof of three major organizations, namely Assembly of the Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Federation of the Turkish American Associations (TADF) and Turkic American Alliance (TAA).

Having previously served in Washington, D.C., for two consecutive terms at the earlier parts of my career, I closely witnessed the development of the Turkish-American society. Today, I am delighted to see the mature level that the Turkish-American society has attained.

Turkish-Americans play a very important role in all walks of life. I am pleased to observe that they also began to win races for elected offices. I believe this Leadership Conference will further motivate the Turkish-Americans to run for office and further strengthen their unity and integrity.

Last year's course of events clearly demonstrated the importance and potential of the Turkish-Americans when they take action together. I firmly hope that the cooperation established between the major Turkish-American organizations will be further bonded in the future.

Since my assumption of the office, I made reaching out to the young generation of Turkish-Americans a priority. The Leadership Conference allocated a full day for them. I therefore commend the organizers of this Conference for this wise decision.

I applaud the convening of the Turkish-American National Leadership Conference, commend its organizers and wish its members a successful and productive event.

Namık Tan
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States



Message by Suat Kınıklıoğlu

Chairman, Turkey-US Interparliamentary Friendship Group

Dear Presidents Evinc (Övünç) and Boztepe:

I congratulate the first ever "Turkish American National Leadership Conference" which will be held on March 17-19, 2011, in Washington DC, and be jointly hosted by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and Federation of Turkish American Associations in an unprecedented spirit of Turkish American solidarity.

As chairman of the Turkey-US Interparliamentary Friendship Group in the Turkish Parliament, I see this conference as another concrete example of increasing political awareness and activism by Turkish Americans, and commend your vision and determination to empower the fullest spectrum of Turkish Americans.

US - Turkish relations have a long, deep and dynamic history. We are proud of the partnership we have enjoyed and which we continue to develop. Both nations have benefitted immensely from this partnership. There have been good times and challenging times. There is no doubt that we are going through a remarkable redefinition of our bilateral partnership. Our partnership expands across three continents and a myriad of peoples, cultures and religions, from Eastern Europe to Central Asia, from the Middle East to Africa. Our joint projects are just as diverse, ranging from democracy, human rights, and free markets to energy and security. It is no longer possible to speak of a bilateral partnership, but rather of a multifaceted dynamic strategic relationship very few countries enjoy.

Parliamentary diplomacy is an important medium in understanding, developing, and promoting a broad relationship between Turkey and the US. Together, we are the voice of over 75 million Turks and 330 million Americans. Turkish legislators are keen on strengthening this bond with our fellow parliamentarians in the US Congress.

One fundamental change in the US - Turkish relationship has been the growing impact of Turkish American grassroots, as Turkish Americans, lead by civil society organizations as ATAA and FTAA, have become key interlocutors between our countries and a formidable voice in Washington DC.

I congratulate wholeheartedly the Turkish American men and women who serve in the ongoing effort to defend, develop and promote the US - Turkish partnership. I would like to urge once again all Turkish Americans to be in honest dialogue with one another - "Inter-Turk Dialogue" as you have well stated, to seek unity among yourselves - "Solidarity within Diversity" as you have well expressed, to be good Americans and good Turks bound by love for your new home America as well as your ancestral homeland Turkey, and to be organized and coordinated in common cause.

Turkey is a great country. It is a rising star in a tough neighborhood. It is a rising star in the global community. Young, dynamic, creative, democratic, hardworking, and courageous, Turks have created a country that is indeed a model and inspiration for many progressive leaders throughout our neighborhood and region. The events in Tunisia and Egypt remind us once again regarding the success of the Turkish example.

Working hard to empower Turkish Americans, ATAA and FTAA will produce ever more Turkish American leaders in American cities and towns, civil society communities, media, business, and politics.

I commend the Turkish American National Leadership Conference and your good work.

Yours truly,

Suat Kınıklıoğlu
Chairman
Turkey-US Interparliamentary Friendship Group



Message by Zafer Çağlayan

State Minister, The Republic of Turkey

To The National Leadership Conference,

The tendency of our citizens to live and invest in American is increasing by leaps and bounds. The dynamic Turkish community which continues to integrate into the American social fabric is a great win. Turkish Americans, who are successful in economy, science, art, and other fields, make significant and long term contributions to the bilateral relation between Turkey and USA by building long lasting and strong ties between our two countries

This event, organized by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA), is an example of "true leadership."

The powers of nations in our world today are measured by the lobbying power of their expatriate communities in geographies other than their own. Because of this activity, the communication and information among the members of Turkish citizens living in America will be improved and successful results in lobbying, which is a power globally recognized, will be obtained.

Our business people who conduct business in America are also a very important source of knowledge and pride for us. On the subject of developing our bilateral trade and investments, the contacts Turkish citizens who live in America have and the relations they cultivate are very valuable for Turkey. We have a great proverb: "There is strength in unity."

These two distinguished nonprofit umbrella organizations have almost become the eyes and ears of Turkey in America. Such events will set an example to Turkish citizens living not only in America but, indeed, in many countries around the world, improve the culture of working together as a team, and improve Turkey's power and profile in America, as if to verify the Turkish proverb "two hands clap, not one."

I am convinced that the National Leadership Conference of March 17-19, 2011 organized jointly by ATAA of Washington DC and FTAA of New York, is a significant step in unifying the Turkish American community and boost the profile of Turk and Turkey in America.

I congratulate ATAA and FTAA not only for staging this event but also for displaying leadership by working harmoniously together and convey my affection and best regards from Turkey.

Zafer Çağlayan
State Minister, The Republic of Turkey



Message by M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu

President, The Union of Chambers And Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)

Dear President Evinch (Övünç) and President Boztepe:

I congratulate you for your enterprising efforts to organize "Turkish American Leadership Conference".

The purpose, the profiles of the attendees targeted, and, of course, the timing couldn't be better. The message of unity and solidarity that will emanate from coming together will make our friends happy.

Half a million Turks live in the United States. Each and every one of you are successful in business, academia, or in your own profession. We know the power of lobbies at a capital where decisions affecting the world are made. You set up many non-governmental organizations (NGOs.) Each one of you is very effective individually or as NGOs. As a nation, we are proud of your successes. We are bragging about you. We want to make use of your success in the development of our country. We are exerting efforts to transfer your knowhow and experience to our country.

But you have one other mission. You live in a country that influences to a great degree world policies on economy, trade, politics, and military. Especially, you are in a country where ethnic lobbies are active. You are living in a country which is a very important ally of the Republic of Turkey. You have a responsibility to act together along with your personal responsibilities. The meaning of your togetherness grows as we witness the power and influence of those ethnic lobbies which work against the interests of especially our country in the U.S. and development of cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey.

The transformation started in the early 1980s by the late president Turgut Özal has been advanced to a higher degree with the developments experienced in the economy and foreign policy in post 2001 years. Today, Turkey is the 17th largest economy with its 800 billion dollar in economic activity. We are now a country whose people get richer as time goes on, can produce, and sell their products to more than 200 countries. We have become a regional industrial giant with serious production.

Our relations with our neighbors are developing everyday with the "zero problem" approach. We have come to export peace and prosperity in our region.

Our friends are proud of us now. We must also be proud of our nation, country, and successes. But we must never feel complacent.

As the Union Of Chambers And Commodity Exchanges Of Turkey and an umbrella organization for business in Turkey,

we do value the development of our relations with America. That because the U.S. is the greatest economy and the largest market for imports in the world. Turkey's share in America's imports should not be 0.2%. To be in the 46th place on America's imports' list defies the potential we have. We want to see more American investment in Turkey. We exert efforts to achieve that goal. That is why we established an office in Washington DC.

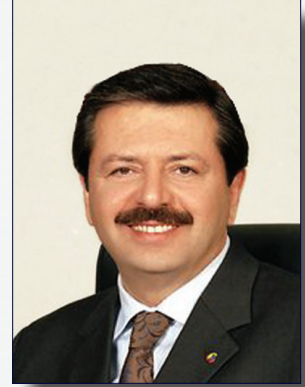
Finally, I wish to emphasize the World Turkish Business Council that we established in 2007. We founded the World Turkish Business Council with the purposes of bringing our expatriate entrepreneurs together, constructing a platform of dialogue and sharing, and unite our individual values and successes around same goals.

Let's get more prosperous. Let join the important actors in economic, social, cultural, academic, and artistic lives of the countries in which we live. We wanted our entrepreneurs all over the globe to get to know and cooperate with each other. We wanted to act in unity within the understanding of an organized effort. We wanted to be more effective and aimed to contribute more in those decision making processes. We expect you to join us by becoming members.

I express my gratitude to all those who organized this event enabling us to come together, participated in it, and encouraged it.

Respectfully,

Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu
President
The Union of Chambers And Commodity
Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)



Message by G. Lincoln McCurdy

President, Turkish Coalition of America

It gives me great pleasure to send the best wishes of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) for a successful ATAA/FTAA National Leadership Conference and to welcome all participants to the nation's capital.

This conference is testament to a renewed spirit of teamwork and cooperation in the Turkish American community. It is this spirit that TCA fostered since its establishment in 2007, acting on a core founding principle of TCA, namely to support all like-minded organizations. TCA has been providing major funding to ATAA and FTAA to help build grassroots programs and to foster effective coordination within the community on many critical issues in Washington, DC and around the country.



February 2010 TCA Congressional Staff Delegation in front of Anıtkabir.



TCA Native American Business Delegation with Turkish Trade Minister Zafer Caglayan.

We have a most challenging and equally rewarding task ahead of us. This task is to increase the number of Turkish Americans who are engaged in the US political process to the tens of thousands and to create a strong Turkish American voice in the nation's capital.



While national organizations like ATAA and FTAA have a key role to play in this task, they cannot do it alone. Local Turkish American organizations must embrace the grassroots mission as their own. Only if organizing the community around national issues that affect Turkish Americans and US-Turkey relations comes as natural to local association leaders as talking about the next "Cumhuriyet Bayramı" dinner or "Bayram" picnic, will the efforts of national groups begin to make a difference. I cannot imagine a better occasion than this conference to make a pledge toward reaching that goal.

As TCA, we hope that our work helps to strengthen the community's grassroots efforts and provides creative new outreaches and programs upon which to build a positive Turkish American civic agenda.

Since our foundation in 2007, in solidarity with Turkish Americans across the country, TCA helped make considerable strides in strengthening the voice of Turkish Americans in Washington. TCA spearheaded the campaign to increase the membership of the Caucus on US-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, which reached its all-time historical high in October 2010 with 125 members - over a quarter of the entire US House of Representatives. Since May 2009, when TCA organized its first Congressional Delegation to Turkey, TCA has become the third largest organizer of all foreign travel for members of Congress and staff, following the American Israel Education Foundation, an affiliate of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). These efforts have helped put Turkish Americans on the map on Capitol Hill.

TCA is also investing in the next generation of the Turkish American community through scholarships and congressional internships. TCA Advance, the TCA Scholarship Program for Turkish American college students, provides the brightest and most community-oriented young Turkish Americans with an incentive to choose a career



March 2010, members of Congress visit Turkey with TCA, at Hacettepe University's Jazz Conservatory opening.



TCA 2010 Washington Summer internship program group.

in public affairs, international relations or the media, while solidifying their bonds with the Turkish American community. 78 scholarships have been awarded to 48 students since 2007. In addition, TCA so far provided 33 Turkish American young men and women the opportunity to learn about the American political process by interning at congressional offices, think-tanks and nonprofits in the nation's capital.

We believe that a "people-to-people" civic platform must become an important pillar of the US-Turkey relationship. However, Turkish Americans are a relatively small community. To strengthen the voice of Turkish Americans by expanding our circle of friends, TCA has reached out to various communities in the United States, including the Bosniak American, Macedonian American, Chaldean American, African American, Hispanic American and Native American communities through various grants and

programs. These new friendships augment our existing close relations with the Azerbaijani and other Turkic communities and contribute to strengthening a balanced dialogue in Washington, DC on foreign policy issues affecting US national interests, Turkey and its region. We also introduce the next generation of American minority leaders to Turkey through scholarships to study abroad at Turkish universities. 100 minority college students have received this scholarship thus far and have visited Turkey, returning as our goodwill ambassadors in their communities. We encourage Turkish Americans across the country to replicate these outreaches and promote these TCA programs as opportunities created by Turkish Americans for their fellow Americans.

Last, but not least, Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey are no longer "easy prey" for defamation, intimidation and discrimination, thanks to the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (TALDF). While only two years old, TALDF, the legal arm of the TCA, has successfully defended a member of Congress and a prominent professor against defamation and outright lies spread by adversaries of Turkish Americans and Turkey. TALDF will stand with you to defend your rights if you are attacked for standing up as a Turkish American or a friend of Turkey.

Our world, including the United States and Turkey, is facing monumental challenges in the years ahead. There is no doubt that a strong US-Turkey relationship that embodies democratic values, pluralism, secularism, respect for freedom of expression and human rights not only serves the best interests of the two nations, but carries peace dividends well beyond. A strong Turkish American voice is needed more than ever to protect and advance this relationship, because it is a voice that truly speaks for "peace at home, peace in the world."



TCA's first scholarship recipient Josh Lykes at Ephesus, Izmir.

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE,
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION,
AND PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

March 17, 2011

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To the Assembly of Turkish-American
Associations (ATAA) & the Federation of
Turkish American Associations (FTAA):

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I wish you a successful 2011 Turkish American National Leadership Conference. The ATAA & FTAA fill an important role among the more than 500,000 Turkish and Turkic Americans that the two umbrella groups represent. As a Representative with many constituents of Turkish and Turkic descent, I recognize the important role that such umbrella groups play in the national dialogue.

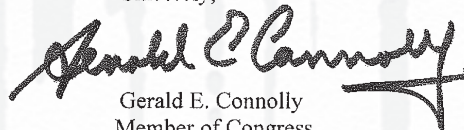
I have been fortunate to have a strong, close relationship with our Turkish and Turkic American constituents, and I look forward to continuing this relationship through my role as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey.

I share President Obama's desire to build on the cooperation between Turkey and the United States. I believe that each of our nations continues to have much to offer the other—in terms of trade, security, and cultural exchange.

I also appreciate that Turkey has embraced its role on the international stage. Not only has Turkey been a key NATO ally, but Turkey also has explored gaining EU membership—a step which I firmly support. Turkey has participated in countless peacekeeping operations. Even today, Turkish and American servicemembers are serving side by side in Afghanistan.

You will most likely explore these and other issues through the 2011 Turkish American National Leadership Conference. I offer my thanks for your hard work on behalf of the Turkish-Americans who live in my congressional district and across our country.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
8TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

March 1, 2011

Mr. Gunay Evinch
ATAA President
1526 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Kaya Boztepe
FTAA President
821 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Evinch and Mr. Boztepe:

I am pleased to commend the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) on the occasion of the first Turkish American National Leadership Conference, to be held from March 17 to 19, 2011, in Crystal City, Virginia.

As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, I recognize the key role Turkish Americans play in American society. As an important cultural community, Turkish Americans enrich America's ethnic heritage while facilitating dialogue and relations between the nations of Turkey and the United States. It is my sincere hope that the next generation of Turkish American leaders will continue to build on this already thriving relationship.

My home town of Paterson, New Jersey is home to one of the largest Turkish American populations in the country. I am proud of my close relationship with the Turkish American community, and I can see firsthand the important contributions being made every day by Turkish Americans.

I extend my best wishes for a productive conference. As your representative and your friend, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 17-19, 2011

GREETINGS!

I am pleased to extend greetings to all attending the **1st Annual Turkish American Leadership Conference**.

I applaud the Assembly of Turkish Americans Associations and Federation of Turkish American Associations for their continued commitment to providing a message of hope, determination, and support to future leaders and supporters in the Turkish community. The foundation's principle to aid in empowering the Turkish community will provide the opportunity to enrich the lives of so many deserving people.

My best wishes for a fantastic event and continued future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eleanor H. Norton".

Eleanor Holmes Norton



Greetings

Turkish American Leadership Conference

March 17-19, 2011



As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) and the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA), on the occasion of your first Turkish American Leadership Conference.

The conference will focus on empowering Turkish Americans through grassroots civic engagement, education, and training; and will help to develop an informed Turkish American community that can effectively support U.S.-Turkish relations.

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, I value the special relationship that we as a city share with members of your community, and wish you an enjoyable and productive event.

Vincent C. Gray
Vincent C. Gray
Mayor, District of Columbia

Wednesday - March 16, 2011

Arrival

6:00pm-9:00pm **ATA-DC Welcoming Happy Hour**
Cities Restaurant & Lounge
919 19th St NW (On 19th St between I and K St. NW)
Washington, DC, 20006, Tel: 202-331-3232
Metro Stop: Farragut West on Orange and Blue Lines

Thursday - March 17, 2011

TURKISH AMERICAN CAPITAL DAY

8:00am-9:00am **Registration**

9:00am-10:00am **Plenary Session**
Greetings by President Gunay Evinch, ATAA and President Kaya Boztepe, FTAA
Welcoming Remarks by:
• Egemen Bağış, Minister for EU Affairs, Republic of Turkey
• Ambassador Namık Tan, Republic of Turkey
• Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, Co-Chair, Turkish Caucus
• Arlington City Council Chairman Chris Zimmerman, Host County
• Alexandria City Mayor William D. Euille

10:00am-11:30am **Panel: US-Turkish Relations: Challenges and Opportunities**
Moderator: Mark Meiowitz, Advisor to FTAA and ATAA Presidents
Speakers:
• Gönül Tol, Director, Center for Turkish Studies, Middle East Institute
• Süleyman Gökçe, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Turkey
• Jess Bailly, Director, Office of Southern Europe in the Bureau of European & Eurasian Affairs

11:45am-12:45pm **Working Luncheon & Panel: Turkish American Activism - I**
Moderator: Demet Cabbar, ATAA Capital Region VP, ATA-DC President
Speakers:
• Yenal Küçükler, ATAA Grassroots Coordinator
• Jon Kaplan, FTAA Grassroots Coordinator
The New Turkish American Public Advocacy Network
• Beril Ünver, Project Manager, Turkish Coalition of America
Grassroots Advocacy
• Lydia Borland, TC-USA PAC
The Impact of Political Action Committees
• Sam Eskenazi, Director, National Museum of American People
Sharing Your Heritage in the New National Museum of American People

1:00pm **Capitol Hill Grassroots Visitations**
Shuttle service to Capitol Hill will be provided.

7:00pm **Ambassador's Reception at the Turkish Embassy Residence**
Shuttle service to Ambassador's Residence will be provided. (For registrants only.)

Friday - March 18, 2011

TURKISH AMERICAN SOLIDARITY DAY

- 8:50am-9:00am Greetings by President Gunay Evinch, ATAA and President Kaya Boztepe, FTAA
- 9:00am-9:50am **The Turk in America: The Creation of an Enduring Prejudice**
Justin McCarthy, Professor of History, University of Louisville
- 9:50am-11:00am **Panel: Turkish American Activism - II**
Moderator: Gunay Evinch, President, ATAA
Speakers:
• Bruce Fein, Turkish American Legal Defense Fund
Defending the Constitutional Rights of Turkish Americans
• Mellanie Pell, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee
Jewish American - Leadership and How It Is Done
• Güler Köknar, Executive Director, Turkish Cultural Foundation
Promoting through Education, Culture and Arts
• Dr. Javid Huseynov, General Director, Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC),
co-founder of Pax Turcica Institute (PTI)
Pax Turcica: The New Turkic Thinking and Approach to Grassroots in America
• Adil Baguirov, Ph.D., Co-founder and managing director U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) and
U.S. Turkic Network (USTN)
Enabling Grassroots Activism and Greater Political Education for all Turkic-Americans
- 11:00am-12:00pm **Panel: Effective Non-Profit Organizations**
Moderator: Ergün Kırlikovalı, President-Elect, ATAA
Speakers:
• Colette Trohan, Certified Professional Parliamentarian-Teacher (CPP-T)
Running Effective Board Meetings
• Lawrence S. Ottinger, President for the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest
Engaging in Effective Nonprofit Advocacy
• (Speaker TBD)
Effective Fundraising for Nonprofits
- 12:15pm-1:45pm **Luncheon**
Keynote Speaker: M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman, TOBB
- 2:45pm **Interactive Session with Consul Generals and Honorary Consul Generals**
Moderator: Nurten Ural, Past President, ATAA, Honorary Consul General to Detroit
Speakers:
• Sharon Wiener, Former US Consul General to Istanbul
• Elizabeth Shelton, Former US Consul General to Adana, Turkey
• Murat Lütem, Turkish Consul General to Boston
• Akil Oktem, Turkish Consul General to Houston
• Mehmet Samsar, Turkish Consul General to New York
• Hakan Tekin, Turkish Consul General to Los Angeles
• Fatih Yıldız, Turkish Consul General to Chicago
• Mona Diamond, Honorary Consul General to Atlanta
• Emru Erten, Honorary Consul General to Kansas City
• Ufuk Gökçen, Honorary Consul General to Seattle
• Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Honorary Consul General to San Francisco
• Laurence Joseph O'Connell, Honorary Consul General to Sacramento
• Prof. Cenap Kırıtlı, Honorary Consul General to Baltimore

Friday - March 18, 2011

TURKISH AMERICAN SOLIDARITY DAY

7:30pm **National Turkish American Gala Banquet**

Keynote Speakers:

- Egemen Bağış, Minister for EU Affairs, Republic of Turkey
- Ambassador Namık Tan, Republic of Turkey
- Former Congressman William Delahunt
- Cenk Uygur, MSNBC and Young Turks TV Radio

Musical Feast by Dr. İlhan Özulu, Outstanding Turkish American Violinist and Musician

Saturday - March 19, 2011

YOUNG TURKS DAY- STUDENT & YOUTH PROGRAM

10:00am-10:15am Greetings by President Gunay Evinch, ATAA and President Kaya Boztepe, FTAA

10:15am-11:45am **Turkey in Media and Education**

Moderator: Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Honorary Consul General to California, ATAA Trustee

Speakers:

- Çiğdem Akbay, Documentary Filmmaker
"Hip-hopistan": Presentation on the fusion of American and Turkish culture in today's Türkiye
- Hülya Aksu, Editor, Founder, "I AM Modern" Women's Magazine
Shaping the American Media's Turkey Outlook
- Iris Gross, Executive Director, Birmingham International Center
Spotlighting Turkey in State Public School Education
- American Society of Travel Agents (Speaker TBD)
American Tourism to Turkey: Knowing Turkey, Loving Turkey

11:45am-12:30pm **Placing Turkey-Related Programming on Public Supported Television**

Marty Callaghan, Historian, Journalist & Film Producer

12:30pm-2:00pm **Luncheon**

Keynote Speaker: Cenk Uygur, MSNBC and Young Turks TV Radio
The Young Turk in America

2:15pm-3:15pm **Panel: Campus Life and Turkish American Students Associations- Part I**

Moderator: Esra Alemdar, Congressional Programs Officer, (USAFMC)

Speakers:

- Çiğdem Acar, Immigration Attorney, Acar Law Firm
Immigration and other Legal Matters
- Senem S. Bakar, Associate Director, Exchange Visitors & Student Services, AU
Career Planning and Development
- Esen Akter Tekinel, Vice President, Professional Development, PMI - Washington, DC
Time management

Saturday - March 19, 2011

YOUNG TURKS DAY - STUDENT & YOUTH PROGRAM

3:15pm-4:00pm

Panel: Campus Life and Turkish American Students Associations - Part II

Moderator: Esra Alemdar, Congressional Programs Officer, (USAFMC)

Speakers:

- Burcu Polat, President, GWU-TSA

Forming and Organizing TSA and Events

- Gizem Tunca, Public Relations Officer, GWU-TSA

Public Outreach and UNICEF Program Benefiting Students in Turkey

- Emsu Gorpe, President, GMU-TSA

Political Activism in TSA

- Murat Demirbaş, GMU-TSA

4:00pm-4:15pm

Coffee Break

4:15pm-5:15pm

Panel: Turkic Americans: Newcomers to the American Campus Experience

Moderator: Ayla Bakkallı, Vice President-Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA)

Speakers:

- Adil Baguirov, Ph.D., Co-founder and managing director of the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) and U.S. Turkic Network (USTN)

Turkic Americans: Navigating between Integration and Tradition

- Kılıç Buğra Kanat, International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation

Uygur (Turks): Emigration, Adaptation and Integration to the US Campuses

- Emil Ismayilov, Azerbaijani American Youth Council

Azerbaijani American: The "other" Voice - Comparative Educational Experience between Azerbaijani-American Students in United States and Azerbaijan

- Servet N. Bayımlı, American Association of Crimean Turks

Examining the Parallelisms of Crimean Turks' Voyage into an American Classroom: Conceptualizing the Principles of the First Amendment

5:15pm-6:15pm

Reception

6:15pm

Talent Show: 'Empowering Turkish Americans'

- Live Music Performance and Dancing
- Photography Slideshow

7:15pm

Young Turks Party

ÇİĞDEM ACAR

Çiğdem A. Acar, Esq., Managing Attorney at the Acar Law Firm PLLC, counsels clients in all areas of U.S. immigration law including foreign trade and investment. Her academic credentials include a J.D. degree (Fordham University School of Law), M.A. in Sociology (New School for Social Research) and B.A. in Economics (New York University). She served as Chair of the Immigration Law Committee of the N.Y. Women's Bar Association, and is a former member of the boards of the American Turkish Society, Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce and the Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves on the board of the Turkish-American Business Forum. Acar is a frequent speaker at international seminars including, Turkish-American Business Partnership Program, co-organized by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK), Konya Chamber of Industry, Ankara Chamber of Industry, Aegean Region Chamber of Industry and Izmir Chamber of Commerce. Acar was also invited as a guest speaker to the Mugla Chamber of Commerce's 15th Annual Meeting hosted by Milas Chamber of Commerce, as well as to the Mardin Chamber of Commerce and Bodrum Chamber Of Commerce, under the leadership of the Turkish American Business Association (TABA/AMCham). Most recently, Acar participated in the American Committee Visit to Turkey Program co-organized by TABA/AmCham. Çiğdem A. Acar is also the Founder and President of a N.Y. non-profit organization, Bridges of Hope Project, established to support educational projects in Turkey. (www.BOHP.org) (<http://BOHP.org/why>) BOHP creates elementary school libraries, provides educational resources, and facilitates the mentoring of girls. To date, BOHP has established 42 libraries built in the rural regions of Turkey impacting over 20,000 students.

ÇİĞDEM AKBAY

Çiğdem Akbay spent five years in Istanbul, Turkey conducting anthropological research and working on various film projects. HIPHOPISTAN is a result of her growing interest in the relationships between Istanbul youth, cultural identity, and globalization. Residing between Los Angeles and Istanbul, she hopes to continue shooting documentary films dealing with similar themes.

HÜLYA AKSU

Hulya Aksu is the founding publisher of the award winning and world's first reader generated magazine titles, 1 AM Modern and Modern DC Business. She graduated from Georgia State with a degree in Film and Television Production, aspiring to one day be a documentary film maker. She worked at CNN International in the Atlanta headquarters and she also continued her film production career producing documentaries. Aksu is the

the co-producer of the feature length movie, "Dreaming in English". As an award winning entrepreneur, Aksu is a recognized leader in her industry.

ESRA ALEMDAR

Esra Alemdar is the Congressional Programs Officer at the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC), and manages the Turkey and Germany programming for the U.S. Congress: the Congressional Study Group on Turkey and the Congressional Study Group on Germany. Alemdar holds a B.A. in International Affairs with a concentration on International Politics, and minors in German and History from the George Washington University. Alemdar is currently pursuing her M.A. in Government at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. Previously an intern for FMC, she has also interned at the White House Office of Global Communications, the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations (ATAA), the United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce (USACC), and the House Committee of Foreign Affairs, working closely with the Honorable Robert Wexler (D-FL, 1997-2010) at the House Subcommittee on Europe. Born and raised in Ankara, Turkey, Alemdar moved to the United States in 2005 to pursue her college education. In September 2006, Alemdar reactivated the George Washington University Turkish Student Association (GWU TSA), and served as its President until 2009. As President of GWU TSA, Alemdar organized numerous educational events; such as lectures, documentary screenings, and panel discussions on issues, such as the plight of Armenians during World War I, terrorism, and the importance of revitalizing U.S.-Turkish relations. In 2007, the American Turkish Association of Washington D.C. (ATA-DC) presented Alemdar a Community Service Award for her dedication to the Turkish-American cause. In 2008, Alemdar was given the Young Leaders Award by ATAA at the 28th Annual ATAA Convention. A board member of the Atatürk Society of America, Alemdar is also a member of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) and ATAA.

EGEMEN BAĞIŞ

Egemen Bağış was first elected to Parliament in 2002 as a deputy of Istanbul. He was appointed as Minister for EU Affairs on January 2009 and has been working for full membership negotiations of Turkey since then. Bağış was the party's Vice Chairman in charge of Foreign Affairs and as a Vice Chairman, he had been a member of AK Party's Central Executive Committee, the party's highest body until 2009. Bağış was the party's contact person for international relations and diplomacy. He directed and coordinated the party's national and international network and local branches on foreign policy matters. He also coordinated the flow of key global developments to the party leadership.

ADİL BAGUIROV

Dr. Adil Baguirov is the co-founder and managing director of the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) and the U.S. Turkic Network (USTN), as well as the co-founder and member of the Board of Directors of the Karabakh Foundation. He is a post-doctoral fellow at the MGIMO University's Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy, and holds a BBA from the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Dr. Baguirov held numerous speaking engagements on various political and economic developments in the Turkic world at the RAND Corporation, Heritage Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, was the co-chair at the energy security panel at the Riga NATO Summit's Young Leaders Forum, "Caucasus in 20 years" forum at the French Senate, and a Guest Lecturer at several institutions of higher learning in the United States, Russia and Azerbaijan. He is an author of three (3) books, thirty (30) journal articles and close to a hundred (100) newspaper articles on the subjects of technology, energy, security, history and politics of the Turkic world.

AYLA BAKKALI

Ayla Bakkalli is a graduate of New York University with a M.A. in History and under its consortium program attended Princeton and Columbia University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Real Estate. Bakkalli served as President of the American Association of Crimean Turks in 2009/2010 and currently as its Advocacy Director, arranged a meeting between Chairman Mustafa Cemiloglu and Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. Bakkalli is the 2009/2011 member of the Coordination Executive Committee member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, an Ukrainian non-governmental organization, and participated on the initiative to nominate Chairman Mustafa Cemiloglu for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for Human Rights. Bakkalli is also the Representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis at the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Forum; Crimea-L Yahoo Group Moderator and, Vice-President and Executive Committee member of the Federation of Turkish American Association. In addition, Bakkalli worked with Native American non profit organization as its Advocacy Director on indigenous issues and prepared a manual on, "How to Conduct Advocacy at the United Nations Utilizing its Four Human Rights Treaties," followed by a paper on "Development with Culture and Identity," presented at the 2010 Indigenous Forum and "Twenty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall," presentation at the Ukrainian American Institute in 2010 and at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation on, "Indigenous Crimean Tatars," in 2009.

JESS BAILY

Jess Baily is Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs where he manages bilateral relations with

Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus. Prior to this assignment, he coordinated U.S. policy on political issues before the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly as Director of the Office of UN Political Affairs. From 2007 to 2008, he served in Erbil, Iraq as the senior U.S. civilian representative in the Kurdish Region of Iraq. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor, Mr. Baily joined the Foreign Service in 1985 and has served in public affairs positions in Bangladesh, Senegal, Thailand, Turkey and the Netherlands. From 2005 to 2007, he directed the State Department's Washington Foreign Press Center. A native of Cincinnati, Mr. Baily has BA from Yale University and MA in European History from Columbia University. He speaks French, Turkish and Thai. He is married and has one son.

SENEM BAKAR

Senem Aktar, with over 19 years of experience in International Education and Exchange, is overseeing the International Student & Scholar Services office advising and immigration services, immigration document creation and SEVIS reporting requirements towards U.S. Government, in addition to managing the university's J1 Exchange Visitor Program. She is active in NAFSA leadership: Association for International Educators as the Chair of Embassy Dialogue Committee to facilitate communications between embassies and the US higher education community, and is on the Trainer's Corps for J1 regulations and credential evaluations. She is on the Boren Scholarship Committee for AU, the Critical Languages Scholarship Committee for the US Department of State and the JET selection committee for Japan. Bakar has been interviewed by the US Department of State, various sections of the VOA, NBC, ABC, WETA, WAMU, NPR and several foreign media on international education exchange and issues surrounding international students and scholars. Bakar managed AU's international admissions and recruitment prior to joining ISSS and actively marketed AU in the following countries for more than 8 years: Bahrain, Belgium, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE and UK. BS in Financial Economics from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, MA in Economics from Catholic University of America, Graduate Certificate in Cross Cultural Communication from American University.

SERVET N. BAYIMLI

Servet N. Bayimli is a high school junior at Brooklyn Technical High School Majoring in Law/Society in New York City. Academically he is in the top 1% of his class and is planning his future in Constitutional Law. Servet N. Bayimli founded the United Progressive Democratic Club's Youth Branch in 2009 and the Gravesend Community Action Network in 2009 to fulfill his passion for social justice. Servet N. Bayimli is currently affiliated with the

American Association of Crimean Turks, a 501c non-profit organization as its youth delegate in fostering civic engagement among his peers.

LYDIA BORLAND

Lydia Borland has more than 20 years of public and private sector experience in international business and government relations. Her regional expertise is in the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, while her functional expertise is international trade development and lobbying. She is currently Executive Director of the Caspian Group, an international consulting firm. Caspian Group provides consulting services to The Gephardt Group and The Livingston Group. Previously, as the Director of the Caspian Business Group, Borland worked with U.S. companies investing in Azerbaijan and the Caspian region, including Motorola and Texaco. The company helped build a broad-based foundation of support for strong U.S.-Azerbaijani relations in the commercial sector as well as in the political realm. Her activities included developing and supporting legislation and policies that benefit U.S.-Azerbaijani relations, and building coalitions and consensus needed to propel such initiatives. Borland was also Senior Principal at Capitoline/MS&L, a public affairs and public relations firm in Washington D.C. for five years. As such, she worked for diverse clients such as the Republic of Turkey, Takata Corporation, and American Textile Manufacturers Institute. She also served for five years as Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, for International Advisers Inc., a boutique public affairs firm, which specialized in U.S.-Turkish relations. She served as Washington Representative for the Turkish-U.S. Business Council (TAIK/DEIK) through the end of 2007. She has earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University and a M.B.A. in Finance from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

KAYA BOZTEPE

Kaya Boztepe is President of the Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA) and has served in this position for 4 years. Prior to serving as President of FTAA, Kaya Boztepe served as Secretary General and as Vice President of FTAA. His involvement in, and devotion to, Turkey and the Turkish community both here and throughout the world, has been virtually a lifelong activity and passion. In addition to his extensive work as the leader of FTAA, he was a community organizer while studying in college and established the Turkish American Youth Association along with the first Turkish radio program from New York and the first Turkish Television program. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Kaya Boztepe spent most of his life in New York and considers himself a true "New Yorker". Prior to his college and graduate studies in New York, he spent 6 years in Turkey. During this time he was educated at TED Ankara Koleji in Ankara and the English High School in Istanbul. Professionally, Kaya is a manager of product development, merchandising and

marketing focused on sustainability and "green life" where he has been an experienced executive senior manager for Fortune 500 Companies. Due to his expertise in "organic and sustainable products", he has been called upon to work closely with top level retail executives across the country, and is considered the premier expert in product development, sustainability and the organic products field. He is also President and CEO of Planet Green NY, working mainly with organic textiles, green construction, sustainable energy and waste-water management systems. Kaya lives in Monroe, New Jersey with his wife Umrhan and two children, Dilara and Kaan Jon.

DEMET CABBAR

Demet Cabbar is a Financial Analyst at the World Bank Treasury. Prior to her current position she worked as a Program Coordinator with the Financial and Private Sector Development Vice Presidency of the World Bank, as a part of which she organized workshops for senior level government officials and private sector executives around the globe for seven years. Born in Istanbul and raised in Tekirdag, Cabbar moved to the US in 1996 to continue her education. Cabbar has been a Board Member of the American Turkish Association of Washington, DC since 2003 and has been serving as the President for the past year and half. As President of ATA-DC, Cabbar had an opportunity to meet and work closely with the representatives of various Turkish and non-Turkish civil society organizations and institutions. In 2008, ATAA recognized Cabbar as the President of the Component Association of the Year for her role in mobilizing and engaging the Turkish American Community in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Cabbar is also the co-founder of the Washington, DC Turkish Folk Dance Troupe and the Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble which are both active dance groups in the DC area. Cabbar holds a BS degree in Management Engineering from Istanbul Technical University. Cabbar earned a Joint MBA/MA Degree in International Affairs and International Business in 1999 and a Master of Science in Finance Degree in 2007 from the George Washington University. As the ATAA Vice President for the Capital Region, Cabbar's goal is to develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones between ATAA and other Turkish and Non-Turkish communities, reach out to and engage younger members of the community and businesses in ATAA's activities and continue delivering large scale, large impact events and educational programs promoting and raising awareness of Turkish heritage in the U.S.

MARTY CALLAGHAN

Marty Callaghan is a veteran journalist who has earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in history. He has been writing and producing documentaries about history and war since 1996, and has won several filmmaking awards. His Archives of War series has sold more than 10,000 copies in the consumer market since 1999. Recently, Callaghan

has been commenting to media on the misguided war plan in Iraq, and how the Bush Administration failed to learn from British and French mistakes in the Middle East." As a staff editor for the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, MD., Marty played a key role in publishing Tom Clancy's first novel, *The Hunt for Red October*. He read the first chapter of the book in the author's home and got the manuscript to the Naval Institute Press, which published the book in 1984. Since his childhood in Chicago, Marty has studied naval and military history. While serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve, he received the Naval Achievement Medal for outstanding work in journalism. His master's thesis in history investigated the loss of the USS Thresher in April 1963 – the Navy's worst submarine disaster. Marty has presented three papers at symposia sponsored by the U.S. Naval Academy, and his articles have appeared in various magazines, such as *Naval History*, *Sailing*, and the *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*. Besides contributing to dozens of programs in the consumer market as a writer and/or producer, Marty produced a double-DVD release in 2001 – *Pearl Harbor: America Taken by Surprise*. For the past three years, Marty has focused on documentaries related to the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East. He has also filmed interviews and location footage across Turkey, Europe, and the United States.

WILLIAM DELAHUNT

William Delahunt is the Chairman of the Delahunt Group, a premier public policy and government affairs consulting firm. Delahunt came to Congress in 1997 with a distinguished career in public service and law enforcement. For fourteen years, he represented the Tenth Congressional District of Massachusetts – which includes Cape Cod, the Islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and the South Shore. In Congress he served as a member of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and recently served as the Chairman of its Subcommittee on Europe. Prior to his service in Congress, Delahunt was a District Attorney in the metropolitan Boston area for twenty two years. He is known for having developed the country's first prosecutorial unit on domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Delahunt pioneered programs to combat violence against women that have become national models. As a District Attorney, Delahunt attracted some of the most talented trial attorneys in the country. Over forty former prosecutors from his office went on to serve in the federal and state judiciary, including Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Many have also gone on to high profile positions in the private and public sector, including a U.S. Attorney for the Massachusetts District. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Delahunt brought his two decades of experience as a prosecutor – and lifelong commitment to safeguarding civil rights – to the federal arena. During the Clinton impeachment proceedings, Delahunt served as one of the leading Democrats on the Judiciary Committee. While on the Committee, Delahunt also served on its Intellectual Property Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction

over patent reform and legislation of importance to the "high tech" community. Current Chairman of the Judiciary Committee Lamar Smith has praised Delahunt's work and noted his bipartisan approach to lawmaking. He called Delahunt "that rare member of Congress who has both Democrats and Republicans as good friends. Our respect comes from his ability to stick to his principles."

MONA DIAMOND

Mona Diamond became the Turkish Honorary Consul General for the State of Georgia in 2005. In the same year, she became the Chairman of The American Turkish Friendship Council, a not for profit organization for the promotion of close relations between the United States and Turkey. Ms. Diamond is one of the original founders of the Turkish Lecture Series at Emory University, an endowed lecture series. Being deeply committed to education, she is working with Emory University as a member of the President's International Advisory Council, with the aim of bringing Turkish Students to Emory University. She also sits on the President's Advisory Board at Oglethorpe University. She has obtained a grant from the Turkish government in order to have the Turkish language taught at Georgia State University. Mona is also partnering with the ACEV Foundation of Turkey (Mother Child Education Foundation). She is a Board Member of the Turkish Philanthropic Foundation, USA. Mona also sits on the Advisory Committee of the Atlantic Council, Washington D.C. to connect and build constructive relationships between young professionals and future leaders from the United States and Turkey. Mona is a member of the Atlanta Women's Network, and the International Business Academy (IBAI). She also serves on the Board of the World Chamber of Commerce and the International Board of Global Executive Women, Atlanta, Georgia. Mona is also a member of American Israel Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Center for International Studies, both in Atlanta, Georgia. Diamond works closely with TABA, DEIK, TAIK, and GYIAD (all Turkish American Business Associations in Turkey). She also works with TOBB-USA and TUSIAD-USA, as well as all Chambers of Commerce in Turkey including ITO (Istanbul Chamber of Commerce). In 2003-04, Ms. Diamond was Vice President of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia. In 2003, she received The Turkish Women's League of America award for her successful efforts and help to the Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia.

EMRU ERTEN

Emru Erten is a first-generation Turkish American who first came to Ohio in 1976 then Missouri. He is an Engineer and Food Scientist working as a Quality Assurance Director in charge of food safety and quality systems in the food industry. He has been involved in promoting Turkish Culture since his childhood years in Turkey. He and his family have been involved with The Turkish Student and Turkish American Associations in Ohio and Missouri where he has served as president and board member. Since

1998 he has been a commissioner under the Kansas City Mayor's Ethnic Enrichment Commission representing Turkey among 52 countries. Since 2005 Emru Erten has been the Honorary Counsel General of Turkey for Kansas State and Kansas City, Missouri.

SAM ESKENAZI

Sam Eskenazi is Director of the Coalition for the National Museum of the American People. In February, 2007, Sam began work on a formal proposal to build the National Museum of the American People. At the beginning of 2009, he began to form a formal coalition of ethnic, minority and national groups in support of a bi-partisan Presidential Commission to study establishment of the Museum. The Coalition is now seeking bi-partisan support for the commission from Congress. In 2003, Sam retired from a career in the federal government that included serving as the director of public information of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for eight years, including for six years before it opened and for two years afterwards. His first federal job was as the first director of public affairs for the Institute of Museum Services. He also served at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, two Treasury Department agencies and in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam where he led a 75-man platoon. Sam and his parents were born and raised in Seattle. His grandparents on his father's side are from the Turkish island of Marmara and his grandparents on his mother's side are from the then Ottoman-controlled island of Rhodes. He believes his ancestors lived in the Ottoman Empire in those locations for hundreds of years.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE

Mayor William D. Euille is the Mayor of our host city Alexandria. He is a dynamic man highly involved in community affairs in Alexandria - his home town, and Washington, DC. Euille is also exceedingly active in business and construction industry organizations. He is also the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wm. D. Euille and Associates, Inc., formed on April 9, 1987. He graduated from T.C. Williams High School and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut in 1972. Since he has also earned many major awards and honors such as the 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year from the Virginia NAACP (The Mayor was the inaugural winner of this award); Who's Who in the East; Who's Who in America; 1995 Community Service Award from the Hopkins House Association; Outstanding Young Men of America Award; and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year (2001); and many more. Mayor Euille's election history is also one of success. He was elected to a three-year term on the Alexandria City Council in May, 1994. He was re-elected in May, 1997 (Vice Mayor) and in May, 2000. He was elected the City's first African-American Mayor in May, 2003 and was re-elected Mayor in May, 2006 and 2009.

GUNAY EVINCH

Gunay Evinch (Övünç) was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 23, 1963. Evinch is ATAA's 14th President, and ATAA's first American-born President. He has been an ATAA volunteer since 1989, having served as a writer for The Turkish Times, and as Legal Counsel (1996-98), Secretary General (1998-2000), Capital Region Vice President (2004-06), and President-Elect (2007-09). He completed his Juris Doctor at Washington & Lee University in Virginia (1991), EU Legal Studies at the University of Madrid (1989), and Bachelors Degree in Economics and Public Service at the University of California, Davis, (1986). He received the Lee Law Grant as well as the UC Regents Outstanding Senior Award. Between 1991-93, Evinch was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Japan Sasakawa Scholar in International Law, counter-terrorism, and the Armenian case. He is a lawyer at the law firm of Saltzman & Evinch (www.Turklaw.Net), which he established in March 1994. Evinch also serves as a Director on the World Affairs Council of America National Board and Representative on the Heritage Council of the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

BRUCE FEIN

Bruce Fein is a resident scholar at the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA). Over the past decade, Fein has written and spoken extensively on Turkish-American relations; the PKK; the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Annan Plan; the Armenian genocide narrative and the politics of congressional Armenian resolutions; Turkish constitutional reform; Turkey's blossoming democracy; and, Turkey's anxieties over Northern Iraq, including Kirkuk. He was a guest speaker at a conference sponsored by the Foreign Policy Institute and Bilkent University in Ankara to critique the interim Iraqi constitution. Before joining TCA, Fein was a resident scholar at the Assembly of Turkish American Association and columnist for the Turkish Times. He also served as a consultant to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and evaluated the terms of the Annan Plan. He has appeared regularly on VOA and Turkish television to discuss current political events and their implications for Turkish-American relations. An honors graduate from Harvard Law School, Fein brings to his Turkish and Turkish-American scholarship a nationally acclaimed expertise in constitutional and international law. He has advised scores of countries undergoing political or constitutional transitions, including matters of secularism, freedom of expression, federalism, and military subordination to civilian authority. Fein's oral or written commentary is invariably incisive, vivid, succinct, and quotable. His worldwide experience adds special depth to his observations about Turkey and the evolution of Turkish-American relations.

VIRGINIA FOXX

Congresswoman Foxx is the U.S. Representative for North Carolina's 5th Congressional District, serving since 2005. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and continued her education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. From 1994 to 2004, Ms. Foxx served in the North Carolina Senate. Virginia Foxx has been a staunch supporter of the Turkish-American community, and has been a member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans since 2005.

SÜLEYMAN GÖKÇE

Süleyman Gökçe joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1990. He worked at the Bilateral Political Department for Gulf Countries and Islamic Conference Organization (1991-1992), MFA; completed his military service at the Turkish Naval Forces in 1992; followed by his assignment at the Multilateral Political Department for International Organizations and the United Nations (1992-1993), MFA. His first assignment abroad was at the Turkish Embassy in Rome, Italy (1993-1996). His subsequent assignment was at the Turkish Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1996 where he subsequently had to work both in Kabul and Islamabad, Pakistan, from October 1996 until 1998 due to suspension of the Embassy in Kabul. Upon returning to Turkey, he was assigned to the Bilateral Political Department for South Asia, Far East and the Pacific Countries. During this period, he also worked as assistant to the Turkish Envoy for Afghanistan, and travelled in the region across the board. Following a sabbatical leave in 2000, he worked at the Turkish Embassy in London as First Secretary, and Counselor. In 2004, he was appointed as Chief Political Advisor to the NATO Senior Special Representative for Afghanistan then served as Chief Political Advisor to Commander ISAF VII. In this period, he served during four consecutive ISAF Commands in Kabul, Afghanistan. Upon returning to Turkey, he served at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Head of Department for the South Caucasus from 2005 to 2007, where he covered Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. He served at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC, First Counselor for Congressional Affairs, Turkey-U.S. relations, and U.S. domestic politics from September 2007 to August 2010 when he assumed the duties of the Deputy Chief of Mission as Minister-Counselor. He earned his B.A. from Ankara University, an MSc. from the Middle East Technical University, in the field of international relations, and a Certificate for Diplomatic Studies from the University of Oxford. He was twice decorated with Non Article 5 Medal for service with NATO in relation to the ISAF operations in Afghanistan. His fields of interest include medieval history, classical music, studies on contemporary Islam, horseback riding, rowing, polo and racket ball.

UFUK GÖKÇEN

Representing the Republic of Turkey in the Washington State as a Honorary Consul General since 2002. President of the Washington State Consular Association representing all diplomats serving in the WA State as well as emeritus and retired U.S. diplomats residing in the WA State. Member of Board of Trustees for the World Affairs Council. Sponsor of the Seattle International Film Festival, Seattle International Children's Festival, City of Seattle FESTAL, Garfield Highschool-Global Technology Academy Computer Aid and Cultural Exchange, Children's Gathering for Peace and World Affairs Council's Passport to World and Educators Tour projects. Initiated many disaster relief drives to help the Turkish, Indian, Pakistani, Indonesian communities affected by earthquakes. Organized inter-community and inter-faith events to promote peace, friendship and better understanding in the Pacific Northwest region. Initiated and founder of the annual April 23rd International Children's Friendship Festival to which around 16 communities would be participating this year. Initiated the annual Turkish Cultural Festival-Turkfest celebrations at the Seattle Center and Turkish Film Festival under the FESTAL project in 2001 and served as the executive director of the festival organization for the first 6 years and later advisor and fund raising coordinator. Organized the first Turkish Trade Delegation visit to the Washington State in 2002 and currently working on establishment of Turkish American Business Alliance organization and a WA State VIP trade and goodwill delegation visit to Turkey. Advisory Board Member of the University of Washington, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization Department. Led the project to establish a Turkish Studies Endowment Fund at the University of Washington. Founding member of the nation-wide Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) network. Working for the Boeing Company as a structures engineering instructor with 31 years of diversified aviation experience. Founding Board member of the Boeing Engineering and Manufacturing as well as Commercial Aviation Services Diversity Councils. More than 20 awards winner at Boeing for technical achievements and community and customer services. Married and has one son.

EMSU GORPE

Emsu Gorpe is a senior at George Mason University majoring in Government and International Politics with a minor in Journalism. She is the founder and president of the United Turkish Student Association at George Mason. She has traveled to many different places in Europe and Middle East. Having lived overseas, she is a firm believer in multiculturalism. She has been actively volunteering with Kardelen Dance Ensemble for the last five-years promoting Turkish culture through dancing. After graduating, Gorpe plans to study law and pursue a career in politics with a focus on policy development. She is currently doing an internship at America Abroad Media, a company that

harnesses the power of media to inform America and the world about the current global challenges.

IRIS GROSS

Iris Gross, CAE is the Executive Director of the Birmingham International Center. The internationally recognized, award-winning Birmingham organization is the oldest continuing cultural organization of its kind in the United States. Now in its 60th year, the organization promotes mutual understanding between cultures through arts, education and economic development programs. BIC spotlights a different country each year through a variety of cultural activities. It also provides services to Alabama's international community and new residents. Gross was a founding member and first President of the Alabama Association of Non Profits, an organization founded to help strengthen and support non-profits in Alabama. She was a member of the 1998 class of Leadership Birmingham and was an officer of the Alabama/Mississippi Festival and Events Association. She is a founding director of the Interfaith Alliance of Alabama. She was a member of the Birmingham Committee of Honor for the Freedom's Sisters exhibition. Her other affiliations include The Women's Network, Kiwanis International and Birmingham-Southern College Norton Board of Advisors. Gross holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from American University. She holds Certified Association Executive Accreditation from the American Society of Association Executives. The City of Rockville, Maryland has honored her for her work with senior citizens. Gross' biography and achievements are included in Who's Who in America.

M. RİFAT HİSARCIKLIOĞLU

M. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu is the President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), which is the largest non-profit business organization in Turkey, covering 365 Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and representing the country's 1.3 million firms and companies, and acting as the most effective professional organization with a network of members, reaching into nearly every community in the country. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu was born in Ankara, and earned his B.A. degree in Economics and Management from Gazi University. Since August 2001, he has been the President of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), which aims to contribute to the efforts for improving Turkey's external economic relations through Business Councils world-wide.

JAVID HUSEYNOV

Dr. Javid Huseynov is originally from Baku, Azerbaijan. He is a graduate of the University of California Irvine (UCI) with a doctorate degree in Computer Science, and of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) with Masters degrees in Engineering Management and Computer Science. Since 1995, Dr. Huseynov was closely involved

with Azeri- and Turkish-American grassroots. In 1995, he co-founded the first Azerbaijani online newsgroup "Yeni Dostlar Network" which spawned a number of successful grassroots and advocacy projects over the last 15 years. He is a co-founder and general director of Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), the first and only Azeri-American academic grassroots organization; the executive director of Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), the oldest Azeri-American grassroots organization; and a co-founder of the Pax Turcica Institute (PTI), a Turkic-American research and advocacy network. Dr. Huseynov is an author of a number of articles and op-eds in various English-, Russian-, Turkish- and Azeri-language publications on topics related to Azerbaijan, Turkey, Caucasus and Caspian regions, and diaspora activities in the U.S. He is also a leading author of a number of scientific publications and patents in the U.S. and internationally.

BONNIE JOY KASLAN

Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Honorary Consul General of the Turkish Republic, is former Executive of Kaslan Associates, Inc a structural and geotechnical engineering firm. She served as the first non Turkish woman on the Board of Directors of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations as Western region Vice President as chairman of the Assembly's Curriculum Committee on History and Social Science as well as past chairman and current member of the Board of Trustees. In 1982 she was named woman of the year for the Turkish American Community in California. She also was the first non Turkish woman worldwide to represent the Republic of Turkey as Honorary Consul General developing and implementing educational and public relations programs. She is currently a consultant to the Turkish Cultural Foundation charged with overseeing the Teachers' Study Tours to Turkey. Her numerous awards and citations include: Soroptimist's distinguished "Women Helping Women" award, ATAA's Distinguished Service Award in 1987 and Meritorious Service Award in 1989 and Woman of Tribute Award of the East Bay in 1991. She was the first recipient of the Daughters of Ataturk Award in 1999 and the Turkish Foreign Ministry recognized her in 2010 for 25+ years of service as Honorary Consul General. She was the recipient of the Birmingham International Center's 2011 "Woman of Consequence" award. She served as President of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce and is also a member of the Citizens Advisory Council of the Sonoma Police Department.

ERGÜN KIRLIKOVALI

Ergün Kırlikovalı was born in Izmir, Turkey. He attended Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey. He received his BS degree in Chemistry from Bogazici University and MS degree in Polymer Science from the University of Manchester, England. He also conducted research on polymers in Holland and Austria. He was employed as a product development and research chemist in San

Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. Currently, he is the founding president of his company which conducts research and development on new materials based on interpenetrating network polymers. He found himself in need of promoting and defending Turkish culture and heritage due to a relentless barrage of unsolicited and unjustified anti-Turkish attacks by Armenian and Greek lobbies and others in America. He had written more than 5,000 letters to the editors, news programmers, panelists, politicians, academicians, and other opinion-makers. He also appeared on TV and radio shows and participated in conferences and panels in universities and colleges in an effort to present the other side of the story and fight against discrimination and censorship fostered by a surprisingly racist and dishonest version of history persistently promoted by anti-Turkish lobbies. He has served as president of American-Turkish Association of Southern California, Public Relations Committee Chairman and later Western U.S. Regional Director for the Federation of Turkish American Associations in New York and ATAA in Washington DC. He is married, has one son, and lives in Southern California.

EMİL İSMAYİLOV

Emil Ismayilov, honor undergraduate student at the department of Political science and International Studies of the City College of New York and Baku State University on Information and Library Sciences. Emil Ismayilov was selected to participate at the European Students Forum (2006-2007) and conducted workshops sessions on human rights, gender equality, diversity of cultures, international relations and religious tolerance. Emil Ismayilov organized meetings on challenges to democracy in post-soviet countries, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. Emil Ismayilov won internship with the Azeri publishing house "Azerneshr" in Baku (2006) thereafter, worked as a journalist for "Bizim Yol (Our Way) in 2007. During this period, he has written extensively on police brutality during electoral process in Azerbaijan. Emil Ismayilov speaks fluent English, Russian, modern Turkish and Azerbaijani.

KILIÇ BUĞRA KANAT

Kilic Bugra Kanat is a doctoral candidate in Political Science Department, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY). He received his MA in Political Science from Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI) and his MA in International Relations from Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY). He received his undergraduate education in the International Relations and Sociology Departments of the Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey). He holds advanced-study certificates in Civil Society Organizations, Conflict Resolution, and Middle Eastern Studies. He worked in the Boards of Directors of Uyghur American Association and still volunteering in the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation.

JON KAPLAN

Jon Kaplan, Vice President of the Federation of Turkish American Associations and Grassroots Director has been leading the Grassroots efforts in the greater New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas since 2009. He has been involved in many student associations in both Bilkent University where he completed his B.A. degree and Pace University where he finished his MBA.

GÜLER KÖKNAR

Güler Köknar is a graduate of the German High School in Istanbul (1985) (Istanbul Alman Lisesi) and the Istanbul University School of Law (1989). She entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey as a career diplomat in 1989 and worked in various capacities until 1994, including as Vice Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Houston. Leaving the Foreign Service, from 1994 to 2002, Köknar worked as Executive Director of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) in Washington, DC. Since 2004, Köknar is Executive Director of the Turkish Cultural Foundation. She also serves as Vice President of the Turkish Coalition of America, an organization she helped to establish in 2007. Köknar is married and has a daughter.

YENAL KÜÇÜKER

Yenal Kucuker was born in Corlu, Turkey. Yenal moved to United States with his family in 1998. Yenal's involvement with the Turkish American community began at Turkish Society of Rochester. He volunteered as the anchor for the weekly radio program and helped organize youth events. Yenal began working for ATAA as grassroots coordinator in late 2009. Prior to joining ATAA, Yenal was selected as a Turkish Coalition of America and TUSIAD-US Congressional intern in 2008. He received his BA degree in geography and international relations from SUNY Geneseo. He studied abroad in Moscow, Russia. He taught geography courses at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York. Yenal also worked as a Turkish translator and interpreter for various organizations and institutions including the State of New York Seventh Judicial District. Yenal is currently a second year graduate student at University of Michigan-Dearborn studying public policy. He is a proud member of Turkish Society of Rochester and Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan.

MURAT LÜTEM

Appointed to Boston in July 2010. Most recently (from 2007), he was seconded to the Office of the President of the Republic of Turkey and appointed Foreign Policy Advisor on the President's staff. Here he assisted the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor in information-processing on issues pertaining to the United States, Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Far East. He was posted to

the Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C. in 2003, where he focused on Turkish-American economic relations, acted as liaison to Turkish-American associations and interacted with members of the U.S. Congress, among other responsibilities. He was seconded to the Office of the President of the Republic of Turkey in 2001 and appointed Deputy Chief of Staff to the President. He was posted to Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan in 1999 and to the Turkish Embassy in Germany in 1996. He joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993. Mr. Lütem earned a BA degree in 1993 from the International Relations Department of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY

Dr. Justin A. McCarthy is an expert on Ottoman history and a distinguished history professor in the University of Louisville, who is also a board member of the Institute of Turkish Studies. Justin McCarthy also served in the Peace Corps in Turkey from 1967 – 1969, where he taught at Middle East Technical University and Ankara University. He meanwhile also received an honorary doctorate from Boğaziçi University. He got his Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and since is the author of many well-known books. Justin McCarthy has attracted much attention for his nonconformist view on the supposed “Armenian Genocide”, in which he views the events that took place were a natural part of a Civil War, triggered by World War I, in which many cruelties were committed and in which an equally large numbers of Armenians and non-Armenians, including Turks, died. As a result, he has faced very harsh criticism and threats for his research and views. However, a man of solid character he does not sway from continuing his research.

MARK MEIROWITZ

Mark Meirowitz holds a doctorate in Political Science, and has taught Politics, History and Law at various colleges in the New York metropolitan area. He has written numerous articles on Turkish Foreign Policy and US-Turkish relations. He has also been an advisor to the Presidents of both ATAA and FTAA, and serves as a member of the Board of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TACCI). He is studying Turkish. He is also a business lawyer in New York City who has been in law practice for 30 years.

AKİL ÖKTEM

Appointed to Houston in September 2009. Most recently (from 2006), he served as the Head of Department at the Department of Consular and Judicial Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was appointed Counselor (2002-2005) and First Counselor to Turkish Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands (2005-2006) after he served as the Head of Department at the Department of Consular Affairs (2000-2002). Oktem worked as Counselor at the

Turkish Embassy in Bucharest, Romania (1998-2000) and as First Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (1996-1998). He was posted to Turkish Embassy in Sana’a, Yemen (1992-1994) and to Turkish Embassy in Tokyo, Japan (1989-1992). Mr. Oktem who graduated from La Trobe University (1982) joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985.

LAWRENCE JOSEPH O’CONNELL

Lawrence Joseph O’Connell serves as the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey at Sacramento, California. He formerly held the position of president and chief executive officer of the Park Ridge Center, a bioethics research institute in Chicago; and served as the Chief Ethics Officer of Advocate Healthcare System and Clinical Professor at Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University. He’s also held the positions of Vice President of the Catholic Health Association of the United States and Departmental Chairman and Professor at St. Louis University. During the Clinton administration, he served at the White House as a member of the President’s Health Care Task Force. Mr. O’Connell has been a board member of numerous organizations in Europe and the United States and consultant to some of the largest philanthropic foundations in the Americas.

LAWRENCE S. OTTINGER

Larry Ottinger is President of the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest (CLPI). Founded in 1998, CLPI promotes, supports and protects nonprofit advocacy and lobbying in order to strengthen participation in our democratic society and advance the missions of charitable organizations. Prior to accepting the position with CLPI, Ottinger served for four years as Director of Policy and Leadership Development at the Fannie Mae Foundation where he led signature partnerships and programs promoting innovation in affordable housing policy at the state and local levels. Previously, he spent over ten years as a successful civil rights and First Amendment lawyer and policy advocate. Ottinger is Co-chair of the Ottinger Foundation and has served on the family foundation’s board since 1978. He is a member of the 2007 class of Leadership Maryland, and has served on several national boards. Ottinger graduated from Stanford Law School, where he was an associate editor of the Stanford Law Review. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Berkeley with highest honors in the social sciences.

BURCU POLAT

Burcu Polat is a second year student at the George Washington Law School. She is serving as the President of the GW TSA since January 2011. Before that, she served as the Vice President of the GW TSA.

ELIZABETH SHELTON

During a nearly thirty year career in the Foreign Service, Elizabeth served in Thailand, Malaysia, Nigeria, The United Nations (Geneva), Turkey (two times, in Istanbul and Adana), Azerbaijan and Albania. A graduate of The University of Michigan, she holds two Master's Degrees, one in International Development (Economics) from The American University and one in National Security Strategy from the National War College. She is now completing a doctorate at Georgetown University.

ESEN AKTER TEKİNEL

Esen Akter Tekinel is a Certified Project Management Professional with 20 years of IT experience. She has worked for Türkiye İş Bank, Hacettepe University, North Carolina State University, Siemens, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and Association of American Medical Colleges. In her current role, she manages a \$4M project specialized in web-based solutions for a non-profit organization. Tekinel has significant expertise in education, training and relationship management. She has provided seminars on "Negotiation and Conflict Resolution", "Public Speaking and Presentation Skills" and project management knowledge areas such as "Risk Management", "Scope Management", "Integration Management", "Quality Management", and "Communication Management" both in US and Turkey. As the Vice President of Professional Development she runs the project management training and education program of PMI Washington, DC Chapter.

GÖNÜL TOL

Gönül Tol received her B.A. degree in International Relations from Middle East Technical University in Ankara in 2001, her M.A. degree in Political Science from Florida International University in 2002. Her masters thesis which is entitled Beyond Systemic Approaches: The Study of Irredentism is on the role of ethnic identity on foreign policy making with a special emphasis on former Yugoslavia. She received her Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Florida International University in 2008. Her dissertation, The Rise of Islamism among Turkish Immigrants in Germany and the Netherlands, is a comparative study of the Milli Görüş Movement in Germany and the Netherlands. She conducted extensive field research in these countries between 2004 and 2007. She was awarded a graduate fellowship at the Middle East Studies Center at Florida International University where she also served as the Director of the Model United Nations. She worked for TUSIAD US as the Program Manager. Her focus of research is Islamist movements in Western Europe and the Middle East and their radicalization processes, immigration, ethnic and religious identity formation and institutionalization of political Islam. She has served as panelist, chair and moderator in several international conferences. She has

given lectures on Turkish politics, Muslims in Europe and political Islam at American University, Johns Hopkins University, Florida International University, University of Kent and TOBB ETU. Dr. Tol is an adjunct professor at the National Defense University, College of International Security Affairs. She has publications on Turkish immigrant community in Western Europe, EU immigration policies and Islam in Western Europe and political Islam.

BERİL ÜNVER

Beril Ünver is the Project Manager for Congressional Outreach at the Turkish Coalition of America. Through her work at TCA, Beril has played a critical role in combatting negative legislation and improving the dialogue on U.S.-Turkey relations. The six successful delegations that she planned and executed last year secured TCA a top-ranking spot in a U.S. News & World Report article on the most sought-after privately-sponsored Congressional travel. Before joining TCA, Beril acquired research and policy analysis experience working at the Department of Energy, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Beril holds an M.A. in International Policy Studies from Monterey Institute of International Studies and a B.A. in International Studies from the University of California, Irvine. A proud American of Turkish descent (with grandparents hailing from Selanik and Kirim, respectively), Beril is a passionate advocate whose life-goal is to ensure that Turkish Americans have a voice in American domestic and foreign policymaking.

AMBASSADOR NAMIK TAN

Namık Tan has been the ambassador of Turkey to the United States since February 18th, 2010. Ambassador Tan previously served as deputy undersecretary of bilateral political affairs and public diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009-10), Ambassador to Tel Aviv (2007-09), deputy director general at the Information Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry (2004-07) and head of department at the Information Department (2002-04). He also previously served in Washington at the Turkish Embassy as counselor and first counselor from 1997 to 2001, and as first secretary and counselor from 1991 to 1995. In addition, Ambassador Tan has held various other posts within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including chief of cabinet to the minister (1996-97), head of section at the Department of USA, Pacific and Far East (1996) as well as the Department of USA, Canada and Japan (1995), and first secretary with the Personnel Department (1989-90). He has also served in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (1995-96), the Turkish Office of the President (1990-91), and postings at the Turkish Embassies in Abu Dhabi (1987-89) and Moscow (1984-87).

HAKAN TEKİN

Hakan Tekin is the Consul General of Turkey in Los Angeles. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in 1990. Worked at the Departments of Culture, Central Asia, Human Rights, Balkans and Personnel within the Ministry. Served at the Turkish Embassies in Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates, Sofia/Bulgaria, attended the NATO Defense College Senior Course in Rome/Italy and worked at the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations in New York. Assumed his post in Los Angeles as Consul General on 15 April 2007. His area of responsibility covers 12 states of the western region of the United States.

NURTEN URAL

Nurten Ural is the Past President of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. Ural is also the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Detroit. She is Director for the Turkish Cultural Foundation for Detroit and a consultant for the Turkish Coalition of America. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Environment and Design and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design and Human Shelter for the Special Needy-both from Michigan State University. Ural is the owner of Ural Interiors, Inc., a commercial interior design firm in Farmington Hills, MI. She is also the owner of Ural Properties, LLC, a leasing and managing company for commercial and residential properties. She has received many awards for her business accomplishments and community service work including awards for service from ATAA, the Athena Award, Business Accomplishment Award, Daughters of Atatürk-Women of Distinction Award, "Gobustan" International Award, and the Republican of the Year Award. Ural now serves on the Board of Directors for the Detroit Institute of Arts, and served on the Board of Directors of two Chambers of Commerce, serving as Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Professional Women's Round Table, Historic Homes, the Republican Club, and on the Board of the Farmington Area Homeowners Association. Ural served as the treasurer, president, and trustee of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan, as well as ATAA President-Elect, President and as Vice-President of the Midcentral region.

CENK UYGUR

Cenk Uygur was born on March 21, 1970, in Istanbul, Turkey. He and his family emigrated to the United States eight years later, where he continued his education to graduate from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia Law School. Uygur first appeared on television as a talk show host on a weekend radio show in Washington, D.C. Later in his career, he started the political talk show *The Young Turks* on Sirius Satellite Radio in 2002, yet soon moved it to the

popular internet video channel, Youtube. To date, it is the largest online news show in the world. Mr. Uygur is a news correspondent for many television stations such as MSNBC, CNN Headline News, ABC News, and many more.

SHARON WIENER

Sharon Anderholm Wiener is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, with the rank of Minister Counselor. During her 29-year diplomatic career, she has served in a variety of policy and management positions in Washington and in major embassies in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Ms. Wiener's overseas postings include Deputy Political Counselor in Cairo (1993-95) and Deputy Chief of the Arms Control Implementation Unit in Moscow (1990-92). Earlier she served in the State Department as desk officer for Libya and as analyst for Mexico and the Caribbean in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Ms. Wiener's first Foreign Service assignment was in Bogota, Colombia (1979-81), followed by her first tour in Paris (1981-85). Ms. Wiener has been awarded five Superior Honor Awards. She is fluent in Turkish, French, Arabic, Russian and Spanish.

CHRIS ZIMMERMAN

County Board Chairman Christopher Zimmerman has been a resident of Arlington County since 1979, with a history of successful reelections and impactful involvement in regional transportation and Urban planning policies and organizations. He was first elected to the Arlington County Board in 1996 and re-elected in 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010. He served as Vice Chairman in 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2010. He also served as Chairman in 1998, 2002 and 2006. A former civic association president and planning commissioner, Mr. Zimmerman has been an advocate of the County's legacy of transit-oriented development and managed growth, and a proponent of the principles of the New Urbanism, working hard to make Arlington more environmental and pedestrian friendly. In 2004 Mr. Zimmerman became the first recipient of the Livable Communities Leadership Award from the Washington Regional Network for Livable Communities. He has also been honored by the Virginia Transit Association for Outstanding Contribution by a Public Official (2003), and by the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation as a Champion of Sensible Transportation (2001). Prior to his service on the Arlington County Board, Mr. Zimmerman was Chief Economist and Committee Director for Federal Budget and Taxation at the National Conference of State Legislatures. He holds a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Economics from The American University.

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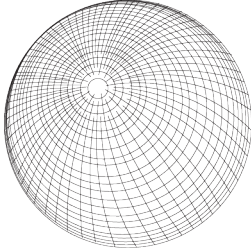
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