

The Passport Newsletter

June 2025



"Fault Lines & Front Lines: Turkey's Role in a Fractured Region"

> Col. Christopher Welch U.S. Air Force (retired)

Friday, June 27th, 2025 **Lecture Luncheon Monterey Marriott - The Ferrantes Room**

Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable.

Registrations are due by Friday, June 20th 2025

Drawing on his experience as the U.S. Air Attaché and Chief of Attaché

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Register online for this event

insecurity to the pursuit of flexibility and influence in a volatile region. In a slide-illustrated presentation he will explore how these forces play out in areas like Syria, U.S.-Russia relations, Turkey's growing defense sector, and its role in regional diplomacy, offering insight into what drives Turkish behavior, especially when it seems at odds with Western expectations. Chris Welch is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, special operations pilot and former Chief of Attaché Operations and Air Attaché in Ankara. In that role, he led the U.S. military attaché team coordinating on NATO issues,

Operations in Ankara, Turkey, Colonel Welch will explore key factors shaping Turkey's international outlook – from nationalism and energy

bilateral defense relations, and regional security during a pivotal period in U.S.-Turkey relations. A command pilot with 2,300+ flight hours, he previously served as Chief of Strategy at the Combined Air Operations Center, directing air operations across U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), particularly in the counter-ISIS campaign in Iraq and Syria. As an Olmsted Scholar in Istanbul, Chris Welch studied Turkish politics and history at Bogazici University. He holds Master's degrees in public

policy and national security from Harvard's Kennedy School and the National War College. He now lives in Albuqurque, New Mexico, where he continues to support national security efforts and serves as a subject matter expert on Turkey.

The Ferrantes Room **Monterey Marriott**

Location

350 Calle Principal Monterey, CA

Agenda

11:30 AM: Registration ~ 12:00 PM: Luncheon

~ 12:45 PM: Speaker

Tickets

\$55 World Affairs Council members

\$65 for Guests

Honey Roasted Beets, Spicy Pecans with

Feta Cheese & Shredded Jicama and finished with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Bread and Butter

Menu Arugula Salad with Radicchio,

Spinach and Feta Stuffed Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Charred Broccolini with Carrot-Tumeric Puree, Blistered Grape

Tomatoes & Lemon Thyme Cream Honey Vegetarian Alternative Al Pastor Cauliflower Steak with Achiote

Marinade, Heritage Grains, Roasted

Brussel Sprouts, Grilled Pineapple, with

a Vegan Ancho Crema

Dessert

Limoncello-Streusel Cream Cake

Register online for this event

Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable. If you encounter difficulties with our online registration please

Download mail-in form

email <u>info@wacmb.org</u> or tel. 831-643-1855 to reserve a spot by close of registration - Friday, June 20th, 2025

A limited number of seats for auditors (at no charge) will be available. Please notify the WACMB office no later than Friday, June 20th to info@wacmb.org or tel 831-643-1855. Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:35 pm

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) GlobalPost

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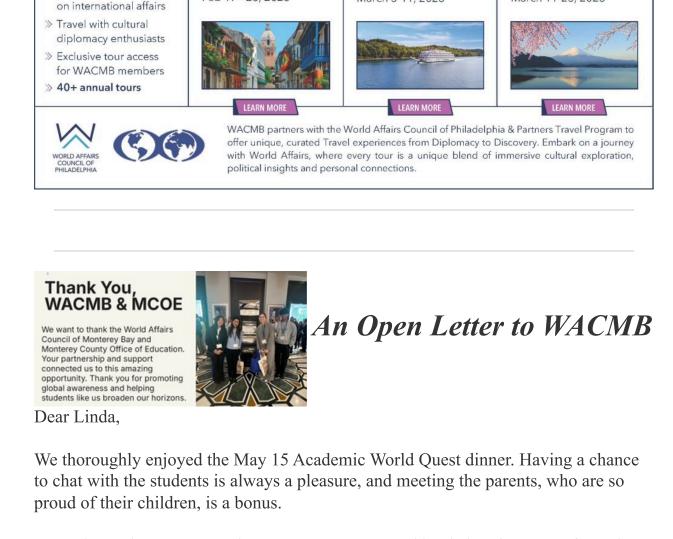
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All are welcome!

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From the students' presentation, we were encouraged by their enjoyment of meeting with other teams and appreciating there are young people from all over the country who share an interest in international affairs. The visit to the U.S. Capitol clearly made a deep impression on the students. Equally impressive was their visit to the UAE Embassy to receive a briefing on a range of issues including energy policy. This

The questions raised by the audience to the students were thought-provoking and we were deeply impressed with their responses. The students went far beyond the multiple-choice answers in their thinking which demonstrates the impact of the entire Academic World Quest experience. For example, raising questions about the ethics of mineral extraction is truly provocative. The team also learned a great deal about collaborative research, demonstrating maturity in devising a blueprint for parceling out the subject matter.

gave them a real taste of international policy and a sense of how foreign countries

In all aspects, the Academic World Quest program is making an important contribution to our community. It is planting the seeds of international awareness which will raise the standard of public debate and encourage dialogue to increase understanding. We look forward to the Academic World Quest participants not only taking a leading role in discussion of foreign affairs in our communities, but also stimulating other students to become actively engaged citizens.

Thanks for all your leadership. This only gets better and better.

With Gratitude

education!

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

Gloria and Michael Ipson, Members

deal with issues we encounter here in the U.S.



