



Middle
East
Institute

APRIL 17, 2024
Washington, DC
Smithsonian American
Art Museum

77TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Peace. Prosperity. Partnership.





DEAR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on the occasion of the Middle East Institute's 77th Annual Gala Dinner. On behalf of MEI's board, scholars, and staff, I extend my warm thanks for your support of MEI, as we work together on our mission to foster understanding between the people of the US and the Middle East and to work toward peace, partnership, and prosperity.

Such aspirations may feel out of reach at a time such as this, when we bear daily witness to humanity's failures to sustain these ideals. We recognize the gravity of this moment, and our hearts break at the suffering and loss that has been felt by so many.

But it is at times such as these, when peace appears most elusive, that we must reinvigorate our efforts to identify and cultivate areas of dialogue and collaboration. This has been at the core of MEI's mission since its founding over three-quarters of a century ago, and tonight we are pleased to gather and commemorate the achievements of five individuals who remind us of the countless reasons for optimism that continue to emerge across the Middle East, and within the US-Middle East relationship.

Achievements like those of Saudi astronaut and biomedical researcher Rayyanah Barnawi, whose historic spaceflight not only broke barriers for Arab women but reminded us to aim high and find new

frontiers of cooperation. Contributions like those of Fatih and Eren Ozmen, entrepreneurs and philanthropists, whose platforms enable space science and aerospace innovation. And the lifetime achievements of former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, whose historic efforts to forge peace in the Middle East and elsewhere have set the template for efforts that are, more than ever, urgently needed.

A select few have had the opportunity to look back on earth from outer space, a unique perspective stripped of the man-made barriers and borders that too often lead to division. Tonight, as we honor these scientists, innovators, and peacemakers, I encourage all of us to look at our shared home through this lens and, together, imagine a future of peace and possibility.

Thank you for joining us and supporting this important mission.



PAUL SALEM
President and CEO
Middle East Institute



Program

- 6:00 PM** *Cocktail reception*
- 7:00 PM** *77th Annual Gala Dinner*
- 7:10 PM** **WELCOME**
Paul Salem, President & CEO, Middle East Institute
- 7:15 PM** *Award Ceremony*
MEI VISIONARY AWARD - RAYANNAH BARNAWI
Presented by Pam Melroy, Deputy Administrator, NASA
CHAIRMAN'S AWARD - FATIH AND EREN OZMEN
Presented by John P. Abizaid, Chairman, MEI Board of Governors
- 7:40 PM** *Dinner served*
- 8:50 PM** *Award Ceremony Resumes*
ISSAM M. FARES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
JAMES A. BAKER, III & GEORGE J. MITCHELL
Presented by Toni Verstandig, Member, MEI Board of Governors
- 9:30 PM** *Gala dinner concludes*

THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO HONOR

Rayyanah Barnawi

Biomedical Researcher and Astronaut

With the

Visionary Award

For her achievements as a pioneering astronaut and biomedical researcher, and as the first Saudi and Arab woman to travel to space.

Rayyanah Barnawi

Rayyanah Barnawi is a pioneering astronaut for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a mission specialist on the Ax-2 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). As the first Saudi female astronaut, her historic journey to space marks a significant milestone. With a rich background in biomedical sciences, Barnawi holds a Master's from Alfaisal University, Saudi Arabia, and a Bachelor's from Otago University, New Zealand. Specializing in cancer stem-cell research, she brings almost a decade of experience from her tenure as a research lab technician at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh.

During her time on the ISS, Barnawi concentrated on stem cell and breast cancer research, leveraging her expertise to advance Saudi Arabia's scientific endeavors in space. She was counted as the 600th person to enter Earth orbit.

Beyond her scientific achievements, Barnawi is an avid adventurer. Her pursuits range from scuba diving in Saudi Arabia and Indonesia to wingsuit flying in Dubai and participating in extreme sports across the globe. These activities underscore her dynamic approach to both her professional career and personal interests, illustrating a blend of rigor, determination, and passion for exploration.



THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO HONOR

Fatih and Eren Ozmen

Owners of SNC and Sierra Space
Turkish-American Philanthropists and Entrepreneurs

With the inaugural

Chairman's Award

For their accomplishments as visionary
business leaders in aerospace, technology,
and defense, and their dedication to
humanitarian and educational causes.

Fatih and Eren Ozmen

Fatih and Eren Ozmen are the visionary leaders behind SNC, transforming it from a modest startup into a global aerospace and defense titan. Since acquiring SNC in 1994, the Ozmens nurtured it into a prime contractor renowned for delivering leading-edge technologies and transformative solutions that address some of the most pressing national security challenges. Their guidance has propelled SNC through 20 strategic mergers and acquisitions, diversifying its portfolio and cementing its status as an industry leader.

In 2021, they launched Sierra Space, a bold venture into commercial space exploration, leveraging innovations like the Dream Chaser® spaceplane and LIFE™ habitat to pioneer the next era of Low Earth Orbit commercialization. This move illustrates their commitment to disruptive innovation with a lasting impact on humanity.

Fatih and Eren have received many prestigious awards and recognition for their achievements and impact. Under their leadership, SNC has been recognized as a US Best Managed Company for two consecutive years. For their contributions to national security, Fatih and Eren were both honored with the BENS Eisenhower Award. They were also presented with honorary doctorates by their alma mater, the University of Nevada, Reno, and honored as Living Legends of Aviation. Eren is named among the Top 10 Most Successful Self-Made Women and “50 Over 50” lists by Forbes, and is a recipient of the Laureate Award from Aviation Week. Fatih is also a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Beyond their business success, the Ozmens champion causes like STEM education and medical research, demonstrating a deep commitment to giving back and fostering American innovation and job growth.



THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE IS PROUD TO HONOR

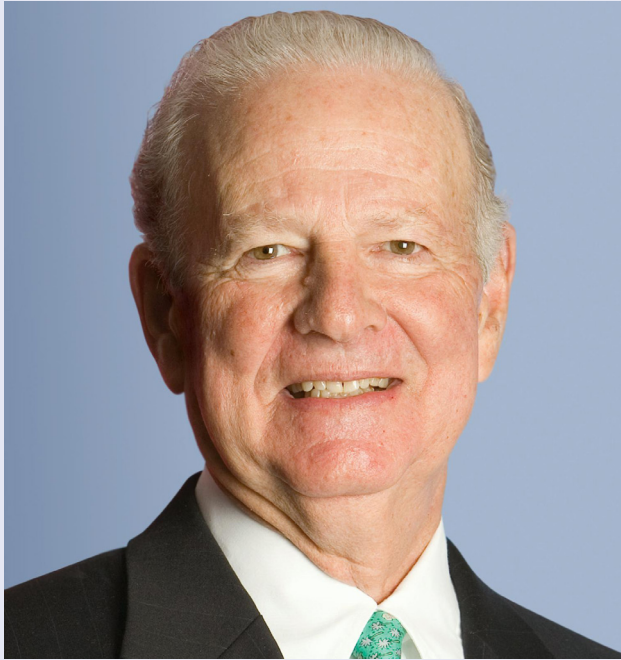
James A. Baker, III & George J. Mitchell

61st US Secretary of State /
Former US Senate Majority Leader and Special
Envoy for Middle East Peace

With the

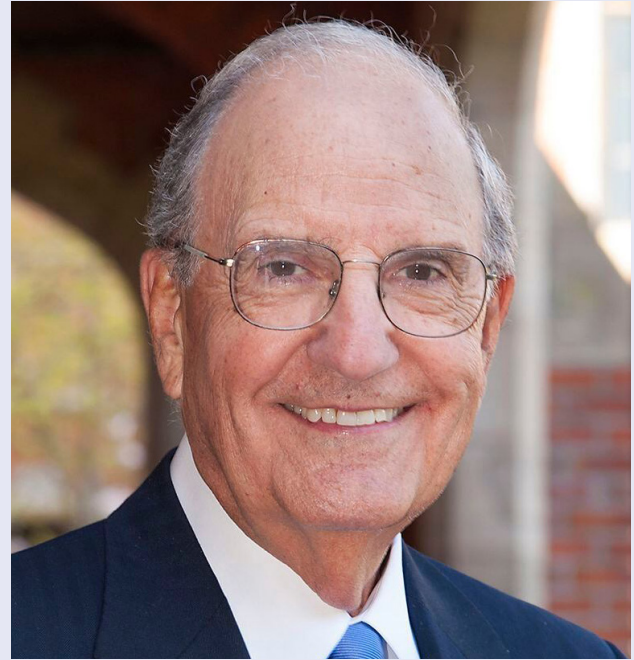
Issam M. Fares Award for Excellence

For their peacebuilding contributions in the
Middle East and commitment to fostering
dialogue between the United States and its
partners in the region.



James A. Baker, III

James A. Baker III, the 61st Secretary of State from 1989 to 1992, was a pivotal figure in American diplomacy during the end of the Cold War and the First Persian Gulf War. Born in Texas in 1930, Baker's illustrious career was shaped by his education at Princeton University and the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a law degree. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Baker practiced law before diving into politics, closely aligning with George H.W. Bush. His political acumen led him to serve as White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Treasury under Reagan, before steering US foreign policy under President George H.W. Bush. Baker's tenure as Secretary of State was marked by significant diplomatic endeavors, including forming the coalition to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait and negotiating the Plaza Accord to address economic imbalances. His legacy continues through his influence on international affairs and US diplomacy, including his role in the Iraq Study Group and as a UN envoy for Western Sahara.



George J. Mitchell

George Mitchell had a distinguished career in public service that included a respected tenure in the U.S. Senate that began in 1980. He left the Senate in 1995 as the majority leader, a position he had held since January 1989. In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Chairman Yasser Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. The Committee's recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union and by many other governments. From 2009 to 2011 he served as US Special Envoy to the Middle East. From 1995 through 1999, he also served as the Independent Chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. Under his leadership, the Good Friday Agreement, an historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom and the political parties of Northern Ireland.

PRESENTERS

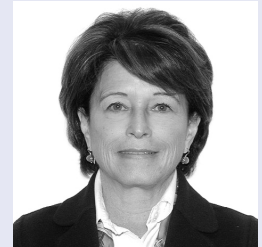
Pam Melroy



Col. Pam Melroy (USAF, ret), a distinguished astronaut and military veteran, was appointed NASA Deputy Administrator on June 21, 2021. In this role, Melroy oversees NASA operations, assists with agency decision-making, and represents NASA to key stakeholders, including the Executive Office, Congress, and international organizations. With an extensive background in the Air Force, where she accumulated over 6,000 flight hours across 50 aircraft types and served in operations such as Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Melroy brings a wealth of experience to her position at NASA. Selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in 1994, Melroy has been pivotal in various capacities, including CAPCOM duties and leading roles in the Columbia mission investigations. Notably, she is one of only two women to have commanded a space shuttle, contributing significantly to the construction of the International Space Station over three missions, totaling more than 38 days in space. Beyond her Air Force and NASA contributions, Melroy's leadership extended to roles at Lockheed Martin, the FAA, DARPA, and advisory positions for the Australian Space Agency, showcasing her global impact on aerospace and defense. Her academic credentials include a bachelor's in physics and astronomy from Wellesley College and a master's in Earth and planetary sciences from MIT, underscoring her profound technical expertise.

Toni Verstandig

Toni Verstandig is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Verstandig Family Foundation and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, US Department of State. A philanthropist and foreign policy expert with extensive government expertise on Middle East issues, Ms. Verstandig is particularly focused on international development, governance and private sector growth, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, along with broader challenges facing the Middle East. Ms. Verstandig is actively engaged and participates in task force convenings with major institutions in Washington, DC, including the Atlantic Council, The Aspen Institute, Brookings Institution, Center for a New American Security, and US Institute of Peace, that provide thought-leadership and new frameworks for advancing outcomes in critical geopolitical areas of interest in the Middle East. She is an active supporter and participant in The Aspen Ministers Forum and The Aspen Global Cyber Security Group, and is a Board Member with the National Cryptologic Foundation, the National Democratic Institute, and the Middle East Institute.



PRESENTERS**John P. Abizaid**

John P. Abizaid is a retired US Army four-star general, who most recently served as the United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is currently chairman of MEI's Board of Governors. General Abizaid retired from the United States Army in May 2007 as Commander of US Central Command, after 34 years of active service, having commanded units at every level and serving in Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In addition to his long career in service of the United States, General Abizaid served as the Distinguished Chair (Emeritus) of the Combating Terrorism Center at the United States Military Academy at West Point, as the first Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and on the CIA's External Advisory Board. He has also worked with the Preventative Defense Project at Stanford University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. General Abizaid is currently a member of the Council on

Foreign Relations, the chairman of the board of governors for the Middle East Institute, as well as the principal partner of JPA Partners, LLC.

Paul Salem

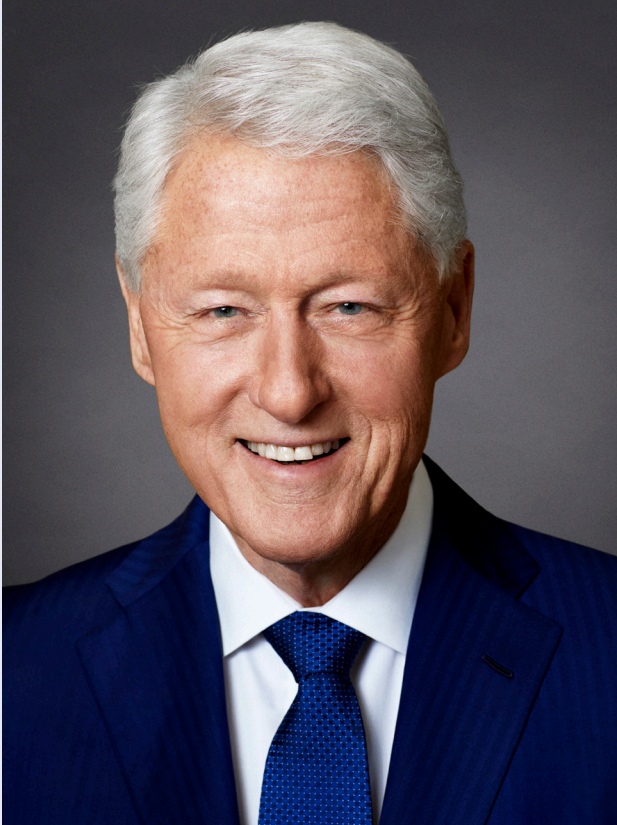
Paul Salem is president and CEO of the Middle East Institute. He has led the institution since 2018 on a strong trajectory of growth and increasing policy impact. In his own research work, he focuses on issues of political change, transition, and conflict, as well as the regional and international relations of the Middle East. Dr. Salem is the author and editor of a number of books and reports on the region and is a frequent commentator in US and international media. Prior to joining MEI, Dr. Salem was the founding director of two other Middle East think tanks: the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, Lebanon, and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Lebanon's leading public policy think tank.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES**Vivian Salama**

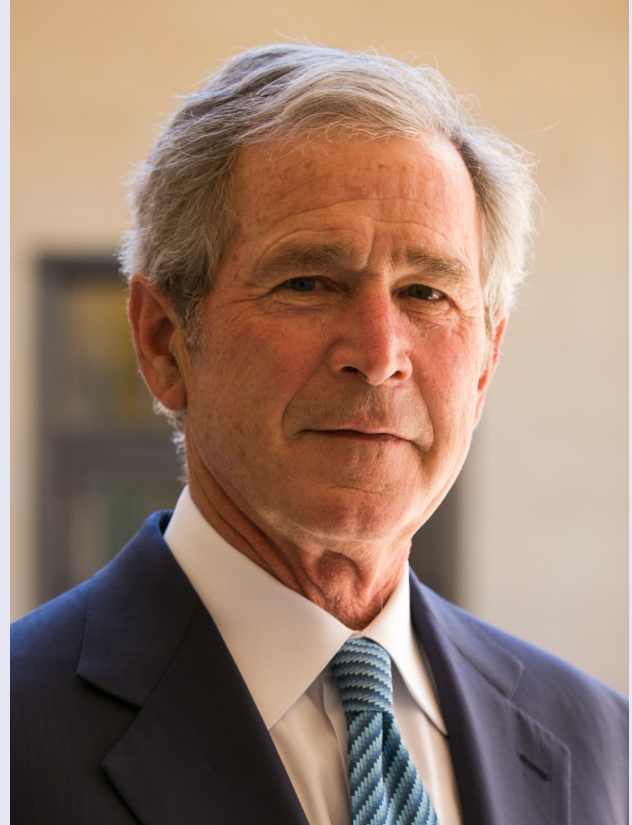
Vivian Salama covers national politics for The Wall Street Journal with a focus on the 2024 election. In recent years, Vivian covered national security issues for the Journal, during which much of her focus was on the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Previously, she covered the White House during the Trump presidency. Much of Vivian's earlier career was spent overseas as a foreign correspondent. She has broadly covered foreign policy and national security for more than two decades, reporting from more than 85 countries. Vivian is also an attorney and a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Titular Honorary Chairs



President Bill Clinton

42nd President of the United States



President George W. Bush

43rd President of the United States

Gala Sponsors

DIAMOND

Steptoe

PLATINUM

DC Capital Partners
Embassy of the State of
Qatar
Embassy of the Kingdom
of Saudi Arabia
SNC

GOLD

Embassy of the State of
Kuwait
Embassy of the United
Arab Emirates
G42
Ilili
Anne B. Keiser
Deborah Lehr
Toni Verstandig
David & Gretchen Welch

SILVER

John P. Abizaid
Marjorie A. Adams
Ardian
Axiom Space
Tom & Ann Charters
Embassy of the Kingdom of
Bahrain

Embassy of the Sultanate of
Oman & Sultan Qaboos
Cultural Center
ExxonMobil
Samia Farouki
Nada Hamadeh & Dr. Gerard
Moawad
HawkEye 360
Hillwood

James Holman
Brian Henderson
Robert Jordan
Eaman Al Roudhan
George & Rhonda Salem
Qorvis
REQ
Kevin Taweel
Squire Patton Boggs

Steptoe

Steptoe is proud to support
the **Middle East Institute's**
77th Annual Gala Dinner
and congratulate this year's
honorees

www.step toe.com



**DC Capital Partners is proud to
support the Middle East Institute
and the 77th Annual Gala Dinner.**

Congratulations to tonight's honorees:

**Rayyanah Barnawi,
Fatih and Eren Ozmen,
James A. Baker, III,
and George J. Mitchell**



سفارة دولة قطر
Embassy of the State of Qatar
Washington, D.C. • واشنطن، دي. سي.



**THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR
IN THE UNITED STATES**

is proud to support

THE ANNUAL MEI GALA

as they honor Middle Eastern trailblazers on their journey towards shaping a future of boundless possibility through their innovative contributions.



Working on Tomorrow's Energy Challenges Today

We are committed to
innovation and contributing
positively to the communities
where we live and work.

americas.aramco.com



سَفَارَةُ الْمَمْلَكَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ السُّعُودِيَّةِ

لدى الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Washington
would like to congratulate all of tonight's honorees.
We are honored to take part in this very special evening.*



For more than six decades, SNC has remained agile and innovative. As one of the most trusted privately owned mid-tier A&D prime contractors, SNC is well-known and widely respected for our mission and execution focus, agility, and disruptive and rapid innovation.

We provide leading edge technologies and transformative solutions to support the most critical security needs at the speed today's dynamic environment mandates.

[sncorp.com](https://www.sncorp.com)

© 2024 Sierra Nevada Company, LLC.



Welcome to ilili Restaurants,
the premier institution of Lebanese food culture
and hospitality values.

Your address for Elevated Lebanese:
Restaurant Dining | Private Events | Catering | Private Dinners

The Wharf, 100 District Square SW, Washington, DC 20024
dccontact@ililirestaurants.com | (202) 918-7766 | @ililidc

236 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001
nycontact@ililirestaurants.com | (212) 683-2929 | @ililirestaurants

www.ililirestaurants.com



Toni and Lee Verstandig

Congratulate tonight's honorees and the Middle
East Institute on the occasion of its 77th Annual
Gala Dinner

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Gretchen and David Welch

Congratulate tonight's Gala honorees and
applaud the Middle East Institute for 77 years of
scholarship and achievement

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Fostering global and equitable AI advancement and access.

A unique technology group with a very human
purpose, on a journey to invent visionary
artificial intelligence for a better everyday.



Discover more at
www.g42.ai

Anne B. Keiser

Congratulates tonight's honorees and commends the Middle East Institute on its commitment to peace, prosperity, and cultural understanding.

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

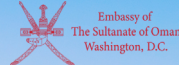


EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
WASHINGTON, DC



The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington, D.C.

Is proud to support the Middle East Institute's 77th Annual Gala and MEI's pursuit of fostering dialogue and building bridges between the U.S. and the Middle East.



Congratulations to this year's award recipients and
the Middle East Institute on the occasion of its Annual Gala.



George and Rhonda Salem

We congratulate Senator George Mitchell and Secretary James Baker for their exemplary public service and dedication to pursuing peace, prosperity, and partnership between the people of the Middle East and the United States.

The George and Rhonda Salem Family Foundation

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

General John P. Abizaid

Congratulates tonight's honorees and salutes the Middle East Institute for its 77 years of dedication to peace, prosperity, and partnership

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Honoring the leaders creating lasting change

Ardian honors the recipients of the **MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner**, **Rayyanah Barnawi**, First Saudi and Arab Woman in Space, **Fatih and Eren Ozmen**, Owners of SNC and Sierra Space also Turkish-American philanthropists and entrepreneurs, and Middle East peacemakers **James A. Baker, III**, and **George J. Mitchell**, respectively the 61st Secretary of State, and the former Senate Majority Leader and Special Envoy for Middle East Peace.

As a company focused on creating lasting change through our investments, Ardian congratulates the honorees for their hard work, leadership, and their contribution to shaping tomorrow and addressing some of society's most significant challenges.

Nada Hamadeh and Dr. Gerard Moawad

Extend their congratulations to tonight's honorees and commend the Middle East Institute for its continued commitment to peace, prosperity, and partnership



Ax-1

Launched April 8, 2022
Returned April 25, 2022



Ax-2

Launched May 21, 2023
Returned May 30, 2023



Ax-3

Launched January 18, 2024
Returned February 9, 2024



Ax-4

Scheduled no earlier
than October 2024

Private Astronaut Missions

Axiom Space is reimagining how humans live and work in low-Earth orbit. These experiences offer the unique perspectives needed to advance civilization for the next chapter of the human story.

AxEMU

Axiom Space is building NASA's next-generation astronaut spacesuits to support the Artemis lunar missions and future customers aboard Axiom Station.

Axiom Station

Axiom Station sustains in-space innovation and advances progress on Earth toward a sustained presence off the planet with untold benefits for every human, everywhere.

For more information, visit axiomspace.com

SQUIRE
PATTON BOGGS

Your Trusted Adviser in the Middle East

Providing insight where law, government and business intersect

We are delighted to once again support the Middle East Institute and sponsor its 77th Annual Awards Gala.

Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

Over 40 Offices Across Four Continents

squirepattonboggs.com

Eaman Al Roudhan

Congratulates tonight's honorees and celebrates
the Middle East Institute's 77 years of scholarship

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Tom and Ann Charters

Celebrate tonight's honorees and their
commitment to peace and innovation on the eve of
MEI's 77th annual gala

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Middle East Institute

Expanding Knowledge
Narrowing Divides



Proudly Supporting Cooperation and
Understanding



Carbon capture's vital role in achieving society's climate goals.

Many climate experts agree, carbon capture and storage is a vital low-carbon technology to help society achieve its climate goals. At ExxonMobil, we have more than 30 years of experience capturing and storing CO₂ and have cumulatively captured more anthropogenic CO₂ than any other company. We are also working to provide solutions that can help customers in other industries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, especially in higher-emitting sectors of the economy like manufacturing, transportation and power generation. *Learn more at [exxonmobil.com/ccs](https://www.exxonmobil.com/ccs).*



Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Washington D.C.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Washington, D.C. extends its warm congratulations to the Middle East Institute as it celebrates its 77th anniversary.

Over the span of 77 years since its establishment in 1946, the Embassy acknowledges the institute's remarkable efforts in advancing Middle East policy, education, and culture, as well as in promoting understanding between the people of the United States and the Middle East.

Congratulations to Rayyanah Barnawi, Fatih and Eren Ozmen, and James A. Baker, III & George J. Mitchell on receiving their respective MEI awards.

The Embassy is honored to be part of this occasion.

Kevin Taweel

Congratulates tonight's honorees and the Middle East Institute for fostering peaceful and prosperous cooperation

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Samia Farouki

Congratulates tonight's honorees and applauds the Middle East Institute for 77 years of tremendous achievement

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner



Marjorie A. Adams and Allan C. Muns

Congratulate tonight's honorees for their
outstanding commitment to creating a more
peaceful and prosperous world

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner



Ambassador Robert Jordan

Extends his congratulations to tonight's honorees
and applauds MEI's 77 years of work toward
peace, prosperity, and partnership

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Jim and Diana Holman

Applaud the innovative work of tonight's honorees
and MEI's 77-year commitment to peace,
prosperity, and partnership

MEI's 77th Annual Gala Dinner

Empowering brands to inspire change.

For more than a decade REQ has
helped brands build global communities
and activate them for change.

REQ

Proud partner of MEI.

req.co

WASHINGTON, DC - NEW YORK - SAN DIEGO - LAS VEGAS

Dubai

Washington, D.C.

Geneva

From Insights to Influence, Engage with the audiences that matter most

Strategic Communications

Geopolitical Solutions

Market Intelligence

At the Nexus of Capital and Influence.

+1-771-888-4842
www.qorvis.com

Global Headquarters
The National Press Building
529 14th Street NW Suite 930
Washington, D.C. 20045

QORVIS



2023 MEI Supporters

\$1,000,000+

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates

\$100,000 - \$999,999

Think Research and Advisory / SRMG

Smith Richardson Foundation

Embassy of the State of Qatar

International Development Research Centre

DC Capital Partners

US State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Mubadala

Royal Commission for Al Ula

Anonymous

Chrest Foundation

Foundation to Promote Open Societies

\$50,000 - \$99,999

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Chevron Corporation

Swiss Embassy

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Henrietta Goelet

Nada Hamadeh and Dr. Gerard Moawad

Kevin Taweel

Michael Levy

Paladin Capital Group

Silver Lake Capital Management L.L.C.

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Edelman Global Advisory

ExxonMobil

Hillwood, a Perot Company

Anne Keiser

Marjorie Adams

Moore Capital Management, LP

Wallenberg Office

John Abizaid

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Festival

Lockheed Martin

Occidental Petroleum

Sierra Nevada Corporation

Apollo Global Management

Zain Kuwait

Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Samia Farouki

Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York

Shafik Gabr Foundation

Foundation for Middle East Peace

\$10,000 - \$24,999

KKR

Fadi Ghandour

National Arab University for Security Sciences

Joseph Geagea

Khalidoun Baghdadi

The Raymond Debbane Family Foundation

RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Brian C. McK. Henderson

Rafic Bizri

George and Marie Hoguet

Toni Verstandig

New York Community Trust

U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council

Bassam Yammine

Nagpal Family Fund

Koret Foundation

George and Rhonda Salem Family Foundation

David Welch

Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain

James B. Quigley

Squire Patton Boggs

James Holman

Hunt Consolidated, Inc.

First Abu Dhabi Bank

Amr Ben Halim

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

BP

Nijad Fares

Ghassan Salameh

DLA Piper LLP

\$5,000 - \$9,999

EBSCO Subscription Services

Hawkeye 360

Japan External Trade Organization

Beijing Book Company

Joe and Sandy Englehardt

Bruce Miller

Manal Fakhoury

Robert W. Jordan

Board of Governors

Gen. (ret.) John P. Abizaid

Chairman
Senior Advisor, Lazard

Marjorie A. Adams

Vice Chair
CEO, Adams & Associates
Inc.

Amb. Robert W. Jordan

Vice Chair
Fmr. Ambassador to Saudi
Arabia

Brian C. McK. Henderson

Vice Chair
Founding Partner, Henderson
International Advisors LLC

H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo

Founder, Abu Dhabi Music
and Arts Foundation

Patrick Barry

Senior Director, General
Dynamics Information
Technology

Thomas J. Campbell

Founder & Managing Partner,
DC Capital Partners LLC

T. Gail Dady

Partner and COO, DC Capital
Partners LLC

Amb. Paula J. Dobriansky

Harvard University

Robert Fardi

EVP, Strategic Development
and Partnerships, REQ

Nijad I. Fares

Director, WEDGE Group
Incorporated

Samia Farouki

CEO, HiiFinance Corporation

Amb. Jeffrey Feltman

Visiting Fellow, Brookings
Institution; Senior Fellow,
United Nations Foundation

Joseph C. Geagea

Former Executive Vice
President of Technology,
Projects and Services,
Chevron

Fadi Ghandour

Executive Chairman, Wamda
Capital

Nada Hamadeh

Managing Director and Chief
Financial Officer, M Medical
Group

George R. Hoguet

Principal, Chesham
Investments LLC

James K. Holman

Former Managing Director,
Carlyle Group

Karl V. Hopkins

Partner, Steptoe

Louis R. Hughes

CEO, InZero Systems

Hunter Hunt

CEO and President, Hunt
Consolidated Energy LLC

John K. Hurley

Founder and Managing
Partner, Cavalry Asset
Management

Robert Kapla

Partner, Squire Patton Boggs

Anne B. Keiser

The Middle East Institute

Deborah Lehr

CEO and Managing Partner,
Edelman Global Advisory

Michael Levy

CEO, Crow Holdings

Waleed Al Muhairi

Deputy Group CEO, Mubadala

John Pearson

Director, Washington DC
Office, Aramco Americas

James B. Quigley

Executive Vice Chairman,
Bank of America-Merrill
Lynch

Joumana R. Al Rashid

Chief Executive Officer, Saudi
Research and Media Group

George R. Salem

George R. Salem PLLC

Amb. Magnus Schöldtz

Senior Advisor and Director,
Wallenberg Office; Former
Ambassador at the Swedish
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kevin Taweel

Co-founder and Chairman,
Asurion

Toni Verstandig

Co-founder and Executive
Director, Verstandig Family
Foundation
Former Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Near Eastern
Affairs, US Department of
State

Amb. David Welch

Former SVP, Bechtel
Corporation

Rochdi A. Younsi

Director, Middle East and
North Africa, ExxonMobil

Amb. Susan L. Ziadeh

Former U.S. Ambassador to
Qatar

International Advisory Council

CO-CHAIRS

Marjorie A. Adams

Amb. Jeffrey Feltman

H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo

Eaman al-Roudhan

CEO of Zain Kuwait

Hassan Isam AlKabbani

Chairman of the IKK Group of Companies

Wesley Bush

Director of General Motors and Cisco, Chairman of Northrop Grumman

George S. Corey

Founder of CGS Law, LLC, Former Senior Attorney and Financial Manager for the U.S. Small Business Administration

Amb. Ryan C. Crocker

Former US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Kuwait, and Lebanon; Former Dean of Texas A&M's George Bush School of Government and Public Service

Shafik Gabr

Chairman and Founder of the ARTOC Group for Investment and Development

H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash

Former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for the UAE

Badr Jafar

CEO of Crescent Enterprises and President of Crescent Petroleum

Samer Khoury

Chairman of Consolidated Contractors Company

Amb. Daniel C. Kurtzer

S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle Eastern policy studies at the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Former US Ambassador to Egypt and Israel

Saad Mohseni

Chairman and CEO of MOBY Group

May Nasrallah

Founder and Executive Chairman of deNovo Corporate Advisors

Amb. Thomas R. Pickering

Retired career Ambassador, Former US Ambassador to the United Nations

Mariam C. Said

Vice-President of the Barenboim-Said Foundation (USA)

Amb. James B. Smith

Former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Amb. Frank G. Wisner

International Affairs Advisor at Squire Patton Boggs; Former US Ambassador to India, the Philippines, Egypt, and Zambia

Bassam Yammine

Founder and CEO of Excelsa Development Holding, former CEO of Credit Suisse Saudi Arabia

Abbas "Eddy" Zuaiteer

Co-managing member and CIO of Zuaiteer Capital Holdings, LLC (ZCH)





Middle
East
Institute

1763 N ST. NW,
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
(202) 785-1141
WWW.MEI.EDU