

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

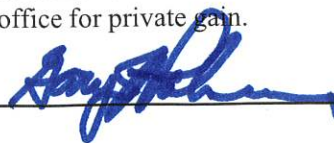
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Gary Palmer
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Claire Palmer **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: February 13th, 2025 Return: February 21, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Israel Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):
Please see attached agenda.

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: _____



Date: 3/7/2025

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: February 13, 2025 Date of Return: February 21, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Representative Gary Palmer

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$16,874.67	\$1,624.69	\$1,069.34	\$2,758.37
Accompanying Family Member	\$16,565.19	\$1,624.69	\$1,069.34	\$2,758.37

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed by:  Date: 3/6/2025 | 09:39 EST

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Gary James Palmer

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 170 Cannon House Office Building 27 Independence SE, Washington DC 20003

Telephone Number: 202-225-4921

Email Address of Contact Person: marymorgan.bell@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Gary James Palmer
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc.(AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: February 13, 2025 Date of Return: February 21, 2025
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: ~~Kathleen Palmer~~ Claire Palmer Allred
(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
The program will include in-depth briefings and conversation with Israeli political leaders and military officials, U.S. government officials, heads of non-governmental organizations, and prominent academics and journalist. These trip will prepare Congressman Palmer to vote on Israel related legislation by providing the most up to date information regarding our biggest ally in the middle east.
9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ Date: _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc.
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____
Please find attached _____
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: February 13, 2025 Date of Return: February 21, 2025
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. or home district
b. Destination(s): Israel
c. City of return: Washington, D.C. or home district
8. **Check only one.** I represent that
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
 AIEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among other things, educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this trip. _____
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: charter bus in Israel)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

-

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$175
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
 The trip is in Israel to educate members of Congress about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: <u>Orient</u>	City: <u>Jerusalem</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$311</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u>		
Hotel Name: <u>Jacob Neve Ativ</u>	City: <u>Golan Heights</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$432</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>location and affordability</u>		
Hotel Name: _____	City: _____	Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____		

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$12,550	\$1,149	\$1,226
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$12,550	\$1,149	\$1,226


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of “Other” Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$2,940	breakdown attached
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$2,940	breakdown attached

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee’s Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 1/10/2025 | 10:18 EST
36345CB643B8439...
 Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)
 Address: 251 H Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001
 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Republican Members of Congress
February 13-21, 2025

Addendum

4. Name of Travelers

1. The Honorable Jim Jordan (R-OH)
2. The Honorable Michelle Fischbach (R-MN)
3. The Honorable Mike Flood (R-NE)
4. The Honorable Ronny Jackson (R-TX)
5. The Honorable Morgan Luttrell (R-TX)
6. The Honorable Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL)
7. The Honorable Nancy Mace (R-SC)
8. The Honorable Andy Ogles (R-TN)
9. The Honorable Gary Palmer (R-AL)
10. The Honorable Keith Self (R-TX)
11. The Honorable Randy Weber (R-TX)
12. Kevin Eichinger, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Jim Jordan (R-OH)

5. Breakdown of other expenses

BREAKDOWN OF OTHER COSTS:	PER PARTICIPANT
SECURITY	\$814.49
SPEAKER HONORARIUM	\$409.76
MISC	\$355.01
ROOM RENTAL	\$307.32
HOTEL FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$276.21
MEALS FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$192.81
AIRPORT ASSISTANCE	\$158.46
TOUR GUIDE	\$100.18
TIPS	\$56.26
TRANSPORTATION FOR CONTRACT STAFF & SPEAKERS	\$50.76
PHOTOGRAPHY	\$34.43
ENTRANCE FEES	\$2.67
TOTAL	\$ 2,758.37

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Republican Members of Congress
February 13-21, 2025**

Itinerary

Thursday, February 13, 2025

- 5:25 PM United #748 departs Dulles (Representative Gary Palmer)
- 5:30 PM United #52 departs Dulles (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michelle Fischbach, Andy Ogles, Keith Self, Randy Weber, Ronny Jackson)
- 6:15 PM United #946 departs Dulles (Representative Morgan Luttrell, Kevin Eichinger)
- 8:00 PM El Al #26 departs Newark (Representative Nancy Mace)

Friday, February 14, 2025

- 7:35 AM United #748 arrives in Geneva (Representative Gary Palmer)
- 7:40 AM United #52 arrives in Zurich (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michelle Fischbach, Andy Ogles, Keith Self, Randy Weber, Ronny Jackson)
- 8:05 AM United #946 arrives in Amsterdam (Representative Morgan Luttrell, Kevin Eichinger)
- 9:15 AM El Al #338 departs Amsterdam (Representative Morgan Luttrell, Kevin Eichinger)
- 9:50 AM El Al #346 departs Geneva (Representative Gary Palmer)
- 10:30 AM El Al #348 departs Zurich (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michelle Fischbach, Andy Ogles, Keith Self, Randy Weber, Ronny Jackson)
- 10:30 AM Emirates #232 departs Dulles (Representative Mike Flood)
- 1:10 PM El Al #26 arrives in Tel Aviv (Representative Nancy Mace)
- 2:40 PM El Al #338 arrives in Tel Aviv (Representative Morgan Luttrell, Kevin Eichinger)
- 2:50 PM El Al #346 arrives in Tel Aviv (Representative Gary Palmer)

3:15 PM El Al #348 arrives in Tel Aviv (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michelle Fischbach, Andy Ogles, Keith Self, Randy Weber, Ronny Jackson)

Saturday, February 15, 2025

8:15 AM Emirates #232 arrives in Dubai (Representative Mike Flood)

10:55 AM Emirates #2268 departs Dubai (Representative Mike Flood)

12:45 PM Emirates #2268 arrives in Tel Aviv (Representative Mike Flood)

Friday, February 14, 2025

4:15-5:15 PM Depart for Jerusalem

5:15 PM Check in at the Orient Hotel

6:30-7:15 PM Orientation

- Yossi Garr, Educational Director
- Deryn Sousa, Southwest Political Director

-at the Orient Hotel, Wingate Hall

7:15 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner

7:30-9:45 PM **Traditional Sabbath dinner with Prof. Gil Troy and Family**
-at their home

9:45 PM Depart

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, February 15, 2025

8:00-9:00 AM Breakfast on own

9:15 AM Depart for the Old City

9:30-1:00 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: The Holy Basin**

- Gethsemane
- Old City of Jerusalem
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

-at the Old City

1:00-2:00 PM	Lunch -at the Golden Panoramic
2:30 PM	Return to Hotel
4:45-5:45 PM	Strategic Regional Overview Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office -at the hotel, Wingate Hall
6:15-7:15 PM	Understanding Israeli Politics With Yossi Garr -at the hotel, Wingate Hall
7:15 PM	Depart
7:30-8:45 PM	Dinner -at Lechem Basar, First Station
9:00 PM	Depart for City of David
9:15-10:15 PM	Late-Night Visit: The City of David
10:30 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, February 16, 2025

7:00-7:45 AM	Breakfast on own
8:00-8:45 AM	October 7th Overview With Yossi Garr -at Hotel, Patterson 1&2
9:00 AM	Depart for Gaza Envelope
10:45-11:15 AM	Israel at War: The Gaza Front
11:15 AM	Depart for Re'im
11:30-12:15 PM	Re'im: Site of the Nova Festival Massacre -at Re'im Forest
12:15 PM	Depart
12:30-1:15 PM	Lunch -at Alumim

1:30 PM Depart

1:45-3:30 PM **October 7th Ground Zero**
Visit to Kibbutz Nir Oz
With Ola Metzger, local resident

3:30-4:15 PM Depart for Ibim

4:15-5:00 PM **Visit Iron Dome battery**
Briefing by Major Neta Blum
Head of Iron Dome International Project
-at IBIM

5:00-6:45 PM Depart for Jerusalem

7:15-9:00 PM Dinner with Reservists:

- Elkana Cohen
- Asaf Herskovitz
- Naama Agmon Licht

-at the Orient Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, February 17, 2025

7:00-7:45 AM Breakfast on own

7:45 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

8:15-10:00 AM **Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust**
Visit to Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
-at Yad Vashem

10:15 AM Depart for the Vert Hotel

10:30-11:30 AM **Israel's Battle for Legitimacy in the International Arena**
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-Geffen Hall, Vert Hotel

11:45 AM Depart

12:00-12:45 PM **A View from the Foreign Ministry**
Meeting with the Honorable Gidon Sa'ar
Minister of Foreign Affairs
-at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

12:45 PM Depart for the Knesset

1:00-1:45 PM Lunch
-at the Knesset

2:00-2:45 PM **A View from the Knesset**
Meeting with the Honorable Amir Ohana
Speaker of the Knesset
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall

3:00-4:00 PM **Confronting Underground Networks in Gaza and Lebanon**
Meeting with Col. Ittai Bar Ilan
Head of the Land Systems Division,
Defense Research and Development Directorate
- at the Knesset, Negev Hall

4:00-4:45 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid
Head of the Opposition
-at the Knesset, Negev Hall

4:45-5:15 PM Visit to Plenary Hall

5:15 PM Depart for hotel

6:30-7:30 PM **Israel and the Palestinians – After October 7**
Briefing with Miri Eisin
Senior Fellow, International Institute for Counter Terrorism,
Reichman University
-at the hotel, Allenby Hall

7:30 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00-9:30 PM Dinner
-at Jacko, Machane Yehuda

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:30-9:00 AM Breakfast on own

9:30 AM Depart for Prime Minister's Office

10:00-10:30 AM Security check

10:30-11:45 AM	A View from the Prime Minister's Office Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu Prime Minister of Israel -at the Prime Minister's Office
12:00 PM	Depart for the North
12:30 – 1:30 PM	En route briefing: The Jezreel Valley and Upper Galilee
1:30-2:00 PM	Lunch -at Hummus Eliyah, Alonim
2:00 PM	Depart
2:30-3:30 PM	Historic and Religious Significance of the Galilee Region -at Capernaum
3:30 PM	Depart for Metula
3:30 – 4:15 PM	En route briefing: The History of Hezbollah
4:15-5:15 PM	Rebuilding Northern Israel Meeting with residents of Metula
5:15 PM	Depart
5:30-6:30 PM	Israel at War: The Northern Front Briefing with Lt. Col. (ret.) Sarit Zehavi Director, Alma Research Center -at Hagoshrim, Yasmin Hall
6:30-7:15 PM	Depart for the Jacobs Hotel, Neve Ativ
7:45-9:00 PM	Dinner at the Jacobs Hotel
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Jacobs hotel, Neve Ativ

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

7:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast on own
8:15-9:15 AM	Israel's Northern Front: Lebanon and Hezbollah Strategic briefing with Maj. Ilan Schulman Northern Resident -at the Jacobs Hotel, Neve Ativ

9:30 AM	Depart for the Israeli- Syrian Border
10:00 -11:00 AM	Overlook of Syria -at the Israel- Syria Border crossing
11:00-12:45 PM	Depart for Leshem
12:45-2:45 PM	U. S – Israel Missile Defense Cooperation Meeting with Dr. Yuval Steinitz Chairman of RAFAEL -at Refael – Leshem
3:00-4:30 PM	Depart for Herzliyah
5:00-6:00 PM	The Future of the Abraham Accords Meeting with His Excellency Mohamed Al Khaja United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Israel -UAE Embassy in Herzliyah
6:15 PM	Depart
6:30-8:15 PM	Confronting Agricultural Challenges in Today’s World Dinner with Danielle Abraham CEO, Volcani International Partnerships -at Bistro 56
8:15 PM	Depart for Hostage Square
8:30-9:15 PM	Bring Them Home Visit to Hostage Square
9:15 PM	Return to Jerusalem
9:30 PM	Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, February 20, 2025

7:00-8:30 AM	Breakfast on own
8:30 AM	Depart for the Embassy
9:00-10:00 AM	A View from the Embassy Meeting with the Honorable Stephanie L. Hallett Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Israel -U.S. Embassy, Jerusalem
10:15 AM	Depart

10:45-12:15 PM	Paying Tribute to Israel's Fallen Soldiers Visit to Har Herzl, Military Cemetery
12:15 PM	Depart
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch -at Modern
1:30 PM	Depart
2:00-3:15 PM	A Framework for The Day After Conversation with Haviv Rettig Gur Political Correspondent, Times of Israel -at the Orient Hotel, Wingate Hall
3:45-4:45 PM	Rising Actors in the Region – Turkey and Qatar Briefing with Meirav Eilon Shachar, Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs -at the Orient Hotel, Allenby Hall
6:45 PM	Checkout
7:15-9:00 PM	Bringing it All Together Closing Dinner -at the Orient hotel
9:00-9:40 PM	Depart for Airport

Friday, February 21, 2025

12:45 AM	El Al #1 departs Tel Aviv (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michael Flood, Andy Ogles, Keith Self)
1:00 AM	El Al #21 departs Tel Aviv (Kevin Eichinger)
3:30 AM	El Al #319 departs Tel Aviv (Representative Morgan Luttrell)
5:50 AM	El Al #347 departs Tel Aviv (Representatives Randy Weber, Michelle Fischbach, Nancy Mace, Gary Palmer)
7:40 AM CET	El Al #319 arrives in Paris (Representative Morgan Luttrell)
7:50 AM	El Al #21 arrives in Ft. Lauderdale (Kevin Eichinger)
9:20 AM CET	El Al #347 arrives in Zurich (Representatives Randy Weber, Michelle Fischbach, Nancy Mace, Gary Palmer)

10:10 AM CET	Air France #694 departs Paris (Representative Morgan Luttrell)
5:45 AM	El Al #1 arrives at JFK (Representatives Jim Jordan, Michael Flood, Andy Ogles, Keith Self)
8:35 AM	Delta #2227 departs JFK (Representative Michael Flood)
8:43 AM	Delta #356 departs JFK (Representative Keith Self)
9:00 AM	Delta #5617 departs JFK (Representative Andy Ogles)
9:35 AM	Delta #5649 departs JFK (Representative Jim Jordan)
10:46 AM	Delta #5617 arrives in Nashville (Representative Andy Ogles)
11:14 AM	American Airlines #2939 departs Ft. Lauderdale (Kevin Eichinger)
11:15 AM	Delta #2227 arrives in Atlanta (Representative Michael Flood)
11:31 AM	Delta #5649 arrives in Columbus (Representative Jim Jordan)
11:45 AM CET	United #53 departs Zurich (Representatives Michelle Fischbach, Nancy Mace, Gary Palmer)
12:05 PM	Delta #356 arrives in Dallas (Representative Keith Self)
12:48 PM	Delta #1125 departs Atlanta (Representative Michael Flood)
1:10 PM CET	United #9726 departs Zurich (Representatives Randy Weber, Gary Palmer)
1:45 PM	American Airlines #2939 arrives in Washington, D.C. (Kevin Eichinger)
1:55 PM CET	Air France #694 arrives in Houston (Representative Morgan Luttrell)
2:15 PM	Delta #1125 arrives in Omaha (Representative Michael Flood)
2:40 PM	American Airlines #3613 departs Dallas (Representative Ronny Jackson)
3:30 PM	United #53 arrives in Washington, D.C. (Representatives Michelle Fischbach, Nancy Mace)
4:15 PM CST	United #9726 arrives in Chicago (Representatives Randy Weber, Gary Palmer)

5:10 PM EST	United #6193 departs Dulles (Representative Nancy Mace)
6:35 PM CST	United #739 departs Chicago (Representative Randy Weber)
7:00 PM EST	United #6193 arrives in Charleston (Representative Nancy Mace)
8:03 PM CST	United #4599 departs Chicago (Representative Gary Palmer)
9:42 PM CST	United #739 arrives in Houston (Representative Randy Weber)
10:00 PM EST	United #4599 arrives in Birmingham (Representative Gary Palmer)



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Gary J. Palmer
U.S. House of Representatives
170 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your child's proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for February 13 to 21, 2025, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
Republican Members of Congress
February 13-21, 2025**

Addendum

4. List of Invitees

As members of the House of Representatives, and senior congressional staff, these invitees are consistently engaged in issue areas relevant to the U.S. – Israel relationship. These issues include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. appropriations, refugee and immigrant issues, homeland security, cybersecurity, and veteran’s affairs. These issues—along with issues more broadly related to the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel—will be explored during the AIEF Israel Seminar, which is focused on educating members of Congress and their staff on events throughout the region by providing on-the-ground context.

1. The Honorable Jim Jordan (R-OH)
2. The Honorable Warren Davidson (R-OH)
3. The Honorable Michelle Fischbach (R-MN)
4. The Honorable Mike Flood (R-NE)
5. The Honorable Russ Fulcher (R-ID)
6. The Honorable Ronny Jackson (R-TX)
7. The Honorable Morgan Luttrell (R-TX)
8. The Honorable Mary Miller (R-IL)
9. The Honorable Andy Ogles (R-TN)
10. The Honorable Gary Palmer (R-AL)
11. The Honorable Maria Salazar (R-FL)
12. The Honorable Keith Self (R-TX)
13. The Honorable Randy Weber (R-TX)
14. Kevin Eichinger, Chief of Staff, The Honorable Jim Jordan (R-OH)

18. Breakdown of other expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	\$1,000.00
Speaker Fees	\$750.00
Hotels for contract staff	\$300.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	\$240.00
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$225.00
Room Rentals and Setup	\$200.00
Airport Assistance	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00
Photography	\$25.00
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$20.00
Entrance Fees	\$20.00
Tips	\$10.00
Total per participant=	\$2,940.00

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
GOP Members of Congress
February 13-21, 2025**

Itinerary

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Afternoon Flights depart the United States

Friday, February 14, 2025

Afternoon Flights Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport
Transfer to Jerusalem
Check-in at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

6:30 – 7:00 PM **Welcome and Orientation**
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

During the welcome and orientation, staff will lead a discussion about the objectives for the week ahead.

7:00 PM Depart for dinner

7:15 – 9:45 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem**
Traditional Sabbath Dinner with Professor Gil Troy and his family
-at the Troy home, Jerusalem

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. During this dinner Professor Gil Troy, a renowned educator and author, will share his reflections on the Sabbath in Jerusalem, and lead a discussion on the importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim populations.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Saturday, February 15, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

9:15 AM Depart for the Old City, Jerusalem

9:30AM – 12:30 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem: The Holy Basin**

- Old City of Jerusalem
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Western Wall

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

12:30 – 12:45 PM Depart for Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 – 2:30 PM Return to the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

4:30 – 5:30 PM **Strategic Regional Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all home to Iranian proxies. This briefing will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

6:00 – 7:00 PM **Understanding Israeli Politics**
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Educational Seminar Leader
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

It is critical for participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel, since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week. Yossi Garr will explain how

the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics.

7:30 – 8:45 PM Dinner
-at the First Station, Jerusalem

9:00 PM Depart for the City of David

9:15 – 10:15 PM **Late-Night Visit: The City of David**

Jerusalem’s City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sites in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Sunday, February 16, 2025

7:00 – 7:45 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:00 – 8:45 AM **October 7 Overview**
Briefing with Yossi Garr, Educational Seminar Leader
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

On October 7, 2023, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, thousands were killed, and hundreds kidnapped. As preparation for the day’s programming, Yossi Garr will provide an overview of the October 7 massacre.

9:00 AM Depart for Kibbutz Nir Oz

10:45 AM–12:15 PM **October 7th Ground Zero**
Visit of Kibbutz Nir Oz
With Nir Metzger, local resident

During the visit to Kibbutz Nir Oz, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. They will hear what happened to the community on October 7, and how the IDF regained control. They will meet with resident Nir Metzger who will walk them through the events that started the war. Nir's parents were kidnapped on October 7, and his father was murdered in captivity.

12:45 – 1:30 PM Lunch
 -at Kibbutz Alumim

1:30 PM Depart for Re'im

1:45 – 2:30 PM **Visit to Re'im: Site of the Nova Festival Massacre**

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, the Nova site has become a meeting point for victim's families and hostage families. The site has also evolved into a living memorial to their loved ones. This visit will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

2:45 – 3:00 PM Depart

3:00 – 3:45 PM **Israel at War: The Gaza Front**
 IDF Briefing

This briefing by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) will give participants an insider's understanding of the threat Israel currently faces from Hamas in Gaza and the work the IDF is doing to secure Israel's Gaza border. It will also address the potential risks of an expanded war, the connection to Iran and an update about potential diplomatic solutions.

3:45 – 4:15 PM Depart for Ibim

4:15 – 5:00 PM **Visit Iron Dome battery**
 Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Doron Gavish
 Former Head of Israel's Aerial Defense

More than a decade ago, Israel developed Iron Dome to protect its citizens from persistent and increasingly dangerous rockets fired by Iranian-backed terrorists. Since being deployed, Iron Dome has intercepted more than 90 percent of the rockets it has targeted—preventing war, saving countless lives, and reducing physical and psychological damage. Participants will have the opportunity to visit an Iron Dome site and speak with the soldiers responsible for its operation.

5:00 – 6:45 PM Return to Jerusalem

7:15 – 9:00 PM **The IDF in Israeli Life: Dinner with Reservists**
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

In Israel, military service is mandatory for everyone over the age of 18, with several exceptions. Most Israelis join the army right after high school and serve for three years. As such, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is an integral part of the fabric of Israeli society. During this dinner, participants will have the chance to meet with several reservists and hear about their experiences in the army. They will discuss the values of the Israel Defense Forces – known as Ruach Tzahal (The Spirit of the IDF). This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, February 17, 2025

7:00-7:45 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:30 AM Depart for Yad Vashem

9:00 – 11:00 AM **Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust**
Guided survey of Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

11:15 AM Depart for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

11:45 AM–12:30 PM **A View from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
Meeting with the Honorable Gideon Sa'ar
Minister of Foreign Affairs

During this session, the delegation will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, founder of the New Hope Party, and member of the Prime Minister's governing coalition. He

has previously held the positions of Education Minister, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Justice, and Deputy Prime Minister. After serving as an intelligence officer in the Golani Brigade, he studied political science and law at Tel Aviv University.

- 12:40 PM Depart for the Knesset
- 1:00-1:45 PM Lunch
-at the Knesset
- 2:00 – 2:45 PM **A View from the Knesset**
Meeting with the Honorable Amir Ohana
Speaker of the Knesset
-at the Knesset

The Honorable Amir Ohana is an Israeli lawyer, former Shin Bet official and politician who has served as the Speaker of the Knesset since 2022, and as a member of the Knesset for Likud. He previously held the posts of Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Security. Ohana is a veteran of the acclaimed Israeli Shin Bet security agency, and an attorney. He achieved the rank of major in the IDF and continues to serve in reserve duty.

- 3:00 – 3:45 PM **A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with The Honorable Yair Lapid
Head of the Opposition, Yesh Atid party
-at the Knesset

Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and former journalist who is the Chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid party, and Leader of the Opposition since January 2023. Previously he served as the 14th prime minister of Israel, the alternate prime minister of Israel and minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

- 3:45 – 4:15 PM **Guided visit to the Knesset Plenary**

The Knesset Plenum, also known as the Plenary or Assembly Hall, is the three-story hall of the Knesset, Israel's unicameral legislature. Participants will be able to see members of the 120-person body debate and vote on various motions. This session will allow participants to see the parliamentary system in action.

- 4:30 PM Depart for the Prime Minister's Office
- 4:45 – 5:15 PM Security Check

5:15 – 6:00 PM **Israel Strategic Challenges**
Meeting with the Honorable Ron Dermer
Minister of Strategic Affairs
-at the Prime Minister’s Office

Ambassador Ron Dermer currently serves as the Minister of Strategic Affairs. He is the former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, serving in Washington, D.C. from 2013 to 2021. Previously, Dermer was the Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. His portfolio included communications issues on the U.S.-Israel bilateral agenda and the peace process. He served as the chief strategist for the Netanyahu campaign during the 2009 elections. Dermer worked as a political consultant and adviser to Netanyahu during the Likud leader's previous campaigns and also served in similar positions advising some of Israel's leading politicians, including Natan Sharansky. In 2004, Dermer co-authored *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror* with Sharansky.

6:00 – 6:45 PM **A View from the Prime Minister's Office**
Meeting with the Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of Israel
-at the Prime Minister’s Office

It is customary for members of Congress to meet with Israel’s Prime Minister, to hear the official perspective of the State of Israel on issues impacting the U.S.-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the Chairman of the Likud party. He previously served as Israel’s Prime Minister for 12 years, ending in June 2021. He is Israel’s longest serving Prime Minister.

7:00 PM Depart for Dinner

7:15 – 9:00 PM **Confronting Agricultural Challenges in Today’s World**
Dinner with Danielle Abraham
CEO, Volcani International Partnerships

Danielle Abraham is the Executive Director of Volcani International Partnerships (VIP), an Israeli NGO dedicated to sharing Israel’s renowned agricultural expertise and innovation with the world. VIP provides solutions to global concerns such as food security, water conservation and sustainability. Since the October 7 massacre, she has also served as the Director of ReGrow Israel, a fund established to address the agricultural terrorism that destroyed the infrastructure and livelihood of Israel’s southern farmland communities. During this dinner, she will share how VIP and ReGrow are helping to revitalize these communities.

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:15 – 9:15 AM **Israel and the Palestinians - From Oslo to October 7**
Briefing with Miri Eisin
Senior Fellow, International Institute for Counter Terrorism,
Reichman University
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Col. (Res.) Miri Eisin is an Israeli security expert, speaking on regional geo-politics and security related issues in the media worldwide. Col. Eisin served in the Israeli intelligence community and retired from active duty at the rank of full colonel in 2004. Over her twenty-year career in the military, she served as the deputy head of the combat intelligence corps, the personal assistant to the Director of Military intelligence and as the intelligence officer in combat units and research departments. During this session she will provide an overview of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from the Oslo Accords to the October 7 massacre.

9:30 AM Depart for the North

10:45 – 11:45AM **Israel's Eastern Front and Narrow Waistline**
-at Alfei Menashe overlook

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline. The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "silicon valley", as well as Ben Gurion international airport. The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

11:45 Depart

12:00 – 12:45 PM Lunch
-at Yulek Restaurant

12:45 – 2:00 PM Depart to the North

2:00 – 3:15 PM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**

Guided Survey of:

- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Capernaum

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum.

3:15 – 4:00 PM Depart for Metula

4:00 – 5:00 PM **Rebuilding Northern Israel**
Meeting with residents of Metula

Since October 7, the war with Hezbollah has destroyed towns and villages in Northern Israel. Nearly 80,000 residents have been displaced for over a year. During this visit, the delegation will meet with members of the community of Metula, one of the North's hardest hit towns. The group will witness firsthand the impact of the war on civilian life, the imperative to rebuild, and the necessity of a strong, secure border in adherence with U.N. Resolution 1701.

5:30 – 6:30 PM **Israel's Northern Front, Part I: Lebanon and Hezbollah**
Briefing with Colonel Roi Timor Russo
Division 91 headquarters

This briefing at the IDF's Northern Command Base will give participants an insider's understanding of the threat Israel currently faces from Hezbollah in Lebanon and the work the IDF is doing to secure Israel's northern border. It will also address the potential risks of an expanded war with Hezbollah, the connection to Iran and an update about potential diplomatic solutions.

6:30 – 7:15 PM Depart for Golan Heights
Check-in to the Jacob Neve Ativ Hotel

7:45 – 9:00 PM Dinner
-at Habokim Restaurant

10:00 PM Overnight at Jacob Neve Ativ Hotel, Golan Heights

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

8:15 – 9:15 AM **Israel's Northern Front, Part II: The Israeli-Syrian Border**
Strategic briefing with Maj. Ilan Schulman
-at Jacob Neve Ativ Hotel, Golan Heights

With the fall of the Assad regime, Syria is one of the most important stories in the Middle East. Additionally, it raises questions about Israel's security while uncertainly reigns there. Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will provide an overview of Israel's border with Syria and the evolving situation on this Northern Front.

9:30 AM Depart

9:45 – 10:30 AM **Israel's Northern Front, Part II: The Israeli-Syrian Border**
Strategic briefing with Maj. Ilan Schulman

This outlook will give participants an opportunity to see the proximity to Syria and understand better the IDF's deployment. This visit will complement the previous briefing by Ilan Shulman.

9:30 AM Depart

10:45 AM-12:15 PM Depart for Leshem

12:30 – 2:30 PM **U. S – Israel Missile Defense Cooperation**
Meeting and lunch with Gidi Weiss
Vice President, International Business Development, Rafael
-at Refael – Leshem

Gideon (Gidi) Weiss is Vice President for International Business Development at Rafael's Air & C4ISR Systems Division. During this session, Mr. Weiss will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to the country's multi-tiered missile defense system, and take the group to see development of several leading systems.

2:30 – 4:30 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:00 – 6:00 PM **Confronting Underground Networks in Gaza and Lebanon**
Meeting with Col. Ittai Bar Ilan
Head of the Land Systems Division,
Defense Research and Development Directorate (MAFAT)

Tunnels have played a critical and devastating role in the wars against Hamas and Hezbollah. The research arm of the Ministry of Defense must continuously develop new technologies and strategies for dealing with this threat. This effort is led by Col. Bar Ilan who will speak to the important U.S.-Israel collaboration in tunnel detection, the success in this war and the challenges that lay ahead.

6:15 PM Depart for Hostage Square

6:30 – 7:00 PM **Bring Them Home**
Visit to Hostage Square

Hostage Square in the center of Tel Aviv has become a makeshift community center and memorial to hostage families since October 7. Among the over 250 people taken hostage by Hamas were American citizens. The delegation will have the opportunity to visit the square, and meet with the families working tirelessly to secure the hostages' return.

7:15 – 9:00 PM **The Future of the Abraham Accords**
Dinner with H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Fateh Ali Abdulla Al Khaja
UAE Ambassador to the State of Israel
-Tel Aviv

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict, and a comprehensive regional peace. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and several Arab states, including – most recently - the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan – under the Abraham Accords. This session will explore the Abraham Accords, and prospects for regional peace following these historic agreements. His Excellency Mohamed Al Khaja was sworn in as the first UAE Ambassador to Israel in 2021.

9:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

10:00 PM Overnight at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, February 20, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the hotel dining hall

9:15 AM Depart for U.S. Embassy

10:00 – 11:30 AM **A View from the U.S. Embassy**
Meeting with U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee
-U.S. Embassy, Jerusalem

Participants will meet with newly-appointed Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. The Ambassador is a Baptist Minister, and former politician serving as the 44th governor of Arkansas. He was a candidate for the Republican Party presidential nomination in both 2008 and 2016. During this meeting, Ambassador Huckabee will share the U.S. perspective on the current war in Gaza, regional threats from Iranian proxies, and the role of the United States in the region.

11:30 AM Depart for Har Herzl, Military Cemetery

12:00 – 1:30 PM **Paying Tribute to Israel's Fallen Soldiers**
A visit to Har Herzl, Military Cemetery

A critical piece of understanding Israeli society and culture, is the role of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), mandatory army service, and veterans. Mount Herzl is the site of Israel's national cemetery, named after Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. Israel's leaders and fallen soldiers are buried there. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed in war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. This visit will highlight the way Israel remembers its fallen and relates to the role of the military in as part of the fabric of the Jewish State. Since the massacre on October 7 and the ensuing war, the cemetery has seen many funerals. This visit will help participants understand the current Israel psyche.

1:30 PM Depart for Lunch

1:45-2:45 PM Lunch

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Post-War Opportunities in the Region**
Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at Patterson Hall, Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage and discuss post war scenarios.

6:45 PM Checkout, depart for dinner

7:00 – 9:00 PM **The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together**
-at the Orient Hotel, Jerusalem

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, the aftermath of October 7 and the war, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week

Evening Depart for Ben Gurion Airport
Flights depart for the United States

Friday, February 21, 2025

All Day Flights arrive in the United States