

CONTACT US

1401 K Street, NW
Suite 503
Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: (202) 222-0972
Fax: (202) 222-0977
www.usafmc.org
admin@usafmc.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & STAFF

John J. Rhodes, III, *President*
Dennis Hertel, *Vice President*
Connie Morella, *Treasurer*
Barbara Kennelly, *Secretary*
Jack Buechner, *Past President*

Peter M. Weichlein, *Executive Director*
Sudha David-Wilp, *International Programs Director*
Tracy Fine, *Senior Program Officer*
Whitney Novak, *Member Services Manager*
Esra Alemdar, *Junior Program Officer*

STAY IN TOUCH

When we seek former Members to travel abroad on democracy-strengthening missions – when we fill our Congress to Campus schedule – when we ask former Members to participate in legislative strengthening programs – when we have to share with the membership the passing of a former Member – all of this and more is usually achieved via e-mail. We hope our messages are arriving. If not, please contact Whitney Novak at wnovak@usafmc.org or (202) 222-0972.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

12th Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner ...March 10, 2009
Annual Meeting & Charitable Golf Tournament.. June 15, 2009
Fall Study Tour: Eastern Europe.....September 2009

THANK YOU

The Association wishes to thank interns **Didi Teng, Bryan Corder, Becca Leland, Gillian Morrison,** and **Esra Alemdar** for their hard work and dedication on this newsletter during the spring and summer semesters.

The United States Association of Former Members of Congress

2008 NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Congress to Campus Program	4
Civics Connection	5
People to People	5
Egypt Today	6
Association Joins Global Fight Against Corruption	7
Congressional Charity Golf Tournament	8
Congressional Study Groups	9
Congressional Study Group on Germany	9
Battleground: Florida	9
Congressional Study Group on Japan	10
Congressional Study Group on Turkey	11
Annual Spring Meeting	12
Annual Study Tour	13
Statesmanship Dinner to Honor Veterans on Capitol Hill	14
Class Notes	15

The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress wishes
you and your family a happy and healthy 2009!



The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress
1401 K Street, NW
Suite 503
Washington, DC 20005

DEAR COLLEAGUE:

Dear Colleague:

In this newsletter you will find updates on some of the projects FMC administered during 2008, but here I wish to call your attention to a few special items – you can read more on these and all our other meaningful work further on in this newsletter.

The Congress to Campus program continues to thrive in its second year back with the Association. We have expanded the number of universities visited, included several community colleges, spent time at some of our fine service academies, and even been able to include visits to a number of high schools.

The Congress to Campus program can attribute this additional good news to a generous grant from the Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld Foundation. We thank Secretary Rumsfeld and Mrs. Rumsfeld for their vital support. Because of this grant we were also able to initiate a new venture to complement Congress to Campus: The Civics Connection – a webcast series designed to bring former Members of Congress into the high school civics education classroom via the internet.

We continue to broaden our international outreach. An FMC delegation traveled to Egypt in cooperation with the MidAmr Group. This former Members CODEL was made possible via a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The goal of the visit was to begin a legislative

dialogue involving former Members of Congress and current Members of the Egyptian Parliament. In 2009 several current Egyptian parliamentarians will visit Washington.

Again, on the international front, we are excited about our Association having

created U.S. Legislators Against Corruption (USLAC), the U.S. Chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). Via USLAC, we will assist emerging democracies as they attempt to banish corruption from their legislative branches. A former Member delegation participated in a very successful GOPAC conference in Kuwait.



Some of the 2008 highlights, such as the annual spring meeting (left) and the Statesmanship Award Dinner (right).

99th Congress

Hon. Joseph J. DioGuardi (R-NY) House of Representatives, 1985-1989

Joe DioGuardi and his wife, Shirley Cloyes DioGuardi, continue their active work as volunteer lobbyists and human rights activists for the ethnic Albanians in the Balkans, especially in Kosova. Joe first brought the plight of Albanians living in hostile Slavic, Communist regimes to the Congress in 1986. Joined by Congressmen Tom Lantos, Henry Hyde, Ben Gilman, and Dana Rohrabacher and Senators Joe Biden, Claiborne Pell, Gordon Smith, Charles Schumer, and John McCain for more than twenty years, Joe and Shirley led the way for the independence of Kosova, which the United States recognized in February 2008 (see www.aacl.com).

Joe, as a Certified Public Accountant, continues his work, again as a volunteer, for fiscal responsibility and financial accountability in the federal government. His book, *Unaccountable Congress: It Doesn't Add Up*, will be sent free of charge to any former Member requesting it by writing "Truth In Government," P.O. Box 70, Ossining, NY 10562. You can see Joe's articles and TV interviews on the current fiscal crisis at www.truthingovernment.org.

Their daughter, Kara (38), has recently been announced as the fourth judge on "American Idol," one of the most watched TV shows in the United States and abroad. Kara is one of America's top pop song writers and producers. You can see her work at www.KaraDioGuardi.com.

Finally Joe and Shirley are actively self-employed as corporate directors and consultants in the healthcare sector.



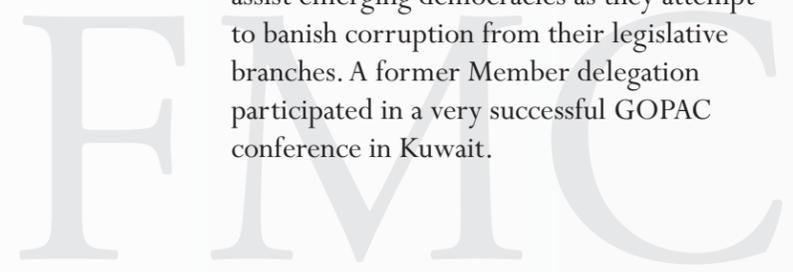
100th Congress

Hon. Bill Grant (D-FL) House of Representatives (1987-1990)

Bill Grant is a director of the International Finance Bank in Berlin, Germany. As such, he travels extensively throughout Europe on a regular basis, and has recently successfully concluded several contract negotiations with Russian and former Soviet states for strategic projects, including natural gas and refined petroleum products. He keeps active in politics as an advisor to several Eastern European political figures and as an avid advocate for an asset-backed US debt and currency. Bill continues to live in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife Janet and children, where, when home, he enjoys his hobbies of fishing and hunting, historical research, and supporting his beloved Florida State University Seminoles (where he, his wife, and two sons graduated and where his oldest daughter is now a pre-med student).

Hon. H. Martin Lancaster (D-NC) House of Representatives (1987-1995)

Former Member of Congress Martin Lancaster retired from the Presidency of the North Carolina Community College System in May and returned to the practice of law at Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell and Jernigan (www.smithlaw.com or mlancaster@smithlaw.com). He and his wife Alice are the proud grandparents of their first grandson, having previously been blessed with two granddaughters.



93rd Congress

Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY) House of Representatives (1972-2002)

Former Member of Congress Benjamin A. Gilman has been actively engaged as the CEO of the Gilman Group in Washington, representing the Philippine Government, advocating pension legislation for the WWII Philippine Veterans; the reformed Bangladesh Judiciary; the Pakistan Minister of Energy; the Pro-UN Humpty-Dumpty Institute in their mine removal in the impoverished province in Vietnam along with Taiwan and the USAID Agency; the Rotary International Hunger Project for the malnourished children in Haiti; and assisting US investments in Albania and Kosovo. He is serving on the board of directors of Cooperation Ireland, the Humpty-Dumpty Institute, the Breton Woods Committee and the advisory committee of the US Institute of Peace and was honored by the SUNY Orange College in Middletown, NY at their ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Gilman International Studies Center.

Hon. William H. Hudnut III (R-IN) House of Representatives (1973-1975)

The Urban Land Institute has just published former Member of Congress, William Hudnut's new book, "Changing Metropolitan America." It deals with issues such as global warming, affordable housing, infrastructure needs, sustainability, and land use planning; issues that appear to be front and center in terms of domestic policy.

The Urban Land Institute, where I now work, has just published a new book of mine, "Changing Metropolitan America: Toward A More Sustainable Future." It deals with some of the issues our metro areas are facing, such as governance, land use, infrastructure, the rising cost of energy, global warming, affordable housing, urban retail, and sustainable development. These issues are silent crises facing our nation, for the most part, and ultimately can only be solved by strong leadership and political will. My book is a cry to wake up, stop doing business as usual, and implement positive change.



94th Congress

Hon. William Brodhead (D-MI) House of Representatives (1975-1983)

Former Member of Congress Bill Brodhead is now into his third year of full retirement and enjoying it very much. He remains active in several non-profit organizations in the Detroit area. He and his wife Kathi have now been married for 43 years. They spend a lot of time in their second home in Hawaii and visiting their two sons, both of whom live in the San Francisco Bay area.

Hon. William J. Hughes (D-NJ) House of Representatives (1975-1995)

After completing his service as the U.S. Ambassador to Panama, former Member of Congress Bill Hughes joined the faculty at the Richard Stockton College of NJ. His work as a Visiting Scholar in Public Policy resulted in the founding of a new Public Policy Center at Stockton which was recently named in his honor. The guest of honor at the dedication ceremonies in June was former colleague, former Secretary of Energy, UN Ambassador and presently Governor of New Mexico, Bill Richardson.

97th Congress

Hon. Lawrence J. DeNardis (R-CT) House of Representatives (1981-1983)

Former member Lawrence J. DeNardis is President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of New Haven in West Haven, CT. He was President of the University for 13 years (1991/2004). He is also Chair of the Board of the Institute for New Democracies (IND), an NGO based in Washington, D.C. He and his wife Marylou have been married 47 years and have four children and three grandchildren.

For more than 30 years we have organized the annual Members only golf tournament, but 2008 witnessed an exciting rebirth of this event when we raised \$125,000 on behalf of severely wounded veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. We are very proud of this accomplishment and we have plans to do even better in 2009. As a matter of fact, we are scheduling the Association's Annual Meeting to coincide with the 2009 Charitable Golf Tournament on June 15, 2009.

Also in the works for 2009 are an exciting new FMC website and upgrades of our communications material. Our goal here is to reach more of you more efficiently and to encourage involvement in our increasingly dynamic programs.

I hope you agree that our Association does good and worthwhile work on your behalf and that you will want to help us do more. My first six months as President have been very busy, but also very rewarding.

I would appreciate hearing from you at jrhodes@hunton.com with any comments you wish to share.

Let me also take this opportunity to announce that Connie Morella has joined the Board and Executive Committee. Mike Parker, who has served our organization so well for many years, had to take a sabbatical. We thank Mike for all his invaluable help and we welcome Connie to the Exec.

With best regards,

Jay Rhodes

P.S. Mark your calendar now for the Statesmanship Award Dinner to be held on March 10, 2009. We hope you will also join us for the Annual Meeting and on one of our Study Tours.

CONTINUING PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD



CONGRESS TO CAMPUS PROGRAM

The Congress to Campus Program remains an integral component of FMC's mission "to promote the improved public understanding of the Congress as an institution and representative democracy as a system of government." In its 32nd year, the program works in conjunction with the Stennis Center for Public Service to address several aspects of civic learning and combat some of the cynicism among college-aged students about their government. In addition, the program aims to encourage public service as a career choice following graduation.

This trend toward increased international participation will continue into 2009. Although visits to the U.K. have traditionally been made in the fall, 2009 brings an expansion of our program there with a spring trip to Oxford.

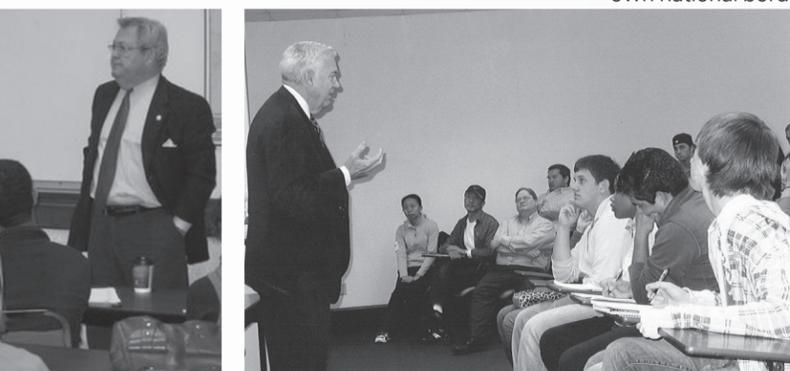
Arrangements are also already underway for trips to Japan and Korea in the fall of 2009. This international expansion of the program will not, however, neglect the encouragement of civic involvement within our own national borders. Thanks to a grant from the Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld Foundation, the program can expand its reach to focus also on community colleges and high schools. Three community college visits are already scheduled for the spring and we are currently working to arrange for a total of 15 campus visits in the spring.

This is an exciting time in our program's development as we continue to deliver personal stories from Washington to the next generation of leaders here in the States and around the world. Many participating former Members remark how encouraged they are by their interaction with the students.

We invite those of you not currently involved to join us as we embark on our exciting schedule of visits in the upcoming year. Participation from both former Members and interested campuses is integral to the continued success and expansion of the program. 2009 will undoubtedly prove to bring exciting growth for the program, as have the visits in 2008. We look forward to continuing to foster dialogue and build relations between former Members of Congress and our rising leaders as we bring Congress to life for college and high school students. ❖



If you would like more information, please contact Tracy Fine at tfine@usafmc.org.



Left: Former Members Ken Hechler and Jack Buechner at Park University, Parkville, MO. Right: Former Member Matt McHugh, Chair of FMC's Congress to Campus Program, addresses students at Millikin University in Decatur, IL.

The Congress to Campus Program sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities, and community colleges for two-and-a-half days. About 30 trips per year are made, most to schools in the United States, but also to some universities abroad. During their time on campus, the Members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, visit high schools and civic organizations, and participate in interviews and talk show appearances with local press and media. The visiting Members share their experiences in public service, bringing to life the theory and practice of democracy, as well as explaining the ways of Congress and Washington.

2008 has shown continued growth of the program, both in the number and geographical location of the participating campuses. In the spring, trips were made to 11 campuses, and an additional seven domestic visits including our first visit to the Air Force Academy, were undertaken this fall. Three additional trips, two to Canada and one to the United Kingdom, were also successfully undertaken this fall, marking the continued effort toward international expansion of the Congress to Campus Program.

CLASS NOTES

86th Congress

Hon. Ken Hechler (D-WV) House of Representatives (1959-1977)

Former Member of Congress Ken Hechler spent his year meeting with students on campuses such as the University of Florida and Lynn University and participated in Congress to Campus visits at the University of California at Berkeley and Park University in Missouri. In May, he spoke at the Congressional Study Group on Turkey's annual seminar in Memphis during the group visit to the Martin Luther King Museum.

In June, he spoke at the release of a two hour documentary, "Ken Hechler, In Pursuit of Justice" at Marshall University in West Virginia. He was elected at the Democratic State Convention as one of five Electors for Senator Barack Obama.

He was a speaker at the Pentagon ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of Truman's Executive Order Integrating the Armed Forces as well as a seminar at the University of Missouri on Truman and civil rights.

91st Congress

Hon. James W. Symington (D-MO) House of Representatives (1969-1977)

Former Member Jim Symington, currently a lawyer in Nossaman, LLP/O'Connor & Hannan, has for 15 years chaired the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity which sponsors programs of cultural exchange. His current projects include a Salute to U.S.-Russia Cultural Diplomacy at the Russian Embassy November 19, 2008. The event will feature Dave Brubeck who opened jazz diplomacy with Russia 30 years ago.

The Foundation is also sponsoring a traveling exhibit entitled "Tsar and President, Alexander II and Abraham Lincoln, Liberator and Emancipator", which highlights the initiatives of both leaders to eliminate bondage in their countries as well as the Tsar's support for the Union. The exhibit opens in Kansas City, Missouri on November 1, 2008.

For his efforts in the cultural arena Jim has been given Russia's Medal of Freedom, the highest award available to non-citizens.

92nd Congress

Hon. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-KY) House of Representatives (1971-1995)

Former Member of Congress Romano Mazzoli has completed two excellent Congress to Campus programs: One, to Muhlenburg College in Allentown, PA; and, one to Suffolk University in Boston and wishes his schedule accommodated more of these sessions as he always seems to learn more and gain more than the students and faculty do.

He is also busy working with the University of Louisville on the Mazzoli Papers Project.

After he retired from the House in 1995, he donated his official papers to the University, and it has begun the archival organization of these materials so scholars and researchers may access them to learn of the issues and events which marked his 24 years on the Hill. Of course, any such project takes funding. He thanks any classmates and friends who might be interested in making a tax deductible contribution to the Project. Checks should be made to University of Louisville Foundation (Mazzoli Papers on the memo line) and sent to Development Office, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.



STATESMANSHIP DINNER WILL HONOR VETERANS ON CAPITOL HILL

On March 10, 2009, the Association will hold its 12th Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner. As in years past, the event will be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on 22nd Street in Washington, D.C. This year's honoree will again be a group of current and former Members: From Service in Uniform to Service on Capitol Hill – honoring the men and women who preceded their congressional careers with service in the nation's military. We already have confirmed Representatives Steve Buyer, John Conyers, and John Murtha to participate in the evening's festivities and represent this outstanding group of public servants. We hope many Association members will be able to join us for this great event. Please contact Pete Weichlein at pweichlein@usafmc.org should you wish to purchase a ticket or know of a potential corporate table sponsor.

Currently 129 members of the 110th Congress have served in the military and only one of them, Heather Wilson of New Mexico, is a woman. According to the Congressional Research Service, this is the lowest number since WWII, but can be explained by the end of the draft following the Vietnam War. This percentage is considerably higher than society in general, where today's military forces represent less than 1 percent of the nation's population.

From the Korean War until Desert Storm, more than half of the Congress had a military background. This number reached a high in the mid-1970s when almost 80 percent of Members had served in uniform preceding their Congressional careers.

Via the 12th Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner, the Association wishes to recognize those current and former Members who understand firsthand the hardships and sacrifices associated with military service. We hope you will contact us if you are a military vet and we would welcome a picture you could share for display on March 10.

The evening assembles former and current Members of Congress, the business community, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and many foundations and NGOs with which the Association has partnered over the years. The dinner is the Association's only fundraising event and proceeds go to the public service programs such as the Congress to Campus Program or the International Election Monitors Institute. A successful fundraising dinner translates directly into an active year of programming for the Association. Tickets will go on sale in January of 2009. We hope you will be able to join us and we will contact you as the event draws nearer. ❖



Left: Dinner Chair Lou Frey and then-Association President Jim Slattery present Speaker Nancy Pelosi with the 2008 Statesmanship Award representing all women who have served - and still serve - in Congress. Right: Bev Byron and Nancy Johnson, Chairs of the 2008 Steering Committee for the Statesmanship Award Dinner.

Tickets go on sale January 2009.

Contact Pete Weichlein at pweichlein@usafmc.org if you want to purchase a ticket or know of a potential corporate table sponsor.

THE CIVICS CONNECTION

We are pleased to announce a newly piloted partnership of FMC and the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida. The Civics Connection aims to engage former Members of Congress as teachers of the next generation of citizens, to connect outstanding high school teachers with former Members and other experts, and to deliver on-demand, broadcast-quality programs featuring former Members of Congress as instructors of basic civic education.

FMC cultivates this connection by organizing and facilitating webcast panel discussions with former Members of Congress and experts within the field on which the particular program focuses. The webcasts are taped in three sessions over the course of two to three months to allow students to submit questions after viewing the first two webcasts, which are then addressed by panelists in the final webcast. Our initial webcast series this fall focused on the 'Energy Debate' that is currently facing our nation and legislators in D.C. This first series of programs involved former Members and experts from the American Gas Association, the World Wildlife Fund, the Department of Energy, and current staff members from Capitol Hill. The series includes four webcasts: first, a 20-minute briefing by an expert on energy policy so that teachers can familiarize themselves with the issue before taking it into the classroom; second, a panel discussion involving former Members focusing on the history of the energy debate, the current discussion on Capitol Hill, and possible solutions to the problem; third, a panel of the different participants as energy legislation makes its way through the system: a lobbyist, an executive branch official, a Capitol Hill staffer, and a NGO representative; fourth, we reconvene the former Members panel and answer questions emailed to us by students after they have viewed and discussed the first round of webcasts.

This is a pilot project and the goal of the Association is to create numerous series of webcasts focusing on many different issues, that way teachers have a choice of issues and can tailor their classroom work accordingly. Currently, the webcasts are being viewed by high school civics students throughout Florida, with the aim of increasing the capacity of the program to other states and regions over the course of the coming year. As the Civics Connection continues to grow, we look forward to further engaging former Members, experts, teachers and students regarding the issues that will face our nation and our legislators in the coming years. ❖

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

A highly esteemed program throughout the world, People to People provides international travel and hands-on learning opportunities for students in grade school, middle school and high school. Such experiences expose students to new cultures and traditions and present the opportunity to meet with prestigious political leaders while serving as student ambassadors during their trips.

FMC works with People to People on many of its programs by facilitating former Member participation and interaction with the students People to People brings to Washington. In the recent past, Association members have participated in People to People's World Leadership Forum, which brings outstanding middle school students from across the country together in Washington, DC. In 2008, former Members participated in 25 People to People visits in the spring, as well as an additional 14 in the fall.

We are looking forward to our continued involvement in 2009, during which time 16 visits have already been arranged. Through this ongoing partnership, we continue to demonstrate the importance of recognizing and fostering the abilities and interests of our nation's youth. ❖

EGYPT TODAY

In collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the MidAmr Group, FMC sent a delegation of four former Members to Egypt on an exchange program with the Egyptian Parliament. The FMC delegation was chaired by Lou Frey (R-FL) and also included Butler Derrick, Jr. (D-SC), Larry LaRocco (D-ID), and Bill Zeliff (R-NH).

The week-long agenda included a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, a career diplomat. She has spent much of her time in the Mideast and has a firm grasp of the issues and problems faced by

the United States and Egypt. Among other issues, the delegation and the Ambassador discussed starting an FMC Congress to Campus program in Egypt. The Ambassador and her staff seemed interested and follow up discussions are planned.

What became clear in meeting after meeting, including a meeting with the Speaker of the House, Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, was that relations between the

United States and Egypt are today at a low point. Since 2001, the feeling in Egypt has been that the United States is not interested in what Egypt thinks or why. The United States' policy was "it's my way or the highway." This sentiment was repeated over and over. The victory of Barack Obama was incredibly popular on the streets, in the colleges where the group taught several classes, and in the political ranks of most of the parties. The symbolism of Obama's election has had a positive effect on the willingness and desire to straighten out the problems between the two nations and build on what had been a strong friendship over the years. Egypt's government is based on a permanent constitution, written in 1971. The People's Assembly (the Parliament) exercises legislative power and approves the state's general policy. It presently has 454 members, 10 of whom are appointed by the Egyptian President. The Shura Council is composed of 264 members and is the consultative assembly. President Mubarak has been in power since 1981 and serves for six-year terms. His strongest challenge comes from the Muslim Brotherhood, which is tolerated but officially banned. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood run as Independents for office and hold 88 seats, a relatively large number.

Egypt is approximately equal to Texas and New Mexico in size and has close to 80 million people. It is the most populous country in the Arab world and the second most populous on the African continent. The literacy rate is about 58% of the adult population, education is free through University and compulsory from ages six through 15. Egypt has existed as a unified state for more than 5,000 years and archeological evidence indicates that a developed Egyptian society dates back much longer. Egyptians are proud of their long history and also proud of what they have achieved in modern times to remain a moderate Arab state. In dealing with Egyptian officials it is important to understand their history.

The Speaker of the Assembly, Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, (re-elected 19 consecutive times) said that part of the problem between the two countries is that much time and attention is focused on several minor problems. He said that he was not making light of these problems, but felt that time and attention ought to be concentrated on trying to build a stable, free Mideast and to move the peace process forward between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It is clear that solving the problem of Palestine will be in the best interest of both the United States and Egypt.

It is important that the new Obama Administration move quickly to let the Egyptian government know what its plans are. There were suggestions made that the United States should appoint Former Senator George Mitchell (D-ME), or someone like him, as special representative of the President to begin working on the peace process.

It is hard to describe the enthusiasm and the positive feelings towards the United States that exist as a result of Barack Obama's election. The FMC delegation suggested to the Speaker that he lead a delegation of Egyptian legislators back to the United States soon after Obama's inauguration to brief members of the Administration and Congress on the feelings of those in Egypt. Few people in the United States know what Egypt had done and was doing to be a stabilizing force in the Middle East. This is particularly true about Egypt's willingness to try to find a solution that both the PLO and Israel could agree to. Egypt can be a strong partner for the United States in a part of the world where we need reliable allies desperately. ❖



Former Association President Larry LaRocco (at right) discusses the 2008 U.S. presidential elections during a dinner in Cairo, Egypt.

ANNUAL STUDY TOUR

The Association's annual Study Tour was held from September 21 through 28, and highlighted three cities in Canada. Sixteen former Members of Congress and guests traveled to Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto for a week-long tour that involved sightseeing, meetings, and events with colleagues from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians.

The week began in Montreal, giving Study Tour participants an opportunity to explore the beautiful French-Canadian city. A day-long bus tour of the city highlighted sights such as Mount Royal, the 1976 Olympic stadium, Vieux Montreal (old Montreal), the underground city, and the Basilique Notre Dame.

The group then spent three days in the capital city of Ottawa, and had the opportunity to meet extensively with colleagues from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. After a combination bus/boat tour through the city, the former Members and guests shared a welcome dinner with former Parliamentarians from Canada.

The following day, Study Tour participants gathered to travel to the U.S. Ambassador's residence for a breakfast meeting and embassy briefing with Ambassador David Wilkins, his wife, and representatives from the embassy. Meetings followed on Parliament Hill with Canadian former Parliamentarians.

Leading Canadian journalist Deirdre McMurdy addressed the group and answered questions about the current political climate in Canada. An election discussion followed over a buffet lunch, giving participants an opportunity to hear first-hand about the upcoming Canadian elections. After lunch, group members were given a private tour of the Canadian Parliament building.

The final day in Ottawa began with a meeting on Parliament Hill with current Member of Parliament John Williams to discuss the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and to conduct a ceremony creating a U.S. chapter of GOPAC under the umbrella of USAFMC. The Study Group participants then had the opportunity to listen to the Canadian Ambassador from Afghanistan, Omar Samad, speak about Canada's involvement in the war in Afghanistan.



Left: The Study Tour delegation pauses in Montreal during the week-long event, which included several meetings, a Congress to Campus visit as well as time to explore the Canadian cities of Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. Right: An aerial view of Montreal.

The group ended the week in Toronto, with a brief stop in Kingston, Ontario, during the trip from Ottawa to Toronto. In Kingston, former Members had the opportunity to participate in a Congress to Campus visit at the Royal Military College. The Speaker of the Canadian Parliament, Peter Milliken, was also present to address the students and Study Tour participants.

The trip to Toronto began with a reception and dinner in the Ontario Parliament Building with former Members of the Ontario Parliament and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David C. Onley. Former Members of the Ontario Parliament then hosted a viewing of the first U.S. Presidential debate for Study Group participants. The final day in Toronto was set aside for a bus tour of the city as well as free time for sightseeing. The trip culminated with a dinner on the top of the CN Tower, North America's largest building.

As the Association likes to alternate between domestic and overseas destinations for its Study Tours, in 2009 the Association is planning a trip to Eastern Europe. We will provide you additional information in the coming months. ❖



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

On April 17, 2008, the Association delivered its 38th annual report to Congress in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D–MD) welcomed the Association on behalf of Speaker Pelosi and asked Association Vice President Dennis Hertel (D–MI) to preside as speaker pro tempore.

Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D–ME) was honored with the Distinguished Service Award presented annually to a former Member. Mitchell is recently known for his 20-month study of the use of steroids and growth hormones in Major League Baseball, which culminated in a 409-page document released in 2007 known as the “Mitchell Report.” In addition he was instrumental in brokering a peace agreement in Northern Ireland. His long career in public service is unmatched and he was a most appropriate choice for the Association’s highest honor.

The Association then presented an overview of the activities and accomplishments of its programs in the past year, as well as general announcements. Of note was Association President Jim Slattery’s (D–KS) decision to run for the 2008 Democratic nomination for Senate from the state of Kansas. He resigned his position in the Association and was succeeded by Vice President Jay Rhodes (R–AZ).

In addition to the annual Report to Congress, almost 40 former Members of Congress participated in other spring meeting activities, including a reception

with current Members of Congress, a luncheon with the French Ambassador, Pierre Vimont, and several informative panels. One panel, focused entirely on climate change, featured panelists from various environmental organizations to offer their view on bio-fuels as a solution to climate change. The second panel consisted of media experts who shared their thoughts on the 2008 presidential primary season and upcoming general election. The media panel was moderated by former Member Jim Symington (D–MO).

Following the afternoon of meetings, a formal dinner was held for former Members in Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building. Former Members and their spouses were joined by visiting guests from countries such as Ireland, Canada and Greece for a very fitting conclusion to the Association’s 38th reunion.



Please note that for numerous reasons, the 2009 Annual Meeting will not take place in the spring, but rather in conjunction with our Charitable Golf Tournament in mid-June. We will send you more detailed information in early 2009. ❖



Left: Former Member Jim Symington (D–MO) listens as the panel of media experts shares their thoughts on the 2008 election cycle. Right: Immediate Past President Jack Buechner (R–MO) introduces His Excellency Pierre Vimont, the French Ambassador to the United States, as the keynote speaker during a luncheon.

ASSOCIATION JOINS GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

At its most recent board meeting, the Association created U.S. Legislators Against Corruption (USLAC). USLAC has become the US chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. Former Members Webb Franklin (R–MS) and Jim Moody (D–WI) are chairing the effort.

The Global Organization Against Corruption (GOPAC) is an international network of parliamentarians dedicated to good governance and combating corruption throughout the world. Founded in 2002 at a conference hosted by the Canadian House of Commons and Senate, GOPAC has over 400 members around the world, organized into regional and national chapters.

In addition to developing regional chapters, member information services, and building alliances, GOPAC has identified a number of specific agenda items on which to focus, including:

- › Creating a handbook for parliamentarians on combating corruption;
- › Drafting a training/orientation package for parliamentarians on the budgetary and financial oversight role of parliamentarians;
- › Negotiating a code of conduct for parliamentarians;
- › Setting indicators of performance for parliamentary oversight;
- › Identifying parliamentarians with an anti-money laundering agenda; and
- › Implementing the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

GOPAC focuses on three pillars to build an effective organization.

1. Peer Support

Every organization needs to support its members and that is especially important for GOPAC and its regional chapters. In some parts of the world, legislators are in fear of their lives if they speak out against corruption. They need to know that they do not stand alone, that there are legislators who are prepared to speak out with them and there is strength in numbers.

2. Education

It is becoming increasingly obvious that there is a serious need for education of parliamentarians on what their roles and responsibilities are as parliamentarians. Many parliamentarians are confused and do not understand the separate roles of government and parliament. These are two distinct institutions with totally different roles and responsibilities.

In a democracy, a government has the authority to govern, subject to the approval and oversight of the parliament, which in turn is accountable to the electorate through fair, open, transparent and competitive elections.

There are four fundamental responsibilities of a parliament in the exercise of oversight of government.

- a. To debate, modify, approve or reject legislation.
- b. To debate, modify, approve or reject authority for government to raise revenues through taxation and other means.
- c. To debate, modify, approve or reject proposed expenditures by government.
- d. To hold the executive branch accountable for its governance of society.

Far too often, parliamentarians see their roles as supporting the government at any cost if they are a member of the governing party or opposing the government regardless of the merits of its proposals when they are in opposition.

In a properly functioning democracy, a government is accountable to the parliament as a whole, where the members bring a diversity of opinion to the debate but are still required to exercise their considered judgment on the proposals by government and the performance of government.

3. Clear objectives, measurable results

Members of an organization develop stronger affinity to the organization when they clearly understand what is expected of them. Each Chapter of GOPAC is entitled to identify and develop its own objectives and be accountable for the results.

continued ▶▶

continued▶▶

For example, GOPAC's Latin American Chapter has chosen to identify the progress (or lack thereof) that their governments have made in introducing the legislation necessary to implement the Santiago Convention Against Corruption. In the Caribbean, the chapter has recognized the need to improve the effectiveness of the Public Accounts Committees which are Standing Committees of the Legislature focused on accountability.

The GOPAC secretariat is located in Ottawa, Canada. At a meeting in September of this year, USLAC and the Canadian GOPAC chapter formed a North America chapter, which will have three seats on GOPAC's global board. Via USLAC, former Members will travel to regional conferences as speakers and panelists. They also will host visiting delegations from emerging democracies in Washington, D.C. and other U.S. cities. You can find more information about GOPAC at www.gopacnetwork.org. If you would like to become involved with this new Association undertaking, please contact Pete Weichlein at pweichlein@usafmc.org. ❖



Left: Legislators from across the globe gather in Kuwait for the Annual GOPAC convention in November. Right The first annual Congressional Charity Golf Classic raised a total of \$125,000 for Disabled Sports USA and its WoundedWarrior project which benefits severely wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.



THE CONGRESSIONAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

On July 14, 2008, the first annual Congressional Charity Golf Classic was held at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. After more than 35 years of current and former Members gathering to participate in an annual golf tournament for the purpose of reconnecting with old colleagues and enjoying friendly competition, the tournament took on a new charitable purpose, and was a rousing success.

Partnering with the LPGA, the PGA of America, and the PGA Tour, the Association helped to organize the first annual Congressional Charity Golf Classic to raise funds for Disabled Sports USA and its Wounded Warrior Project. In its first year, a total of \$125,000 was raised for the Wounded Warrior Project, which uses sports in the rehabilitation of returning veterans who were severely wounded in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The original purpose of the tournament was also retained, as former and current Members of Congress gathered to compete on foursomes that also included corporate sponsors and wounded veteran representatives from the Wounded Warrior Project. Former and current Members also pitted Republicans versus Democrats, as in tradition of tournaments past.

Current Members, such as John Murtha and minority leader John Boehner, were present to kick off the tournament and greet Wounded Warrior participants. Following tournament play, a dinner and silent auction were held to raise additional funds for Disabled Sports USA.

After the great success of the 2008 tournament, we are pleased to announce the 2009 tournament will also benefit Disabled Sports USA and its Wounded Warrior Project. Look for more information in the coming months. ❖

THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON TURKEY

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey (CSGT) was established in 2005, and it has quickly become a major international program run by FMC. The United States and Turkey have a crucial strategic relationship that encompasses military and political cooperation.

Recently the two nations have combined diplomatic efforts to address tensions in the Middle East, as well as to resolve matters of security concerning Iraq, Afghanistan, and mutual defense in the NATO alliance. U.S.-Turkish relations are vital and the CSGT plays a role in strengthening the partnership between the two countries. In the post-September 11th world, both nations rely on one another for economic cooperation, diplomacy in the Middle East, and even energy security.

The Study Group gives Members of Congress opportunities to meet with their counterparts in the Turkish Grand National Assembly and with officials in the Turkish government to discuss important policy issues. Through keynote speaking engagements, roundtable discussions, and informal receptions, the program facilitates more effective policy formation and provides a forum for both Turkish and American officials to work cooperatively.

Throughout the year, the Study Group organizes events on Capitol Hill that shed light on U.S.-Turkish relations. The Study Group invites distinguished individuals from both the Turkish and the United States governments to speak about relevant issues and to promote open discussion.

In 2008, events on Capitol Hill featured:

- › MEP Joost Lagendijk, Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chairman of the Joint EU-Turkey Parliamentary Committee
- › Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan
- › Ambassador Eric Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey
- › Ambassador Nabi Sensoy, Turkish Ambassador to the United States

In addition to events on Capitol Hill, the 4th Annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar was held in Memphis, Tennessee in May. Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly met with Members of Congress during three days of discussion sessions.

Key areas of discussion included:

- › Current relations between the United States and Turkey
- › Turkey's economic forecast
- › EU membership for Turkey
- › The role of religion in Turkey's politics

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey is made possible with the support of the Turkish Coalition of America, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Economic Policy Research Foundation, and CSGT's Business Advisory Council. ❖



Congressional Study Group on Turkey Chair Rep. Ed Whitfield, along with FMC staff Sudha David-Wilp, welcome Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan to Capitol Hill.