

# Council Chronicle

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



## Vol. 7, No. 4

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the *twenty-third* edition of the *Council Chronicle*, the Council's periodic newsletter. The *Chronicle* seeks to keep the Council's alumni, donors, and other supporters informed and updated. One among other efforts to do so on an ongoing basis is achieved by presenting highlights and special reports on the Council's programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, together with the ways and means it utilizes to pursue both objectives, please visit the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

## Message from the President: *Reserve October 28-29, 2014*

This issue of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' *Council Chronicle* is devoted exclusively to a unique experience: the Council's 22nd Annual Arab-U.S. Relations Policymakers Conference. Content-wise, the issue highlights the entire two-day event. The all-time high statistics regarding this most recent yearly forum included 1,250 registrants. Among them were

additional record numbers of co-sponsors from the following: *seventy-six* American and Arab corporations, foundations, and associations. Additional co-sponsors were eight Arab embassies and the Washington, DC Office of the League of Arab States.



*The National Council's 2013 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference was covered by more than six dozen print, broadcast, and satellite television media.*

Conference attendees were hosted by His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States, at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia for an evening reception in honor of the National Council's 30-year anniversary. During the Conference the Council bestowed its first-ever Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award on retired Illinois Congressman Paul Findley and a Lifetime Achievement Award on Council Board Member Dr. Mario A. Pascale. In keeping with the proceedings of previous years' Conferences, this year's gathering featured eight plenary sessions. The sessions covered virtually all of the major challenges and opportunities confronting American and Arab

leaders tasked with strengthening and expanding the innumerable mutual benefits between their two peoples.

To reserve space for the National Council's 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, be sure to mark your calendar for **October 28-29, 2014**, at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

Dr. John Duke Anthony  
Founding President and CEO  
National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



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## About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world through seven different annual programs, events, and activities. *First*, it is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. From one leadership development effort alone, the Council’s Model Arab League Program, there are more than 35,000 alumni. The annual number of participants averages 2,200.

The yearly venues in which the Models occur span thirteen cities across the United States and we’ll be adding three more in the coming year. We think it speaks volumes that *every single Council employee is a graduate of this program*. Each one has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship.

*Second*, the National Council is unique in another way: it is the world’s only organization to have administered for 22 years and counting an annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers' Conference. The Conference, highlighted in this issue of the *Council Chronicle*, brings together many of the foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past three years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,250 participants. Through coverage for five of the past six years by C-SPAN, the award-winning international satellite television network, additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings through that medium as well as the Council's website at [www.ncusar.org](http://www.ncusar.org).



National Council on U.S.-Arab  
Relations website



Arabia, the Gulf, and  
the GCC Blog



A *third* National Council highlight, featured in the immediate past issue of the *Chronicle*, is its intensive student work-study internship program. In the past year alone, the Council trained nearly three dozen interns. In cooperation with The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the *ten-week* University Student Summer Internship Program, administered for the seventh-consecutive year in association with twenty-two sister organizations, provided a professional work experience together with a twenty-part seminar on “Arabia, the Gulf, the GCC, and the U.S.-Arab relationship.” The 2014 University Student Summer Internship Program with 29 interns is presently underway. A brand new feature of this year’s program is the institution of Findley Fellowships. The Fellowships will be granted at the end of the program to a yet-to-be-determined number of the most outstanding interns. The awardees will be interns who meet two criteria. They will, first, have excelled in the program’s academic component. In addition, the winners will be those interns who, in their character, integrity, dedication, and overall professionalism, most exemplify the extraordinary moral and leadership traits of former long-serving Congressman Paul Findley, a founding member of the National Council’s Advisory Board.

A *fourth* National Council year-round program is designed to contribute positively to the national conversation. A legitimate question, of course, is the national conversation about what? The answer is about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions towards the Arab world and its peoples. How does the Council go about doing this? It does so through a series of seminars on Capitol Hill and other venues. In each instance, internationally renowned specialists are tasked with recommending more effective American approaches to dealing with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers in matters of common concern. The seminars held in Congressional hearing rooms are typically filled to capacity with Members of Congress, Congressional staff, the media, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, and other foreign affairs practitioners.

In addition, a *fifth* National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the past seven years, the Council has done this, in part, through an electronic newsletter that appears four times a year and through an *Annual Review*. An exciting new feature of the Council's outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to Arabia and the Gulf as well as the overall Arab-U.S. relationship is the Council's blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Council Distinguished Fellows Dr. Imad Kamel Harb and Robert Lebling, and other specialists. Visit the blog at: [ncusar.org/blog](http://ncusar.org/blog). A *sixth* National Council activity is organizing and providing scholarly escorts for delegations of American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries. The *seventh* National Council public service takes the form of facilitating the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences in Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and Yemen.

Running through all of the National Council's programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council's *vision* for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council's vision is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, the vision is anchored in a belief that the foundation is strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging American and Arab leaders. The pages that follow highlight the nature and number of many of the extraordinary leaders who have joined forces with the Council in support of its vision. Each recognizes that the Council is the only American organization that annually organizes and administers an event expressly designed to improve the U.S.-Arab relationship, namely the annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.

***Specialists at the National Council's 2013 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference included:***



**Congressman Paul Findley**



**Ambassador of Iraq to the United States H.E. Lukman Faily**



**Chief Representative of the League of Arab States to the United States H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif**



**Ambassador of Egypt to the United States H.E. Mohamed M. Tawfik**



**Chief Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United State H.E. Maen Areikat**



**U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute Near East Chair Dr. John Iskander**

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab publics and peoples. The Council seeks, in particular, to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, human resources, and leadership development clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information, insight, and learning opportunities for national, state, and local grassroots educational organizations, media, and public policy research institutes in addition to select community civic, business, and professional associations.

# SAVE THE DATE:

## 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference October 28-29, 2014



In the National Council's efforts to strengthen and expand the positive dynamics of the overall U.S.-Arab relationship and to promote the legitimate interests of Americans and Arabs alike, its board, management, and staff are keenly aware of the national need for courageous leaders of conviction and commitment.



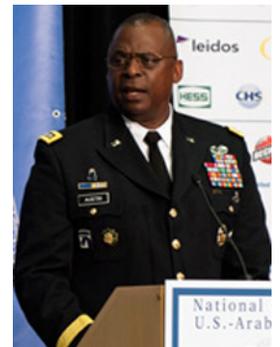
The National Council strives to help restore what was once an extraordinarily vibrant and positive reservoir of Arab goodwill and respect for America throughout the Arab world. It endeavors to do so in light of the pervasive region-wide negative reaction among the region's Arabs and Muslims.



One hardly need note that there is no anti-Finland-ism, anti-Japan-ism, or anti-China-ism in the Arab world. In contrast, from one end of the region to the other, anti-Americanism is prevalent and laced with dire implications for the United States, the Arab world, and elsewhere.



The reason is rooted in a single factor: U.S. policies towards Arabs and Muslims that tens of millions among the Arab world's citizens, and millions more among the world's more than 1.6 billion Muslims, have come to view as unfair and unjust.



1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC

# 2013's 22nd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

## "Navigating Arab-U.S. Relations: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities"

But one among other reasons to register early for the National Council's 23rd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, scheduled for October 28-29, 2014, is to consider the highlights of the most recent Policymakers Conference. On October 22-23, 2013, more than 1,250 people – for the third consecutive year an all-time record for American organizations dealing with the Arab world – gathered in Washington, DC for the 22nd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference. The Conference was convened by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations and chaired by Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony. The Conference theme was "Navigating Arab-U.S. Relations: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities." The sessions featured more than fifty speakers. Each analyzed, discussed, and debated issues of over-arching importance to the American and Arab people's needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives.

The Conference proceedings were covered by the representatives of *more than six dozen* print, broadcast, and satellite television media. They took place amidst a period of unprecedented regional change and upheaval along with continuity. The two combined carried then, as now, implications for Americans, Arabs, and others the world over. As such, the Conference's substance, scope, and focus were compelling, the atmosphere receptive, and the timing propitious.

Among the speakers were current and former ambassadors from the United States and various Arab countries, key U.S. government officials, leading military officers, and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Welcoming remarks by National Council Board of Directors Chairman David Bosch were followed by Ambassador Chas Freeman, Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, who opened the conference with a keynote address on "Coping with Kaleidoscopic Change in the Middle East." Ambassador Freeman challenged the United States to learn from previous policy mistakes in the region, listen to allies, and pay due regard to their legitimate interests.

HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal delivered the luncheon keynote address on the first day of the Conference. His remarks made news in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *CNN*, *NBC's Meet the Press*, *NPR*, and many more international outlets. Prince Turki spoke of how Saudi Arabia's stability and influence have underpinned its vital regional and international role. He called upon the international community to honor the premises and promises of the UN Charter to promote peace in the region. U.S. Central Command Commanding General Lloyd Austin III also spoke during the Conference's first day. The general, whose command has a wide-ranging area of responsibility for 20 countries in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, emphasized the Command's focus on continuing the free flow of resources through key shipping lanes and containing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.



**CENTCOM Commander General Lloyd Austin III speaks to the National Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference.**

Keynote speakers on the Conference's second day included Iraqi Ambassador H.E. Lukman Faily and Arab League Ambassador H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif. The second day luncheon keynote speaker was America's immediate past Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, James Smith, who was introduced by HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud. HRH Prince Abdulmajeed Bin Abdulilah bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud also spoke during the luncheon. In so doing, he emphasized the educational and leadership development value of his participation in the National Council's Model Arab League program and as President of the Saudi Arabian Student Club at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The keynote speakers were supplemented by sessions on issues such as U.S.-Arab energy cooperation; the Gulf Cooperation Council; defense cooperation; trade, investment, commerce, and joint business relations; and regional geo-political dynamics. Throughout the Conference, the American Educational Trust, publisher of the award-winning *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, sold books and Palestinian crafts. At the end of the first day, sponsors, speakers, members of the Arab diplomatic community and their American foreign affairs practitioners counterparts, with invited guests, attended a reception at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia hosted by H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States, in honor of the Conference as well as the National Council's 30<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary.

During the luncheon on the first day of the Conference, the National Council was privileged to bestow its first-ever "Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award" on retired Illinois Congressman Paul Findley. A founding Member of the Advisory Board of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, Congressman Findley represented the 20th District of Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years. During the luncheon on the second day of the Conference, the Council presented a "Lifetime Achievement Award" to Dr. Mario A. Pascale, a Member of the Council's Board of Directors. Dr. Pascale holds the record for the number of times he has been an escort for Council student and faculty delegations participating in the Council's Arab world study visits.

In keeping with their inception in 1991, the 2013 National Council Annual Policymakers Conference comprised speakers with challenging and controversial views. Throughout the two-days of shared ideas, intense discussions and debate, and extensive networking among attendees and participants, the Conference not only furthered the Council's educational mission of enhancing American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also provided much food for thought in the form of practical suggestions and recommendations for ways to improve the overall Arab-U.S. relationship. The Conference's entire transcripts, together with its video- and audio-recorded proceedings, are available via the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

### ***Read, Watch, or Listen to the 2013 Policymakers Conference Proceedings***



Transcripts, MP3 audio, and links to video recordings are available on the National Council's website, [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org), at:

<http://ncusar.org/auspc/2013>



MP3 audio podcasts of the conference are available through iTunes:

<http://bit.ly/itunes-ncusar>



Video of Conference sessions is available on YouTube, along with video from previous years' Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conferences and other Council programs:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NCUSAR>



**HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud**



**Dr. Janet Breslin-Smith**



**General Lloyd Austin III**



**Ms. Nahlah Al-Jubeir**



**Ambassador (Ret.) James Smith**



**Dr. Judith Yaphe**



**Ambassador Richard Schmierer**



**Ms. Sarah Ladislaw**



**H.E. Ambassador Maen Areikat**



**Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome**



**H.E. Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik**



**Ms. Leila Hilal**



**HRH Prince Abdulaziz Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud**



**Ms. Alexis Arief**



**Ambassador (Ret.) Chas Freeman**



**Dr. Ken Katzman**



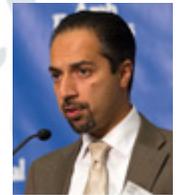
**H.E. Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif**



**Ms. Elizabeth Wossen**



**Dr. Michael C. Hudson**



**Dr. Trita Parsi**



**Commodore (Ret.) Abdulateef Al-Mulhim**



**Dr. David Lesch**



**Dr. Abdullah K. Al-Shayji**



**Mr. Jason Buntin**



**HRH Prince Abdulmajeed Bin Abdulilah bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud**



**Dr. Bassam Haddad**



**Dr. Andrew Parasiliti**



**Ambassador (Ret.) Thomas Graham**



**Dr. Shihab Kuran**



**Dr. Herman Franssen**

**Policymakers Conference Secretariat:**



**Dr. John Duke Anthony**



**Mr. Patrick Mancino**



**Mr. Mark Morozink**



**Ms. Megan Geissler**



**Mr. Josh Hilbrand**



**Mr. Byron Lewis**

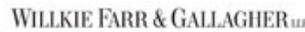


**Ms. Maria Pantelis**



**Ms. Laura Tucker**

# 2013 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Sponsors



# Speakers & Sessions

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



**Dr. John Duke Anthony** – Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.



**Mr. David D. Bosch** – Chairman, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; and former Director, Washington, DC office of Aramco Services Company.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS –

### *“Coping With Kaleidoscopic Change In The Middle East”*



**Ambassador Chas Freeman, Jr.** – Chairman of the Board, Projects International, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-based development firm specializing in international joint ventures, acquisitions, and other business operations for its American and foreign clients; former President, Middle East Policy Council; former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (1993-94), earning the Department of Defense’s highest public service awards for his roles in designing a NATO-centered post-Cold War security system and in reestablishing defense and military relations with China; former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and author, *Interesting Times: China, America, and the Shifting Balance of Prestige*; *America’s Misadventures in the Middle East*; *The Diplomat’s Dictionary*; and *Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy*.



## U.S.-ARAB ENERGY COOPERATION



**Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome** – President, Fahmy Hudome International; General Counsel, American Egyptian Strategic Alliance; former Associate Deputy Secretary of Energy; Member, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.



**Dr. Herman Franssen** – Executive Director, Energy Intelligence Group; former Senior Associate, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies.



**Ms. Sarah Ladislaw** – Co-Director and Senior Fellow, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies.



**Mr. Kevin Book** – Co-Founder and Head of Research, ClearView Energy Partners, LLC; Senior Associate, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Member, National Petroleum Council.



**Ambassador Thomas Graham** – Executive Chairman, Board of Directors, Lightbridge Corporation; Member, International Advisory Board, United Arab Emirates; former U.S. diplomat.



**Dr. Shihab Kuran** – President, SunEdison Advanced Solutions; former President and CEO, Petra Solar.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HRH PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL



**HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal** – Chairman, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; former Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America; former Director General, General Intelligence Directorate, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal** presents an award commemorating the 30th anniversary of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations to Council Founding President & CEO **Dr. John Duke Anthony** (see page 22).



**Congressman Paul Findley** who served 22 years in the House of Representatives, accepts the National Council's first-ever "Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award" during the luncheon on the first day of the Conference.



U.S. Central Command Commanding **General Lloyd Austin III** (left) and King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies Chairman **HRH Prince Turki** (right) meet with a delegation of **Cadets from the Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program at the United States Military Academy at West Point** at the National Council's 2013 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference in Washington, DC.

## ***KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GENERAL LLOYD AUSTIN III***

**General Lloyd Austin III** – Commander, United States Central Command; former Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army; former Commander, U.S. Forces-Iraq (from September 2010 through completion of mission in December 2011); former Director, Joint Staff, Pentagon.



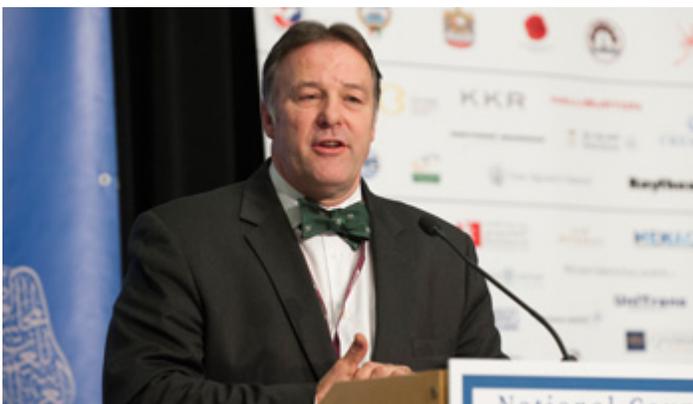
## ***U.S.-ARAB DEFENSE COOPERATION***



**Mr. David Des Roches** – Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University; National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies (Syria).



**Mr. Christopher Blanchard** – Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.



**Mr. Robert Sharp** – Associate Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University.



**Dr. Janet Breslin-Smith** – former Professor of National Security Strategy and Chair of the Department of National Security Strategy, National War College.

# GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL: ROLE IN REGIONAL DYNAMICS



**Dr. John Duke Anthony** – Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, and author, *inter alia*, of *Arab States of the Lower Gulf: People, Politics, Petroleum; Historical and Cultural Dictionary of the Sultanate of Oman and the Emirates of Eastern Arabia*; and *The United Arab Emirates: Dynamics of State Formation*.



**Dr. Ken Katzman** – Specialist in Middle East Affairs in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.



**Dr. Abdullah Al-Shayji** – Chairman, Department of Political Science, Kuwait University; author, *Kuwait's Ceaseless Quest for Survival in a Hostile Environment*.



**Mr. Jason Buntin** – Director for Europe and Middle East Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.



**Ambassador Richard Schmierer** – Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Near East Affairs, U.S. Department of State; former U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.



**Mr. Michael Buonvino** – Vice President for Global Development, Hill International.

## ***CONFERENCE EVENING RECEPTION***

His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States, hosted a reception for conference sponsors, speakers, the Arab diplomatic community, and invited guests, on the occasion of the 22nd Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, on October 22, 2013, at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia.



**His Excellency Adel A. Al-Jubeir**, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States.



(left to right) **General Lloyd Austin III**, Commander, United States Central Command; **Ms. Randa Fahmy Hudome**, Member, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; and **Brig. Gen. Ahmed Al-Qahtani**, Saudi Arabian Defense Attaché to the United States.



**Congressman Paul Findley**, who earlier in the day accepted the National Council's first-ever "Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award," gave remarks during the Conference's evening reception.

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### **Wednesday, October 23, 2013**

#### ***KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUKMAN FAILY***



**H.E. Ambassador Lukman Faily** – Ambassador of Iraq to the United States; former Ambassador of Iraq to Japan.

#### ***KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. MOHAMMED ALHUSSAINI ALSHARIF***

**H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Alhussaini Alsharif** – Chief Representative of the League of Arab States to the United States; former Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Canada and Turkey; former Head of the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Houston.



## THE PALESTINIAN FUTURE



**Dr. Thomas Mattair** – Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council; former Research Scholar, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research; author, *The Three Occupied UAE Islands: The Tunbs and Abu Musa* and *Global Security Watch – Iran: A Reference Handbook*.



**Ms. Leila Hilal** – Director, Middle East Task Force, New America Foundation; former Senior Policy Adviser to the Commissioner-General of UNRWA.



**Mr. Bill Corcoran** – President and CEO, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA); former Vice President, Child Fund International.



**Mr. Chris McGrath** – Senior Liaison Officer and Acting Head of the Washington Representative Office, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); former Communications Strategist for U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.



**H.E. Ambassador Maen Areikat** – Chief Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the United States; former Deputy Head and Coordinator-General of the Negotiations Affairs Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## GEO-POLITICAL DYNAMICS: SYRIA, LEBANON, IRAQ, & IRAN



**Dr. John L. Iskander** – Chair, Near East and North Africa Area Studies, Foreign Service Institute, George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, U.S. Department of State.



**Dr. Trita Parsi** – Founder and President, National Iranian American Council; author *A Single Roll of the Dice - Obama's Diplomacy with Iran and Treacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Iran, Israel and the United States*.



**Dr. Judith Yaphe** – Distinguished Research Fellow for the Middle East, Institute for National Strategic Studies, U.S. Department of State; Adjunct Professor, the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University; former Senior Analyst, Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis, Central Intelligence Agency.



**Dr. Michael C. Hudson** – Director of the Middle East Institute and Professor of Political Science, National University of Singapore; former Director of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Professor of International Relations, and Seif Ghobash Professor of Arab Studies, Georgetown University.



**Dr. Bassam Haddad** – Director, Middle East Studies Program and Assistant Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, George Mason University; Co-Founder/Editor, *Jadaliyya* Ezine; Visiting Professor, Georgetown University; author, *Business Networks in Syria: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Resilience*.



**Dr. David Lesch** – Professor of Middle East History, Trinity University; author, *The Fall of the House of Assad, The Arab – Israeli Conflict: A History*, and *The New Lion of Damascus: Bashar al-Asad and Modern Syria*; and National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies (Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates).

## REMARKS ON MODEL ARAB LEAGUE



**HRH Prince Abdulmajeed bin Abdulilah bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud** (left) spoke about his experiences with the National Council's Model Arab League Student Leadership Development Program at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.



**Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Honors Scholar Cadet Robert Lawrenz** (right) gave remarks on VMI's participation in the Council's Model Arab League Program as well as the Council's role in helping to establish Arabic language study abroad programs at VMI.

The National Council bestowed a "Lifetime Achievement Award" on **Dr. Mario A. Pascale**, a Member of the Council's Board of Directors. Dr. Pascale holds the record for the number of times he has been an escort and/or deputy escort for university faculty and student delegations participating in the Council's study visits to Arab countries (see page 22).



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR JAMES SMITH



**Ambassador James Smith** – Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group; Immediate Past U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Introducing Ambassador Smith was **HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Sa'ud** – Member, International Advisory Committee, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; Gulf Cooperation Council Honorary President for Website Services and Internet Technology; and former Chairman, Arab Open University Forum.



## ***U.S.-ARAB BUSINESS, FINANCE, AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT***



**Ambassador Ford Fraker** – former Senior Adviser and Chairman for the Middle East and North Africa Group, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P.; former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



**Ambassador Patrick Theros** – Executive Director, U.S.-Qatar Business Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar.



**Mr. Ken Close** – Founder and CEO, Quincy International.



**Ms. Nahlah Al-Jubeir** – Director, Center for Career Development, Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission; former Deputy Director for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Saudi Arabian Health Mission, Washington, DC.



**Mr. Nathan Regan** – Country Manager for the United States, Bahrain Economic Development Board, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



**Ambassador Dr. Rene Leon** – Economic Growth Consultant, Creative Associates International; former Ambassador of El Salvador to the United States.

## ***GEO-POLITICAL DYNAMICS: EGYPT & ARAB NORTH AFRICA***



**Ms. Elizabeth Wossen** – Principal and Lead Consultant, Energy Links Group LLC; former Coordinator, Congressional and Government Relations, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; Member, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.



**Dr. Paul Sullivan** – Professor of Economics, Eisenhower School, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense; Adjunct Professor, Security Studies, Georgetown University; Columnist, *Turkiye Gazetesi*, Istanbul, Turkey.



**Ms. Alexis Arieff** – Analyst on Africa and the Maghreb, Congressional Research Service, U.S. Library of Congress.



**Mr. Karim Haggag** – Visiting Professor, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense; former Director, Egyptian Press and Information Office, Washington, DC.



**H.E. Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik** – Ambassador of Egypt to the United States.



**Dr. Nejib Ayachi** – Founder and President, Maghreb Center.

## ***ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS: VIEWS FROM THE MEDIA***



**Dr. Andrew Parasiliti** – Editor & CEO, *Al-Monitor*; former Executive Director, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)-US and Corresponding Director, IISS-Middle East; former Foreign Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel.



**Commodore (Ret.) Abdulateef Al-Mulhim** – Columnist, *Arab News* and *Al Yaum*; Retired Commodore, Royal Saudi Navy.



**Mr. Steven Clemons** – Editor-at-Large, *The Atlantic*; Founder, American Strategy Program, New America Foundation; Publisher, *The Washington Note*.

## ***ARAB-U.S. RELATIONS: CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT***

**Dr. John Duke Anthony** – Founding President and CEO of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.



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