

# The United States Association of Former Members of Congress

## 2007 NEWSLETTER

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# DEAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,

Dear Association Members,



It's difficult to believe that it has been over a year since I was named President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. In this time, the Association has continued to build upon its past successes and has accomplished many new and exciting goals as well. I would like to take a moment to inform you about how much we have achieved in the past year.

We've continued our partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service to bring our ever-popular Congress to Campus visits to universities all over the United States, Canada and even Europe. It is becoming increasingly important that Americans engage the next generation and encourage young men and women to get excited about public service. It is also important that this new crop of potential leaders are knowledgeable and aware of the intricacies of government work – intricacies that can only be known through the hard-earned experience and wisdom that comes from years dedicated to public service. With these ideas in mind, the Congress to Campus Program arranges for former Members, one from each party, to visit a college campus and speak to students directly, both inside and outside of the classroom, about their life's work and experiences. In the following pages, you can read about the specific strides Congress to Campus has made this past year towards building a better future.

One program that has continued to expand this year is our webcasting series. Recent issues discussed live over the internet have included the role of the media in politics, U.S.-Iran relations, the Iraq War, and immigration, amongst others. The webcasts include former Members from each party and a special guest moderator. They are truly dynamic, inviting students from around the country to submit their questions over the internet. The Association was pleased to be able to partner with the Washington Center on three of our webcasts this past year and this is a partnership we hope continues in the future. We are also excited to be involved with a Presidential Forum in January, which encourages young people to cast their vote for their candidate via the internet.

The Former Members of Congress is a uniquely American organization with a truly international vision. Towards this end, this year the Association continued its work with international Congressional Study Groups, which serve to bring together current Members of Congress with members of other parliamentary bodies around the world. Our role as facilitator is a valuable and exceptional one and the study groups on Germany, Turkey, Japan and Mexico have proven to be very exciting and rewarding for the participants. Also included in this newsletter is a recap of our recent Study Tour to Ireland, a successful and enjoyable trip for those who participated.

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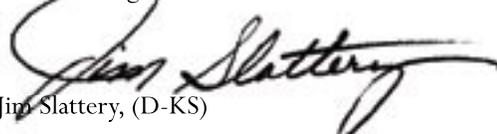
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Another priority of the Association that has carried over this year has been the importance of promoting democracy throughout the world. It is important that former Members be involved in this process and available to share their nuanced and deeply-felt understanding of and appreciation for democratic ideals with those seeking to foster them abroad. Acknowledging that fair and legitimate elections are the foundation of a solid democracy, the Association continues its participation in the International Election Monitors Institute (IEMI), a cooperative project undertaken with our sister organizations in Ottawa and Brussels to monitor elections around the world. IEMI sent delegations to Morocco and Ukraine this year and you can find reports on these missions in this newsletter. Also, the Association has teamed with organizations such as IFES, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI), resulting in democracy-building projects for former Members, such as the mission to Albania.

The Association is looking forward to the upcoming Statesmanship Dinner, which will honor the contribution of women in Congress, both past and present. This is our sole fundraising event and will be held on March 11, 2008. Also on the horizon is our annual Golf Tournament, to be held in June 2008. This year's event is special, because it brings together philanthropy and camaraderie, officially making this event the Association's first charitable Golf Tournament in its history. The Association is teaming up with the PGA Tour, the PGA of America and the LPGA, and all proceeds raised from the tournament will benefit an organization whose purpose is to aid wounded American soldiers of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please be on the lookout for more information as these events approach, and I hope you will be able to join us for both.

I encourage you to read through the following pages and to feel the pride that should come from knowing that it has been your membership and dedication to our goals that have helped the Association achieve all that it has over the past year. I also hope that by the time you have finished reading this newsletter you will be inspired and motivated to help us accomplish the goals we have set for the year to come. I hope that you will consider volunteering for the Congress to Campus Program, or for a Congressional Study Group. With your involvement we can continue to strengthen and expand these programs. As always, I enjoy hearing from you – so feel free to contact me at [jslattery@wileyrein.com](mailto:jslattery@wileyrein.com) with any thoughts, questions, comments or concerns.

With best regards,



Jim Slattery, (D-KS)

House of Representatives, 1983-1995  
President, USAFMC



*Left: Former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-KS) poses with former Member of Congress Richard Nichols (R-KS) in front of the Capitol before accepting the Distinguished Service Award during the Annual Report to Congress. Right: Students interact with former Members of Congress on college campuses around the country as part of the Association's Congress to Campus Program.*

By Hon. Jack Buechner (R-MO)  
House of Representatives 1987-1991

**From September 2 through September 10, 2007**, members of the International Election Monitors Institute (IEMI) participated in an election monitoring mission to Morocco, under the organization of the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians was represented by Doug Rowland, Helene Chalifour Scherrer and Paddy Torsney. The European Parliament Former Members Association was represented by Marie-Christine Aulas and Louisewies van der Laan. The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress was represented by our Association's Executive Director Pete Weichlein and by me. Our group joined an international delegation of 52 observers from 19 countries. Former President of Bolivia Jorge Quiroga served as the delegation's chairman.

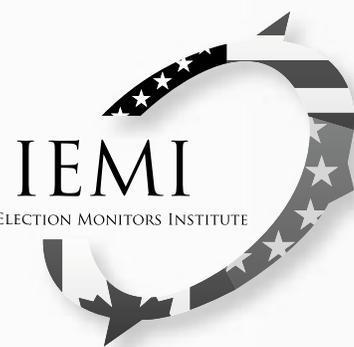
# INTERNATIONAL ELECTION MONITORS INSTITUTE: MONITORING MISSION TO MOROCCO

On election day, September 7, the international delegation deployed to 12 regions in the country and visited 375 polling stations. In addition, observers participated in briefings and meetings before election day to ascertain the political and legal climate in which the Moroccan electorate could cast its votes. Meeting participants included representatives of political parties, government officials, candidates, civic leaders, domestic observers, electoral authorities, representatives of the international and domestic media, and voters.



*Left: Association Executive Director Pete Weichlein and past Association President Jack Buechner (R-MO) participate with European and Canadian former legislators in IEMI's monitoring mission to Morocco (as part of an NDI delegation). Right: A picture of a polling station taken during the observation mission of the IEMI during the presidential elections in Morocco in September.*

The former legislators observed a well-administered and transparent election process on election day. Moroccan authorities had trained polling officials well and ensured that voters were given the opportunity to cast a secret ballot without undue influence. It should also be noted that all IEMI monitors reported witnessing a large number of women voters participating in the process (in some regions the percentage of women voters appeared higher than that of men). There were isolated reports of irregularities, but the overall impression garnered by the IEMI monitors was that the government of Morocco should be congratulated on a free, fair and transparent election day process.



There are, of course, areas which could be improved, as would be the case with any election held in any country. Our Morocco delegates focused specifically on the following recommendations: ballot simplification (particularly given Morocco's high illiteracy rate); efforts to instill in the electorate faith in the electoral process and the role of a representative legislative branch; improving the distribution of voter cards and the assignment of polling places; and streamlining the accreditation process for domestic observers and international observers.

The IEMI monitors associate themselves with the preliminary statement issued by the international monitoring delegation on September 8, 2007 ([http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2189\\_mco\\_elect\\_prestatement\\_090807.pdf](http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2189_mco_elect_prestatement_090807.pdf)). Particularly, we wish to highlight the delegation's comments regarding the low voter turnout (estimated at 37%) and the high number of protest votes. In its statement, the international delegation suggests that the low turnout and the high number of protest votes are evidence that further political reform is needed in Morocco. It is my strong belief that former parliamentarians can play a crucial role in encouraging widespread engagement in the political process. I hope that over the next five years leading up to Morocco's 2012 elections, former legislators will be invited to assist in developing reforms such as civic education, effective political leadership and party financing.

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The goal of IEMI is to maximize its impact in the monitoring field by cooperating with existing observation missions and its organizers. We therefore aim to fold our group into an existing program run by a reputable and professional organization. Such a partnership avoids IEMI having to create the in-country logistical overhead necessary to conduct a monitoring mission, which is well beyond the present capability of IEMI. Instead, we rely on an already organized administrative and logistical framework and focus our resources on proper training of former parliamentarians for the job at hand. In Morocco, this enabled us to operate as an integral part of the NDI program rather than as a separate entity. It is my hope that we can replicate this highly successful model (applied in 2007 also to the election in Ukraine as part of the NDI mission there) in the future and in partnership with not only NDI, but also the International Republican Institute (of which I served as President for several years), IFES, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), among others. I invite you to contact our Association staff (Pete Weichlein at [pweichlein@usafmc.org](mailto:pweichlein@usafmc.org)) should you wish to become more involved with this program. We have sent several of our members to Ottawa for training sessions with their Canadian and European colleagues. This will create a corps of trained former legislators ready to participate in monitoring missions on very short notice. Also, please visit IEMI's website at [www.iemi-iioe.org](http://www.iemi-iioe.org) for further information. ❖

Observers arrived on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September and spent two days in the capital, Kiev, receiving, in the case of NDI, extensive briefings from Ukrainian politicians, government officials, journalists and NGOs as well as from representatives of the international community; and, in the case of the OSCE/ODIHR, from OSCE staff covering all the bases. Two days before the election, the observers were deployed throughout the country where briefings from election officials, Oblast officials, journalists, representatives of political parties, local NGOs and long-term observers associated with the two missions took place. The briefing program provided to NDI observers was especially intensive.

The former legislators found the voting procedures in the polling stations visited (10 to 20 per team of two) generally well-administered and transparent, ensuring that voters were given the opportunity to cast a secret ballot. The atmosphere of voting day was, with rare exceptions, calm and peaceful with the numerous party representatives in the precinct electoral commission and accredited party agents in the polling station working together in general harmony.

The vote count was less well-conducted, not because of any observed efforts to pervert the results but, rather, because of the very complex and bureaucratic process imposed for the count.

The observers found that the large majority of Ukrainian voters seemed to have embraced the democratic process and welcomed the presence of observers as contributing to its integrity. Unfortunately, some aspects of the electoral laws, especially some changes introduced shortly before the elections, created openings for those so inclined to cast doubts on the integrity of the results and to delay final outcomes through court challenges. It is hoped that these openings won't be exploited by the contesting parties.

By Doug Rowland, Canadian House of Commons 1970-1974

## MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

**For the September 30 parliamentary elections in** Ukraine, the International Election Monitors Institute (IEMI) provided eight experienced election monitors to two of the international observer missions engaged. The Honorable Abner Mikva (D-IL) (United States Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC)), Richard Balfe (European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA)), Douglas Rowland and Darryl Gray (Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP)) joined the National Democratic Institute (NDI) mission, of which Judge Mikva was a co-chair. Marie-Christine Aulas (FMA), Jesse Flis and Derrek Konrad from the CAFP, and Gérard Latulippe (L'Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec) formed part of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission.

The IEMI observers associate themselves with the preliminary statements issued by the NDI mission and the OSCE/ODIHR issued in Kiev on October 1, 2007 and available on the web at [http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2195\\_uk\\_prelim\\_statment\\_100107.pdf](http://www.accessdemocracy.org/library/2195_uk_prelim_statment_100107.pdf) and [http://www.osce.org/odihr/item\\_1\\_26824.html](http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_26824.html). It is IEMI's hope that as Ukraine reassesses its electoral laws as well as parliamentary procedures and processes in the coming months and years, especially the laws governing political party and election financing, that former legislators will be invited to assist. It is further hoped that the performance of, and contributions made by IEMI members of these missions and those in Morocco will encourage more organizations mounting such missions to include trained IEMI observers. ❖

By Pete Weichlein

**On August 17, 1917, Jeannette Rankin of Montana** delivered a speech on the House Floor. She focused her remarks on the need for federal intervention in copper mining during a period of unrest between labor unions and mining companies. It was her first full speech on the floor and it was delivered to a rapt audience of most of her colleagues. The speech received nationwide press coverage. Photographs of her standing at the lectern still survive and are kept in the National Archives. While the topic of labor unions in copper mining is arguably of great historical significance, the fact that Rep. Rankin was the first woman elected to Congress and that her remarks were the first speech given by a woman on the floor of the House justifies the attention paid to the event.

The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress created the Annual Statesmanship Award as a means of recognizing those who have served in Congress and have brought great distinction to public service, either before, during, or after their years on Capitol Hill. Usually we honor individuals, for example Vice President Dick Cheney (R-WY), but we have also honored a group of legislators, as we did in 2004. On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, we honored the Greatest Generation, represented by former Members Bob Dole (R-KS), Sam Gibbons (D-FL), John Glenn (D-OH), George McGovern (D-SD) and Bob Michel (R-IL).

# 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD DINNER: HONORING WOMEN IN CONGRESS

In 1920, four years after Congresswoman Rankin's first election victory, women won the right to vote nationally via the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. In 1922, Rebecca Felton of Georgia became the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate (she was appointed to serve out an unexpired term). Also in 1922, Rep. Alice Robertson of Oklahoma became the first woman to preside over the House of Representatives. The next year, Rep. Mae Ella Nolan of California became the first woman to chair a congressional committee. In 1932, Hattie Caraway of Arkansas became the first woman elected to the Senate. To date, 244 women have served as Representatives and Senators. They were trailblazers for the first woman to become Speaker of the House: Nancy Pelosi of California.

For the March 11, 2008, Statesmanship Award Dinner, the Association again decided that rather than honoring an individual's achievement, we would honor a group: Women in Congress. The accomplishments of women in Congress are certainly worthy of this recognition. Less than 100 years ago women did not have the right to vote, nor did women serve in either chamber of the U.S. Congress. Today, a woman is Speaker of the House, women serve in party leadership positions, and through the opening of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress 21 women have chaired congressional committees, including standing, joint and select panels. Representatives Loretta Sanchez and Linda Sanchez of California are the first sisters to serve in Congress concurrently. Ninety of the 244 women who have served in Congress are current Members of Congress – 74 in the House and 16 in the Senate. In total there have been 209 women Representatives, 28 Senators, and seven women who have served in both chambers. (The statistical and historical data in this article comes courtesy of the Committee on House Administration; for further information, please visit <http://womenincongress.house.gov/>).

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In addition to a gala event that recognizes exceptional commitment to public service, the Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner is an excellent way for the Association to bring together its friends, partners, and supporters. "It's a fun dinner," said Lou Frey (R-FL), chairman of the event for the past 11 years. "It's one of the few places in town where you can go and relax. It's a warm, happy atmosphere." In addition to Lou Frey's leadership, this year's event is supported by a Steering Committee made up of female former Members of Congress. The honorary chair of the Dinner Steering Committee is Lindy Boggs (D-LA), and Bev Byron (D-MD) as well as Nancy Johnson (R-CT) serve as the Committee's co-chairs. Please contact us at [admin@usafmc.org](mailto:admin@usafmc.org) should you be interested in becoming a member of the Steering Committee.

The evening assembles former and current Members of Congress, the business community, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and the 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 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 2008. (The dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C.). Please contact the Association at [admin@usafmc.org](mailto:admin@usafmc.org) should you wish to receive more information about the evening and how to purchase tickets. In addition, we certainly would welcome the opportunity to connect with a corporate sponsor you think might be interested in purchasing a table as a means of honoring the important role women have played in our representative government. ❖

### **In 2007 nine current Members of Congress attended**

the Congressional Study Group on Germany's (CSGG) Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar, and the CSGG hosted numerous Hill events, including a joint event featuring Chancellor Angela Merkel in conjunction with the Library of Congress. In 2008, the CSGG will rotate its leadership in the House, Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) will act as Chair and Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO) will be Vice-Chair. New Senate Chairs will be appointed in 2008.

# THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON GERMANY

The Congressional Study Group on Germany, USAFMC's first and largest Study Group, has received generous support from the German Marshall Fund of the United States for over two decades. In addition, 14 companies contribute to the Study Group as members of the Business Advisory Council (BAC). The CSGG acts as a model for the Association's other Study Groups and is one of the largest legislative exchange programs for Members of Congress with regard to another country.

In addition to hosting a delegation of current Bundestag Members in September and co-sponsoring an event with the Library of Congress featuring Chancellor Angela Merkel, the CSGG has hosted the following notable guests on Capitol Hill:

- Minister of State Gernot Erler, German Federal Foreign Office
- Mr. Wolfgang Mayrhuber, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of Lufthansa Airlines
- Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag
- German Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel
- The Honorable Wolfgang Tiefensee, German Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and Commissioner for the New Federal States and Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) on German Reunification Day
- Ambassador Thomas Matussek, the German Ambassador to the United Nations

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U.S. lawmakers who participated in the roundtable discussions were able to discuss issues ranging from the European Union and Iran to renewable energy and the integration of immigrants.

### The Congressional Study Group on Germany (CSGG)

initiated a new project on renewable energy, which has been a recent and positive topic for discussion in the transatlantic dialogue. At the end of 2007, renewable energy should be the source for approximately 14 percent of gross electricity consumption in Germany, a share that will rise in order to meet the target of 20 percent by 2020. How have renewable energies taken a foothold in Germany? The CSGG organized an expert panel for a conference of the New England Congressional Delegation.

## RENEWABLES IN GERMANY

A record nine Members of Congress participated in the 2007 Congress-Bundestag Seminar in Hamburg and Berlin from March 30 – April 5, 2007. The congressional delegates reinforced relationships with their counterparts in the Bundestag and met with key figures in the German government such as Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The U.S. Members were able to engage with their Bundestag colleagues about Afghanistan, the importance of the G8, European Union expansion, climate change, Russia, and China. 2008 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congressional Study Group on Germany's Annual Seminar, and it will take place in Rep. Rob Bishop's (R-UT) district in Utah next year. Congressman Bishop, who previously served as Vice-Chairman of the Study Group, will take over as Chairman of the CSGG.

Rep. John Larson (D-CT), Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives, conducted a conference on energy for the New England Congressional Delegation this October. As the 2007 Chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany, Rep. William Delahunt (D-MA), arranged to have the CSGG invite a panel to illustrate how renewable energy has taken a foothold in Germany. Speakers included Jens Rosebrock, Head of Renewables for invest bank Dresdner Kleinwort and legal expert Stefan Schmitz, a partner at Squire Sanders & Dempsey in London. The panelists' comments on subsidies, financing and legal mechanisms for promoting renewable energies helped U.S. lawmakers and other conference participants evaluate policy measures for the United States. ❖



*Left: German Chancellor Angela Merkel poses with Members of Congress at the Bundestag Seminar in April. Right: Rep. William Delahunt (D-MA) meets with Jens Rosebrock of Dresdner Kleinwort to discuss renewable energy in Germany during a conference held in Boston, Massachusetts on October 14 and 15, 2007.*

In 2007, the CSGG conducted two Congressional Staff Study Tours to Germany. A total of 22 senior-level congressional staffers met with German government officials, academics, and civil society leaders to increase their knowledge of the U.S.-Germany partnership. These Study Tours have served as excellent sources of information for congressional staffers. ❖

**Now in its third year of programming, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey (CSGT) continues to grow.** This year's events included speakers such as Turkey's Foreign Minister (now President) Abdullah Gül and the United States Ambassador to Turkey, Ambassador Ross Wilson. CSGT is committed to informing Members of Congress and their staff on issues involving the NATO-member country that straddles the East and West and is a strategic hub for energy.

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## THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON TURKEY



*Left: Current Members discuss Climate Change and Energy Security with German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel at a dinner hosted by the Congressional Study Group on Germany. Right: Staff of Members of Congress participate in a trip to Turkey in August as part of the Congressional Study Group on Turkey to explore U.S.-Turkish relations.*

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The Congressional Study Group on Turkey, launched in 2005, operates with grants and contributions from the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), and the CSGT's expanding Business Advisory Council (BAC). It is modeled after the successful Congressional Study Group on Germany.

In addition to hosting delegations of Turkish Parliamentarians, over the past several months, the CSGT has hosted:

- Then Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül, now President of the Republic of Turkey
- Ambassador Ross Wilson, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey
- General (ret.) Joseph W. Ralston, then Special Envoy for Countering the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK)
- Ambassador Dan Fried, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs

U.S. lawmakers have attended CSGT events to ask speakers about various issues including the proposed House Armenian Genocide Resolution, Iraq, Iran, counter-terrorism, and the growing Turkish economy.

Six Members of Congress participated in the 2007 U.S.-Turkey Seminar in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey from May 25 - June 1, 2007. The process of appointing a new President in Turkey was playing out in the news when the delegation was in-country. The delegation interacted with counterparts in the Turkish Parliament as well as with different sectors in Turkish society: the military, religious leaders, students and business representatives. During many of the meetings the major Turkish concerns were PKK terrorist activity based in Northern Iraq and the potential for an Armenian Genocide Resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the same time, the American delegation had the opportunity to learn about Turkey's important military role in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the diplomatic stalemate regarding the divided island of Cyprus.

The Study Group also arranged a town hall meeting with students from Robert College. The Members of Congress fielded questions from students about their views on Turkey's ascension to the EU and how to handle the situation in Iraq; and the audience received a broad array of answers from the bipartisan delegation. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar will be held in Rep. Stephen Cohen's (D-TN) district in Memphis, Tennessee in May 2008.

Lastly, thanks to an additional grant from TCA, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey conducted a Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Turkey at the end of August. ❖

**The Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ)**, founded in 1993, hosted two events on Capitol Hill since the beginning of 2007 and is in the process of planning additional events for the current programming year.

## THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

The Congressional Study Group on Japan's first event this year was a luncheon discussion featuring Ambassador Chris Hill, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Six-Party Talks on the North Korea Nuclear Issue. Ambassador Hill, who had recently returned from a summit, gave the participants, including legislators such as Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), an overview of recent Six-Party Talk developments, for example the freezing of North Korean financial holdings. He also described the interests of all the nations involved: the United States, Russia, North Korea, China, South Korea and Japan; and Ambassador Hill expounded on security in the Asia Pacific region.

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By Sudha David-Wilp & Meredith McNeil

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The CSGJ also hosted then Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and a delegation of Japanese Diet Members at a reception co-sponsored with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). This is the second year the CSGJ and CSIS worked together on a reception honoring the Japanese Foreign Minister. The event commenced with remarks from Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, followed by remarks from Foreign Minister Aso. The Foreign Minister invited everyone to see the cherry blossoms in Japan. The CSGJ hopes to work with CSIS again on this popular event during the current grant year.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is made possible through a grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. ❖

By Rebecca Zylberman

**During the President's Day congressional recess,** the Congressional Study Group on Mexico (CSGM), working with the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Heinrich Boell Foundation, sent a bipartisan delegation of six senior congressional staff to Mexico City to meet with high-level Mexican government officials, journalists, and NGO representatives. Discussions revolved around the political climate in Mexico and the forecasting of future trends in U.S. - Mexico relations. This delegation came at a crucial time, as both Mexico and the United States had recently conducted elections, and Mexico had a new president, Felipe Calderón, who won after an extremely contentious election.

# THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON MEXICO

The delegation, chaired by former Member Larry LaRocco (D-ID), spent a busy four days in-country. Welcomed by former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza, the staffers were given an in-depth briefing on the current state of the relationship between the United States and Mexico from the perspective of both nations.

While the delegation discussed many issues prevalent to both the United States and Mexico, the central issue that came up during both formal and informal discussion was immigration. The U.S. Congress was in the process of drafting immigration reform proposals for introduction later in the year, and those on the Mexican side were delighted to have the opportunity to speak directly with staffers involved in the process. The delegation was also given the opportunity to see the U.S. Embassy's visa pavilion in action – each day the requests of thousands of Mexican citizens are processed.

A particularly fascinating meeting was held with members of the Mexican Senate, which was hosted by Senator Ricardo Garcia Cervantes, President of the North American Commission, and included other members of the commission from all three major political parties – the National Action Party (PAN), the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). Those in attendance were extremely candid in their attempt to reach an understanding regarding the border fence currently being erected in the southwestern United States. Issues that drive illegal immigration also came up in the meeting, as both sides presented their perspectives on how both nations should deal with this challenge.

The delegation also heard from those outside the Mexican political and diplomatic community on issues such as transparency, civil rights and reforming the justice system. President Calderón faces a number of challenges relating to these issues, as he attempts to combat decades of institutionalized corruption.

Trade came up frequently, and the staffers were able to meet with members of the business community to discuss economic development in Mexico. The delegation visited the largest Volkswagen plant in North America, located in Puebla, Mexico.

The Study Tour concluded with dinner in Puebla for the participating congressional staffers, during which there was a comprehensive discussion on the issues pertinent to U.S.-Mexico relations. The delegation found its time in Mexico extremely educational, and left Mexico City with a more nuanced perspective on the relationship between the two nations. ❖

**On Wednesday, January 24, 2007, USAFMC hosted** its first webcast of the year. Former Members Mike Oxley (R-OH) and Jim Slattery (D-KS), with former Member Jack Buechner (R-MO) moderating, discussed President Bush's recent State of the Union Address, the first in his term to a Democratic majority. Tens of thousands of students from across the country tuned in to watch live and submit questions. It was a great success, its content highly rated by those students and professors who participated. The Association webcast series was born.

## USAFMC WEBCAST SERIES

Over the course of 2007, the Association has hosted 12 webcast events, each addressing a timely topic, and featuring a variety of participants from both sides of the aisle. Every webcast was a bipartisan event, with an average of 90 minutes devoted to both discussion and Q&A regarding issues of concern to the next generation of leaders. The participating students asked impressive questions and the panelists were delighted to have the ability to reach out to such a vast audience.

Topics have included the federal budget process, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the war in Iraq, immigration reform, the 2008 presidential election, homeland security, and the relationship between politics and new media. The Association has also partnered with the Washington Center for Internships for three webcast events involving live audiences of hundreds of college and university students. Additionally, the Association hosted one webcast on the campus of American University, where former Members Bob Carr (D-MI) and Ernest Istook (R-OK), discussed the topic of immigration reform, less than two weeks after the compromise immigration bill was introduced in the Senate.

Congressional staff have been featured in two of the webcasts this year – the first on the subject of immigration in April, and the second on the subject of working on Capitol Hill in May. The students who tuned into both of these webcasts appreciated the perspective of those who were currently working for Members of Congress, and in their questions, seemed to indicate that they were interested in careers in public service. This was extremely encouraging, as the Association webcasts are able to dovetail with the goals that the bipartisan former Member teams promote during Congress to Campus visits.

Association webcasts go hand in hand with the Congress to Campus Program, allowing both former Members and campuses who cannot participate in an on-campus visit the opportunity to engage via the internet. The initial idea for the webcast programs came to us from former Member Lou Frey (R-FL), who uses them to connect students in programming at his Institute of Politics at the University of Central Florida.

Using technology that was unavailable just a few years ago, the Association's goal of outreach to the academic community has exceeded expectations. The webcast series truly is Congress to Campus version 2.0, allowing the Association to reach more students than ever before.

The Association looks forward to broadcasting more webcast events in the near future, the first being a collaboration in January 2008 with a number of civic-minded organizations, including Presidential Classroom, the Lou Frey Institute of Politics at the University of Central Florida, the National Honor Society and the Youth Leadership Initiative at the University of Virginia to create a Presidential Forum that will connect high school and college students with the Republican and Democratic contenders for their party's nominations.

The event will center on a three-hour webcast in which high schools and universities across the country can interact with the candidates. After the webcast, participating students will have the chance to vote for their candidate of choice via a secure portal. Thus far, over one million students have signed up to participate, as have almost all of the candidates from both parties.

Much like the Congress to Campus Program, the Association's webcast series depends on the engagement of its membership. We would like to thank those members who generously donated their time this past year to participate, and look forward to including many Association members in future webcast events. ❖

By Rebecca Zylberman

*Former Senator Larry Pressler (R-SD), USAFMC President Jim Slattery (D-KS), and moderator Mr. Michael Lind discuss the war in Iraq during a live webcast on October 3, 2007.*



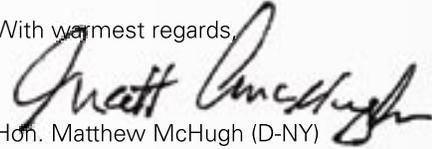
**Dear Association Member,**

I am delighted to announce the return of the Congress to Campus Program to the Association in 2007. After five outstanding years at the Council for Excellence under the stewardship of your colleague and mine, Hon. David Skaggs (D-CO), we now have the staff capability and office space to run the program out of the Association office. I have succeeded David's excellent leadership as the former Member head of the program, and look forward to my personal involvement with Congress to Campus for the foreseeable future.

As you may have seen in Association correspondences, we have been very busy this semester, and the articles in the adjoining pages offer a glimpse of the fall schedule of programming. In addition to this autumn's visits to domestic campuses, we have hosted visits to campuses in the United Kingdom, Mexico, and Canada.

I would like to thank the former Members who made visits this fall, as well as those who have participated over the past few years and encourage all of you to take part in this tremendous program. The continued success of Congress to Campus has been a direct result of active and enthusiastic participation from USAFMC members. Please contact Ms. Rebecca Zylberman at the Association office (202) 222-0972; rzylberman@usafmc.org if you are interested in participating. Both the Association and the Stennis Center are committed to ensuring the continued growth and opportunity created by this unique educational program and I am honored to represent Congress to Campus on behalf of the Association.

With warmest regards,



Hon. Matthew McHugh (D-NY)  
House of Representatives, 1975-1993  
President, USAFMC, 1998-2000

# CONGRESS TO CAMPUS PROGRAM

We are pleased to continue our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service, and thank them for their involvement over the past 11 years.

*Left: Hon. Dan Miller (R-FL) speaks with students during a Congress to Campus visit to IU-Kokomo in September. Right: Hon. Orval Hansen (R-ID), Hon. Andy Jacobs (D-IN), Dr. George Serra and Dr. Mark Kemper participate in Commonwealth Politics during their Congress to Campus visit to Bridgewater State College this fall.*

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Congress to Campus, the program sends bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to visit college, university, and community college campuses around the country. Over the course of two and a half days, the participating Members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, visit high schools and civic organizations, and do interviews and talk show appearances with local media. There is no cost for you to take part, except for the donation of your valuable time.

**Congressman Dan Miller (R-FL) and I shared the honor of being invited to Mexico by the U.S. State Department for a week of doing our Association's "Congress to Campus" programs – one in Guadalajara and one in Monterrey. This was the first official Congress to Campus program done in Mexico. Fortunately for us it was mostly in English with interpreters when needed.**

I was very impressed with the fact that virtually all of the students were fluent in English and had a good deal of knowledge about our American system of democracy. They were very interested in a great variety of issues like transparency in government, global warming, the U.S. Presidential elections in 2008, and of course immigration. Most of them favored comprehensive immigration reform and viewed the border wall as a "Wall of Shame".

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By Hon. Jerry Patterson (D-CA), House of Representatives 1975-1985

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We learned a lot from the students and government officials about the Mexican system of government. There is a great thirst for knowledge on how to continue reforms. The students share the hope for ending corrupting influences and practices through a free press and transparency in government. They are interested in a two or more party system. Mexico has come a long way in passing reforms in the past seven years, after 70 years of a one party government, and is now viewing the single term limits on their president and legislators as perhaps too restrictive.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with Congressman Miller, engaging the college youth of Mexico, and meeting with State Department officials and their junior Foreign Service Officers. In fact, it again proves the adage that you get as much out of doing (the Congress to Campus program) as you give of your time. ❖



Thanks to its partnership with the Stennis Center for Public Service and its management at the Council for Excellence, the program has expanded considerably since its conception at the Association. Where it used to feature only a few visits a year, it now aims for upwards of 30 visits – domestic and international – each academic year. The Association is delighted to have the program back and running from its office, and staff are working hard to build upon the tradition that has been established, and continue to improve the reach and aim of the program.

After a seamless transition process this spring, Congress to Campus was up and running at 1401 K Street. Working again with the Stennis Center, this autumn saw nine domestic campus visits, and four international campus visits, for a total of 13 Congress to Campus visits. In the United States, bipartisan teams visited Denison University, Bridgewater State College, Indiana University – Kokomo, Mount St. Mary's University, University of South Dakota, Central Michigan University, Abilene Christian University, Muhlenberg College and the Dole Institute at the University of Kansas. Internationally, former Members visited colleges in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and for the first time, Mexico.

Each visit had its own set of challenges, and each team was able to successfully navigate their way and educate the participating students on the importance of bipartisanship and involvement in public service, as well as give them a first-hand account of their own experiences while in Congress.

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*Left: Hon. Ken Hechler (D-WV) discusses the role of Congress with students at the University of Kansas during a Congress to Campus visit in November.*  
*Right: Hon. Dan Miller (R-FL) and Hon. Jerry Patterson (D-CA) address an AMCHAM meeting during a Congress to Campus visit in Mexico in September.*

By Rebecca Zylberman

**After five successful years being administered by the Council for Excellence, 2007 marked a transition year for the Congress to Campus Program. As of June 1 of this year, the program returned to the Association office, under the leadership of former Member Matt McHugh (D-NY).**

## INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC VISITS

Working with the Stennis Center under the direction of former Member David Skaggs (D-CO), the Council for Excellence organized 12 campus visits this past spring, with visits to Dartmouth University, Hartwick College, the U.S. Naval Academy, Western Kentucky University, University of Georgia, Carleton University in Ottawa, University of Akron, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Saginaw Valley State University, Central Michigan University, University of Akron and SUNY-Brockport.

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Also, as part of the Congress to Campus Program, the Association worked with the People to People Program, providing former Members with the opportunity to participate in at least ten engagements with middle-school students in locations in and around Washington, D.C. during each semester.

The students participating in the People to People engagements are considerably younger than those who are reached by the Congress to Campus Program, but they enthusiastically embraced the idea of public service and the importance of character traits such as leadership and integrity.

The Association is grateful to all of its members who participated in Congress to Campus and People to People events in 2007. Many more are planned for 2008. The Association looks forward to continuing its outreach to the next generation of leaders. Please contact us ([rzylberman@usafmc.org](mailto:rzylberman@usafmc.org)) if you would like to participate in a future Congress to Campus visit, or to suggest a university for us to include in the program. ❖

By Rebecca Zylberman

**As young democracies in Eastern Europe continue** to strengthen their institutions, it becomes increasingly important to work with one another to confront challenges to democratic rule in the region. Corruption remains a fact of life, but parliamentarians are taking the necessary steps to confront it through the promotion of government accountability and transparency, especially after the European Union clarified that corruption is a potential barrier to membership for aspiring nations.

With these goals in mind, and at the invitation of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Tirana, Albania, Association members Webb Franklin (R-MS) and Jim Moody (D-WI) participated in the formation of a new Balkan chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) on November 7, 2007. Parliamentarians from six countries met in Tirana to form the new chapter and elect its Board of Directors, who will meet under the title of Southeastern Europe Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEEPAC). USAID co-funded the three-day conference in partnership with the Albanian Parliament and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

GOPAC was formed in 2002, and is a Canada-based institution committed to using parliamentary powers to promote accountability and transparency through its regional and national chapters around the world. There are currently over 400 members of GOPAC. Hon. John Williams, Member of the Canadian Parliament and the Chairman of GOPAC, stated that “As institutions of accountability, parliaments must become leaders in fighting corruption by acting as watchdogs of government instead of lapdogs of government. Parliamentarians are the first line in holding governments accountable and have the responsibility to ensure that their governments are open, transparent, honest and effective.”

Over the course of the conference, Congressmen Franklin and Moody addressed the conference and participated in plenary discussions. Congressman Franklin remarked that the regional parliamentary delegations were “sincere in pledging to cooperate with one another and to do all they could to address the horrible problem of governmental and private sector corruption in the region.” With congressional experience during the Cold War, both former Members were committed to the cause of democracy in the Balkan region, and appreciated the opportunity to participate.

## USAID CONFERENCE IN ALBANIA

*Hon. Webb Franklin (R-MS) and Hon. Jim Moody (D-WI) meet the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania during their participation in the USAID conference.*



This conference is just the first step in fighting corruption in the Balkan region. USAID is committed to providing technical assistance to the newly-formed chapter to support the formulation of a long-term plan for combating corruption on the parliamentary level. As Hon. Leonard Demi, Member of Albania’s Parliament, and the newly elected chairman of the Board of the new regional chapter, stated, “Our chapter of GOPAC will support the institutions that have the expertise on these issues and will aim to be more effective and produce more concrete results.” ❖

**From October 13 through 21, 19 former Members of Congress and their guests traveled through Ireland as part of the Association's annual Study Tour.** The first part of the trip was devoted to exploring Dublin and participating in several meetings involving representatives of the Irish government, including the President of Ireland, the Honorable Mary McAleese. The second part of the trip gave the group an opportunity to explore the southern half of the Republic of Ireland.

On Tuesday, October 15, participants traveled to Phoenix Park and toured the house of the current President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. The former Members had the opportunity to meet with President McAleese and tell her briefly about the Association and its many domestic and international programs. Of particular interest to President McAleese was the Association's Congress to Campus Program and its success in reaching out to university students, both in the United States and abroad.

# STUDY TOUR TO IRELAND

## OCTOBER 12-21, 2007

On Monday, October 15, the group met with the Deputy Chief of Mission, Robert Faucher, and a small group of officers from the U.S. Embassy Staff in Phoenix Park, Dublin. The officers in attendance represented the Consular, Public Diplomacy, and Political and Economic sections of the Embassy. The briefing detailed the complex relationship between Ireland and the United States on issues such as EU immigration policy, the war in Iraq, and trade. The briefing also highlighted the importance of the role of the United States in the recently negotiated peace agreement between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. A brief reception followed the meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Thomas Foley.

Following the briefing, the group met with an audience of Irish college students studying at University College, Dublin. During the meeting students had the opportunity to express their concerns with current international issues such as U.S. foreign policy, the environment, and immigration, among others. The session lasted about an hour and the students and former Members of Congress discussed issues in greater detail during a brief question and answer session.

That evening the group proceeded to Leinster House (the Parliament of Ireland) where they took a tour of the historic building and were welcomed by the President of the Irish Parliamentary (Former Members) Society, the Honorable Vincent Brady and former Senator James Doolan. The evening allowed the participants to interact and learn from their counterparts in Ireland.

Later that evening, the participants traveled back to Leinster House for a reception hosted by the Speaker of the Irish House of Representatives and the President of Ireland's Senate. A meeting followed the reception where former Members met one on one with current Members of the Irish Parliament and discussed the U.S.-Irish relationship in greater detail.

From Wednesday, October 17, through Sunday, October 21, the group traveled throughout the country and visited such historic places as Waterford, Blarney, Killarney, and Bunratty.

In order to meet the diverse interests of as many Association Members as possible, the Association will alternate each year between international and domestic destinations for its Fall Study Tours. In 2008, therefore, the Association will organize a trip to a destination in the United States and/or Canada. We welcome your input and suggestions, and will provide you with additional information next year. ❖

*Left: The Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Faucher and other officers of the Embassy of the United States brief participants on the U.S.-Irish relationship in Dublin on October 14, 2007.*

*Right: Study Tour to Ireland participants meet with President Mary McAleese at her residence in Phoenix Park, Dublin.*



By Tracy Fine

**The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress** has hosted a golf tournament since 1990. Since its beginning, the tournament has been a way for Former Members of Congress to come together with their colleagues who serve in the current Congress and enjoy bipartisan competition and sport.

## 2008 CHARITABLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

In 2008, the Association will host the first charitable golf tournament in its history. The Association will partner with the PGA Tour, the PGA of America and the LPGA. We anticipate the tournament to continue to take place at the Courses at Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington, D.C. in early June. All proceeds raised from the tournament will benefit an organization whose purpose is to aid wounded American Veterans. We will provide you with additional information as the event approaches. ❖

By Tracy Fine &amp; John Bavoso

**On May 10, 2007, USAFMC presented its Annual Report to Congress.** President of the Association, Jim Slattery (D-KS), and Vice-President, John J. Rhodes III (R-AZ), delivered the report on behalf of the Association. The Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), presided over the session and warmly thanked her colleagues for their "many years of public service and great leadership in the Congress." Following the Speaker, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), thanked the Members present for "holding high the institutional values that the Founding Fathers and Americans want to establish."

## 37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Mr. Slattery then took the floor offering some welcoming remarks and introducing those Association Members who would be detailing the various programs that the Association has developed. First to speak was Former Representative Dennis Hertel (D-MI), who discussed the future of the International Election Monitors Institute. Mr. Hertel detailed the program's past successes but stressed the fact that the concept can be taken beyond just monitoring elections, especially by teaming up with other democracy-building organizations.

*President of the Association, Jim Slattery (D-KS), poses with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and his wife, Linda Slattery, during the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Meeting dinner in Statuary Hall.*



Jack Buechner (R-MO) then spoke about the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey, Japan and Mexico. Mr. Buechner discussed the history of the Germany Study Group and how the group has served as a model for subsequent study groups before emphasizing some of the highlights from the past year, including two meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. He also gave an update on the events of the Turkey, Japan, and Mexico Study Groups. Mr. Slattery then introduced Mike Parker (R-MS) to provide an update on the expansion and continued success of the Association's Congress to Campus program. Finally, Lou Frey (R-FL) provided a detailed update on the status of the webcasting program and the successes it has enjoyed throughout the year. Mr. Frey pointed out the fact that former Members have so much valuable information to share, that it is a shame to limit the number of people who can benefit from it to only those who can attend an event in person. Therefore, the use of the internet to broadcast the Association's message is a useful tool for communicating with a wide audience.

Following the report, Mr. Slattery presented the Distinguished Service Award to former Republican Senator and Majority Leader, Bob Dole of Kansas. Senator Dole graciously accepted the award for his continued public service and dedication to this country. In his speech, he thanked his family and friends back in Russell, Kansas stating that he "would not have made it here had it not been for my friends in Russell, who sort of rallied around me after World War II. They taught me that the greatness of America lies not in the power of her government, but in the goodness of her people."

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Approximately 50 former Members of Congress attended the events that featured a congressional reception and a luncheon which included a panel presentation entitled "A Better Understanding of the Muslim World." The Ambassador to the United States from Turkey, His Excellency Nabi Sensoy, presented some brief remarks about the U.S.-Turkish relationship and the challenges the international community is facing in the Middle East.

**Each candidate seeking his or her party's** nomination for the office of President of the United States brings something unique to his or her campaign – a personalized set of experiences, perspectives and issues that guides one's decision-making process. This year, heading into the primary races, no less than four candidates are former Members of Congress. These candidates bring with them experiences that can come only from being a former Member of Congress. The Association spoke with Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico to get an idea of exactly how being a former Member of Congress has shaped the way he campaigns and how he would serve as the country's next President.

By John Bavoso

## A NOTE FROM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BILL RICHARDSON

Following the presentation by Ambassador Sensoy, a briefing was held on "Changes in the Political Landscape." The panelists included John Ashford from the Hawthorn Group, Jackie Calmes from the *Wall Street Journal*, Al Eisele from *The Hill*, and Ken Rudin from National Public Radio. The panelists discussed the upcoming presidential elections and the effects that the race is having on the evolution of the political landscape. Following the afternoon's activities, a formal dinner was held for the Members in Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Meeting came to a close with a meeting of the Association's Board of Directors.

The next Spring Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2008. We are waiting for confirmation that April 17, 2008 will be the date of the Congressional Club's First Lady's Luncheon before we finalize our plans. ❖

Gov. Richardson served the state of New Mexico in the House of Representatives from 1983 – 1997. After leaving Congress, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, served as Secretary of Energy and, in 2003, was elected Governor of New Mexico – an office he holds today. Despite all of these subsequent successes, Richardson still values the formative experiences he had in Congress. "All Members of Congress, past and present, feel the high honor of having served, and it informs everything they do afterwards," he says. "There's nothing quite like it." In fact, Richardson credits much of his success as a cabinet member, diplomat and governor to the lessons he learned on the Hill: "My service in Congress was great training in the art of negotiation."

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*Former Member of Congress and Presidential candidate, Governor Bill Richardson (D-NM) offers his views on how his time in Congress impacts his campaign for the Presidency.*

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There are other benefits to having had experience as a Member of Congress. While he admits that former mayors and governors have an advantage in that they know the executive function and how to use it effectively, a well-rounded candidate is preferable. "I believe that a President with prior congressional service would have a better understanding of the role of Congress and how it works," he states. According to Richardson, understanding how Congress works means witnessing its true nature first-hand: "Congress is a uniquely human institution; it is almost like a family and it has a pulse, a rhythm, and a joyful nature that opens doors."

Also, in terms of looking ahead, Governor Richardson shares the Association's belief in the importance of fostering and inspiring the passion for public service in the young men and women who will become the next leaders of this country. Richardson praises the work the Association is doing with its Congress to Campus Program, and reminds young people that a commitment to service can be fostered at any age, because "becoming aware of circumstances not our own, and extending random acts of kindness to strangers are the first steps to a life of public service." He is quick to profess his faith in the idea that there are man-made solutions to man-made problems, as long as someone is willing to step up and lead.

While the future is indeed important to this Presidential candidate, so too is utilizing the experiences of those who have gleaned so much from years of service to the United States. While Richardson may jokingly implore former Members of Congress from both parties to "go easy" and "not make it too hard" for him, he also has a true plan for tapping into what he views as a great asset to this nation. "Former Members of Congress are a unique and under-utilized resource in our country," he says. But Governor Richardson does have good news for any former Members of Congress fretting about having too much time on his or her hands: "In my administration, I intend to put those of you willing to return to service to work." ❖

# CLASS NOTES

## 86<sup>th</sup> Congress

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

Former Member of Congress Ken Hechler celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on September 20, 2007 with the publication of his new book, "Super Marine! The Sgt. Orland D. "Buddy" Jones Story". He toured Arkansas, from October 22-26, lecturing in libraries and at The Clinton School for Public Service, University of Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

In October 2007 he was a speaker at the biennial meeting of Presidential speechwriters. In May 2007 he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Marshall University where he first taught in 1957. He also commemorated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Marshall with several faculty and student celebrations.

He made a Congress to Campus visit to the University of Kansas in November 2007 with Dr. Barbara Ballard. He made an earlier Congress to Campus visit in April 2007 to Western Kentucky University. He also lectured in 2007 at The University of Florida; Long Island University; the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.; West Virginia Wesleyan College; the annual Truman Symposium in Key West, Florida; the Army War College; and The Bryant Library in Roslyn, New York.

He was elected as an honorary trustee of The Truman Library Institute in August 2007.



## 90<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. Tom Railsback (R-IL) House of Representatives 1967-1982

Former Member of Congress Tom Railsback was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Monmouth College in Illinois, and from his alma mater, Grinnell College. He received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Augustana College. He received the Flandrau Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1974 for his role as architect of the nation's first comprehensive juvenile justice legislation. In 1974, *Time* magazine included him in its list of 200 Future American Leaders. He was inducted into the first Moline High School "Hall of Honor" in the year 2000.

He is a past President of the Grinnell College Alumni Board of Directors and former Chairman of the Younger Members of Conference of the Illinois State Bar Association. He has been a member of the District of Columbia, Rock Island County, Illinois and American Bar Associations. Mr. Railsback has also served on the Board of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, and in 1997 he was awarded the first "President's Award" by the Federal Judges Association.

Mr. Railsback has donated his congressional papers and memorabilia (including his Watergate Diary) to Western Illinois University.



## 91<sup>st</sup> Congress

### Hon. Orval Hansen (R-ID) House of Representatives 1969-1974

Former Member of Congress, Orval Hansen was first elected to the 91<sup>st</sup> Congress as a Republican from Idaho and served six years. He continues to live in Arlington, Virginia and spends most of the summers at his place in Idaho on the Salmon River in the Sawtooth Valley. He and his wife June celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the end of 2005 with their seven children. They have 12 grandchildren. The activities he enjoys include visits to universities under the Congress to Campus Program and speaking to younger students who visit the Washington, D.C. area under the People to People program.

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

Former Member of Congress, Jim Symington is currently Of Counsel for O'Connor & Hannan, LLP. in Washington, D.C., and former President of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress. He also serves as Chairman of the American Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation and is planning a black-tie evening at the Russian Embassy to be held on November 15, 2007, celebrating 200 years of U.S.-Russian diplomacy.

### Hon. G. William Whitehurst (R-VA) House of Representatives 1969-1987

Since retiring from the House of Representatives, former Member of Congress William Whitehurst has been teaching classes in History and Political Science at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk. He is the chairman of Kaufman University Lecturer in Public Affairs at ODU, which permits him to teach indefinitely. Most recently he donated copies of his original congressional diary, kept throughout his years in the House, to the Old Dominion University Library.



## 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress

### Hon. Jack F. Kemp (R-NY) House of Representatives 1971-1989

Former Member of Congress Jack Kemp and his wife Joanne are both in their 70s and enjoy watching football, soccer, and volleyball with their 17 grandchildren. He and his youngest son Jimmy started Kemp Partners, a strategic consulting firm that provides its clients with strategic counsel, relationship development, and marketing advice to enable them to accomplish business and policy objectives.

## 94<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. William Brodhead (D-MI) House of Representatives 1975-1982

Former Member of Congress, William Brodhead is now retired from law practice. He and his wife, Kathi of 42 years, spend spring and summer in Michigan and fall and winter at their condo in Kapolei, Hawaii which is on the island of Oahu. In retirement, he keeps busy by reading, walking, swimming, working out and spending time on the internet. He maintains contacts with his former political friends and enjoys nothing more than a good political discussion - either face-to-face or via e-mail. Life is good!

### Hon. Robert Edgar (D-PA) House of Representatives 1975-1986

Former Member of Congress Bob Edgar has returned to Washington D.C. after a long absence. He left his position as the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches USA in mid 2007 to become the President and CEO of Common Cause, a non-partisan, non-profit "citizens" lobby working to make government at all levels more honest, open and accountable, and to connect citizens with their democracy.

Common Cause has nearly 300,000 members and supporters, and 35 state offices. Under his leadership, Common Cause champions a number of critical issues and reforms, including the public funding of political campaigns at all levels, election reforms that make voting more accurate, secure and accessible, improved ethics at all levels of government and a diverse and open media.

In taking the new job, he and his wife moved from their home in New Jersey to Burke, Virginia.

### Hon. Jerry M. Patterson (D-CA) House of Representatives 1975-1985

Just to prove that there is "life after Congress," former Member of Congress Jerry Patterson returned to California in 1985 to become a Visiting Professor in the graduate program at California State University, Long Beach for two years. He was then an appointed City Attorney for ten years, and for the past 11 years has been an elected Trustee for three Coast Community Colleges in California. This year, he is President of the Board of Trustees, President of the Community United Methodist Church Foundation of Huntington Beach, and serves as Past President of a California non-profit Institute for Local Government. Two years ago he received the California League of Cities President's "Lifetime Achievement Award." He continues to be very involved in the Congress to Campus Program and a member of the Association. He and his wife Linda have four grown children, two Golden Retrievers, AND six beautiful grandchildren! The question often asked of him is: "Do you miss being in Congress?" For years his answer was yes. However, being involved in the Former Members of Congress and attending some of its functions and study tours now completely fulfills this desire quite well!

## 95<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. Marvin H. (Mickey) Edwards (R-OK) House of Representatives 1977-1993

Former Member of Congress Mickey Edwards from Oklahoma is the author of "Reclaiming Conservatism" due out in March 2008 from Oxford University Press. He is a lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and Vice-President of the Aspen Institute. Before joining the faculty at Princeton, he taught at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government for 11 years, wrote a weekly newspaper column for the *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*, and broadcast a weekly commentary on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." He recently joined former Congressman Romano Mazzoli on a Congress to Campus visit to Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

## 96<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. John Porter (R-IL), House of Representatives 1979-2000

Former Member John Porter, a partner at Hogan & Hartson LLP, was recently elected Chairman of the Board of PBS. He is also chair of Research! America, vice-chair of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a member of the board of trustees of The Brookings Institution, a former director of the American Heart Association, a former trustee of the RAND Corporation of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the Bretton Woods Committee. He was married on June 30, 2007, to Amy McGuire Porter, who is Executive Director of the Foundation for NIH.

### Hon. Don Ritter (R-PA), House of Representatives 1979-1993

Colleagues of Don Ritter who know of his 10-year dedicated support for the Afghan resistance to the Soviet invasion and occupation between 1979 and 1989 won't be surprised by his post-9/11 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S.-led liberation of Afghanistan) pursuits.

Dr. Ritter was a founding Board member of the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) in 2001 and today serves on their executive committee. He led an AACC team in the development of the USAID-funded Afghan International Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in Kabul, Afghanistan. He currently serves as the Senior Advisor to AICC in the development of plans, programs and strategies.

He has spent substantial time in Afghanistan since September 11, 2001 having traveled 17 times to the region for extended periods of time.

He is the co-founder, U.S. investor and Chairman of the U.S.-Afghan company that built and operates the most modern laundry and dry cleaning plant in the region to serve the population of Kabul and execute military and government contracts. He is also currently engaged in building a mountain lodge tourism industry in the Hindu Kush/Panjshir Valley and an Afghan-American joint venture to serve as prime contractor to compete for large construction contracts. Dr. Ritter (MIT, Sc. D., Metallurgy and Materials Science) and an Afghan company are seeking a South Asian foreign partner with an existing mini-mill(s) to build the same in Afghanistan for the Afghan construction boom. Finally, he has partnered with a leading Pakistani accounting and consulting firm to create a modern business development services company centered in Kabul, but active nationally.

Dr. Ritter and colleagues believe that a robust and independent, job-creating private sector is the key to the future of Afghanistan; that the economy of the country and its security are intimately linked. Legitimate livelihoods must compete with employment in the poppy growing or terrorism 'industries'. He has published numerous op-eds on how the private sector and market economy development in Afghanistan are critical to achieving security in the country. He has personally led an AACC/AICC investment strategy for Americans to invest in Afghanistan by finding trustworthy, competent, and preferably, English-speaking Afghan partners to invest in new businesses in Afghanistan. In that regard, he and AACC colleagues designed the recent U.S.-Afghan Business Matchmaking conference at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ritter welcomes his congressional colleagues, former and present, to join with him in business development and market economy-building in Afghanistan.



## 98<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. Ben Erdreich (D-AL) House of Representatives 1983-1993

Former Member of Congress Ben Erdreich (D-AL), moved back to his home town of Birmingham, Alabama, where he is engaged in real estate development, concentrating on urban projects. Among other developments, his firm, Metropolitan, LLC, has completed the renovation of the largest downtown loft project to date, creating 74 living units in an historic, mid-rise building in downtown Birmingham. He has just completed construction of his own residence in downtown Birmingham, the first single-family new construction downtown since the 1920s, and has his offices located in another of his firm's projects across the street from his residence.

### Hon. Major Owens (D-NY) House of Representatives 1983-2006

Utilizing a one year residence at the Kluge Center for Scholars at the Library of Congress, former Member of Congress, Major Owens, is completing a book entitled "The Peacock Elite: A Subjective Study of the 24 Years of the Congressional Black Caucus".

### Hon. James Roy Rowland (D-GA) House of Representatives 1983-1994

Former Member of Congress Roy Rowland is presently serving as Director of Utilization at the Community Mental Health Center of Middle Georgia. In addition, he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Medical College of Georgia Health, Inc., and a member of the President of the Medical College of Georgia's Advisory Committee on the future of medical education in Georgia.

### Hon. Lawrence J. Smith (D-FL) House of Representatives 1983-1992

Former Member of Congress Lawrence J. Smith (D-FL) continues his practice of law and government relations in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, recently moving his office to 3109 Stirling Road, Suite 101, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312. He continues his work on various non-governmental and charitable advisory boards, and various civic and charitable groups. He continues to give speeches and seminars on foreign policy.



## 100<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. Ernest Konnyu (R-CA) House of Representatives 1987-1989

Former Member of Congress Ernie Konnyu made the keynote San Francisco speech on October 21, 2007, in commemoration of the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The commemoration ceremony was held in front of the 18 foot tall bronze statue Gloria Victis, or Glory to the Vanquished, located in the courtyard of the California State Office Building and erected in memory of the freedom fighters that lost their lives fighting Soviet Union forces.

### Hon. David Skaggs (D-CO) House of Representatives 1987-1998

In January 2007, David Skaggs was appointed by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. to his cabinet as head of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since leaving the House in 1999, he had started and directed the Center for Democracy & Citizenship at the Council for Excellence in Government (where he managed the expansion of the USAFMC Congress to Campus Program), taught as adjunct professor at the University of Colorado, and was Of Counsel with Hogan & Hartson. He and he wife recently moved into a new, old farmhouse in rural Boulder County.



## 102<sup>nd</sup> Congress

### Hon. Larry LaRocco (D-ID) House of Representatives 1991-1995

Former Member of Congress, Larry LaRocco announced on April 11, 2007 that he will be running for an open seat in the United States Senate for Idaho. Mr. LaRocco is a former President of the Association and currently resides in McCall, Idaho.



## 104<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. Gil Gutknecht (R-MN) House of Representatives 1995-2006

Former Member of Congress Gil Gutknecht didn't know life outside the fishbowl could be so much fun. He and his wife, Mary, of 35 years, have gotten re-acquainted. They traveled to Hawaii in the spring and just returned from an eight day tour of Turkey hosted by the Turkish Cultural Foundation.

He keeps busy doing consulting for several companies (mostly in the clean energy and technology fields) and is a partner in other firms. He finds enough time to improve his golf skills and play with his grandson Miles. He says, "Life is good!"

### Hon. William P. Luther (D-MN) House of Representatives 1994-2002

Former Member of Congress Bill Luther has joined Fleishman Hillard Government Relations and splits his time between Washington, D.C. and his home state of Minnesota. Other former Members of Congress working with Fleishman include former Congressman Max Sandlin and former Senator Jim Talent. Mr. Luther is a former Democratic member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Telecom subcommittee, and is focusing on issues within the jurisdiction of the committee.



## 105<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Hon. James E. Rogan (R-CA) House of Representatives 1997-2000

After leaving Congress in 2001, President George W. Bush selected Rogan to be the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He served from 2001 until 2004, when he returned to California and private law practice. In 2004 Harper Collins published his memoir, "Rough Edges: My Unlikely Road from Welfare to Washington". Later, *Reader's Digest* selected his autobiography as one of its top nonfiction books for 2004-2005.

In October 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him as a judge on the Superior Court of California; in January 2007 President Bush nominated him for a federal judgeship for the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

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## 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 Tracy Fine at tfine@usafmc.org or (202) 222-0972.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Statesmanship Awards Dinner .... March 11, 2008  
Annual Spring Meeting ..... April 16-17, 2008 (*tentative*)

## THANK YOU

The Association wishes to thank **John Bavoso, Jun Koinuma**, and **Becca Leland** for their hard work and dedication as interns during the fall semester.



*The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress wishes you and your family a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!*



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