

### **PETER GUBSER (1941-2010)**

American friends of the Middle East and supporters of peace between Israel and Palestine lost a close friend and colleague when Peter Gubser passed away September 2 in Washington.

Peter had a distinguished career as a scholar, author, Middle East expert, and most prominently, as Director of ANERA where he served as President for 29 years before retiring in 2007. Peter built ANERA, which operates in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon, into one of the leading American non-government organization in the Middle East. Peter's and ANERA's commitment to improving lives through education, health, humanitarian and development services, under tough operating conditions and frequent constant political adversity, have created much good will in the region toward Americans.

Peter also gave his boundless energy, leadership skills and deep knowledge of the Middle East to many other causes. He was a close friend and colleague of the late Merle Thorpe, Jr., who created the Foundation for Middle East Peace, and he served on the Foundation's Board for many years before his death.

After Peter's retirement, he became Chairman of American Friends of UNRWA, taught at Georgetown, and resumed his first love as historian. Educated at Yale, American University Beirut, Oxford, where he earned his Phd, the University of Manchester, and his mastery of Arabic, he had published several books on Jordan and many articles. His most recent book, *Saladin: Empire and Holy War*, an acclaimed new history of the Muslim warrior and statesman, was published in April 2010 by Gorgias Press.

Peter Gubser's leadership, his gift for friendship, wonderful good humor, and his passion for improving lives in the Middle East touched many thousands of people. He leaves behind a unique and remarkable legacy.

A memorial and celebration of Peter's life will be held Tuesday, September 14, at the Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Ave, Washington D.C, 3:00-6:00. The Gubser family suggests, in lieu of flowers, donations to ANERA's Peter Gubser Education Fund, or another charity.

Philip C. Wilcox, Jr., President  
Foundation for Middle East Peace