

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☒ Original ☐ Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. 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: William Layton
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☐ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: Friday, August 8, 2025 Return: Sunday, August 17, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C., USA Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington, D.C., USA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: See attached Tab A for final itinerary
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 employee; **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 on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Will Layton Date: 08/28/25

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Michael G. ... Date: 08/28/25

Signature of Supervising Member: Michael G. ...

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: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: August 8, 2025

Date of Return: August 17, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): William Layton, Delia Kashat, and John Kolb

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	\$3,565 (\$2,725 for round trip international flights, \$840 for bus transportation to the airport and between sites in Israel)	\$2,940	\$952	\$1,365 (guides, entry fees)
Accompanying Family Member				

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.

Signature: Michael Makovsky

Date: Aug. 20, 2025

Name: Dr. Michael Makovsky, PhD

Title: President and CEO

Organization: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America

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

Address: 1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1030, Washington, D.C., 20005

Telephone: mmakovsky@jinsa.org

Email: (202) 667-3900

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.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: William Layton
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: Friday, August 8 Date of Return: Sunday, August 17
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: _____
(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.**
As a Legislative Assistant handling the energy, agriculture, and environment portfolio and assisting with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) subcommittee, the activities on the itinerary directly support my responsibilities. Briefings on Israel's offshore natural gas infrastructure, water resource management in the Galilee, and agricultural systems such as the kibbutz model provide valuable context for my work on sustainable resource policy and foreign assistance. Additionally, meetings with Israeli defense and foreign policy officials deepened my understanding of regional security dynamics and U.S.-Israel cooperation, which are essential to my support of the MENA subcommittee's legislative priorities.
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: 06/16/25



**The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2025 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
August 8–17, 2025**

TRAVEL: Friday, August 8th

18:30 Departure from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

TRAVEL: Saturday, August 9th

8:20 Arrival in Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain

NO PROGRAMMING

20:45 Depart Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain

Day 1: Sunday, August 10th

Parliament & Grand Strategy and Regional Perspective, Israel's Policy and Defense Strategy Day

01:55 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel

02:25-03:00 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel

06:30 Breakfast Available

06:30-08:00 Executive Time

08:00-09:30 Depart for the Knesset, Jerusalem

09:30-10:30 Tour of the Knesset (Parliament) with **Liat Margalit, Foreign Affairs Department of the Knesset** at the Knesset in Jerusalem

Topic: Explanation of the role of the Knesset in the Israeli system of government and the role it plays in the development and execution of Israeli national security policy via visits to a copy of the Israeli Declaration of Independence, the Knesset chamber, and committee briefing rooms.

10:30-11:15 Briefing by **Roni Tal, Chief of Staff to Speaker of the Knesset**, at the Knesset in Jerusalem

Topic: Discussion of how the legislative process operates in Israel, challenges in designing and executing policy within the Israel system of government, and discussion of similarities and differences to how the U.S. Congress operates.

- 11:15-11:45 Briefing by **Liat Margalit, Foreign Affairs Department of the Knesset**, at the Knesset in Jerusalem
Topic: Discussion of the role and activities of the U.S.-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group since the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.
- 11:45-12:00 Executive Time
- 12:00-13:00 Round Table discussion with **Amit Halevi, Knesset Member (Likud)** at the Knesset in Jerusalem
Topic: Insights into how the Israeli legislative process operates, current national security issues under active consideration by Knesset members, and how members incorporate foreign diplomatic considerations into their deliberations.
- 13:00-13:10 Meeting and group photo with **Amir Ohana, Speaker of the Knesset** at the Knesset
Topic: The strength of the U.S.-Israel security partnership.
- 13:10-15:00 Drive to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya. Lunch on the bus (no speakers)
- 15:00-16:00 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "Israel's Asymmetric Position in the Middle East," an overview of the Israel's overall strategic environment, followed by discussion of U.S. / Israel defense cooperation relationship since the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks in particular.
- 16:00-17:00 Briefing by **MG Yaacov Ayish**, Former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Defense Attaché to the U.S. and Canada and JINSA's Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "The State of Israel," a strategic overview of Israel including a discussion of population concentrations, key strategic infrastructure, and current security threats. Discussion of how the mil-to-mil partnership between the United States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.
- 17:00-17:15 Executive Time
- 17:15-17:45 **Screening of the IDF Spokesperson office video "Bearing Witness"** about the massacre of October 7th at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: The video is a sequential collection of raw footage of the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack painstakingly compiled and put together by the IDF. It includes videos taken by terrorists themselves from their own body cameras and dashcams, data from the phones of victims, and security camera footage.
- 17:45-18:00 Executive Time

18:00-19:00 Briefing with **LtC Roi Bloch, Head of the International Law Branch within the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG)** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: Organization of the MAG and how it operates within the IDF to ensure the laws of armed combat are adhered to and the mechanisms available to the MAG to enforce compliance.

19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with Stephanie L. Hallett**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Israel, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: "The State of U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview from the American perspective including an explanation of U.S.-Israel defense and security priorities with regards to the current conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah and the regional impacts of those conflicts and highlighting the challenges and opportunities they present.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 8+

Day 2: Monday, August 11th

Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

06:00 Breakfast Available

08:15-10:00 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Nevatim Air Force Base** near Beersheba. Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.

Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the south and discussion of economically important strategic sites such as the Ashkelon Desalination Plant.

10:00-11:45 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Nevatim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base led by **IAF Maj Altar Dagan**.

Topic: Tour led by an IAF Maj Altar Dagan explaining day-to-day base operations by viewing runways, hangers, and a mission briefing room. Briefing by an IAF Maj Dagan on the F-35 squadrons' role in current wartime operations, with a specific briefing on Israel's "Operation Rising Lion" against Iran from June 13-24, 2025.

11:45-13:00 Depart to **IDF Camp Amitay**, in southern Israel.

13:00-13:45 Briefing at **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) headquarters** at Camp Amitay.

Topic: How this joint American Israeli program is addressing the ongoing Gaza humanitarian crisis and prevent Hamas from seizing aid provided to civilians.

13:45-14:15 Depart to **Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel. Lunch on the bus with briefing by MG Ayish.

Topic: Briefing on upgraded capabilities on the Israeli southern border to protect Israel's civilian population from Gaza in the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

14:15-15:30 **Visit to Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.

Topic: Tour led by **IDF SGT. Oriyah Solomon, Diplomatic Liaison in the IDF Spokesperson Unit**, of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, to see the extent of the destruction and the impact on the community first-hand.

15:30-15:45 Depart for **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.

15:45-16:15 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.

Topic: Tour led by **IDF SGT. Oriyah Solomon** of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, where more than 300 people were killed and some 40 taken hostage. Photos of each of the victims are displayed in their memory, along with Israeli flags and red anemone sculptures, symbolizing the flowers that bloom nearby in the forest during the winter and as a symbol of the lives lost.

16:15-16:30 Depart to Kibbutz Gevim, in southern Israel.

16:30-17:00 Briefing at the **Iron Dome** missile defense battery site by an **IDF SGT. Oriyah Solomon**, the Defense Ministry's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure (MAFAT), near Kibbutz Gevim.

Topic: The value of this critically important joint-U.S. / Israeli produced system in protecting civilian life and infrastructure.

17:00-18:30 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.

18:30-19:30 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).

19:30-20:00 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya Total Hours of Programming: 6

Day 3 Tuesday, August 12th

Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah Day

06:30 Breakfast available

07:30-09:00 Depart Hotel for **War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**. Brief by **MG Ayish** on bus.

Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the north, highlighting economically important strategic sites including Haifa Port and off-shore natural gas platforms.

- 09:00-09:30 Briefing by **MG Ayish on the War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**, one of the United States' largest collections of warfighting material pre-positioned to be used in wartime at a WRSA-I observation point.
Topic: How WRSA-I functions and serves as an example of U.S. / Israel security cooperation.
- 09:30-10:00 Travel to Travel **IDF Northern Command, 91st Division** at Mt. Adir.
- 10:00-11:00 Briefing by **IDF 91st Division at Northern Command with IDF BG Offer Shafran**
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran) and the impact of combat operations since October 7, 2023, to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities.
- 11:00-12:00 Drive to **Mt. Bental, IDF 210th Division** (near the Syrian border). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Overview of the contentious history between Israel and Syria, who have technically been at war since 1948, and have fought each other in three major wars: the 1948 Arab Israeli War, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- 12:00-13:00 Briefing by **IDF 210th Division by Lt. Avital Zelig, Golan Israel Liaison Office**, at Mt. Bental overlooking the Israel-Syria border.
Topic: Briefing on the tank battles between Israel and Syrian forces during the Six-Day War in 1967 and Yom Kippur War in 1973 on the Golan Heights. Further discussion of the evolving threat Israel faces from Syria today, particularly in light of the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011 and ended with the overthrow of the Assad regime in 2024, and current prospects for improved relations between the two nations.
- 13:00-13:15 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** post at Quneitra Crossing
- 13:15-13:45 Briefing by **IDF Lt. Avital Zelig** at Quneitra Crossing
Topic: IDF management of the Israel-Syrian border and the role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing, created in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Discussion of the role of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at the crossing and its current role in the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria.
- 13:45-14:00 Drive to Bahat Restaurant in Kibbutz Ein Zivan.
- 14:00-15:30 Lunch at Bahat Restaurant. Brief by **MG Ayish**.
Topic: The history and continuing use of Israel's Kibbutz economic system, the role it played in the history of Zionism and helping Israel to settle and secure its northern border region.

- 15:30-16:00 Depart for Majdal Shams, Golan Heights.
- 16:00-16:45 Visit to Druze village of **Majdal Shams**. Briefing by Druze village leaders on the July 27, 2024 Hezbollah rocket attack that landed on a soccer game resulting in the death of 12 children and the Druze community in Israel more broadly.
- 16:45-17:45 Depart for old Caesarea Port, Caesarea.
- 17:45-18:30 Executive time in Caesarea.
- 18:30-20:00 Dinner at Hazalbanim Restaurant (or Crusaders Restaurant), Caesarea Port Caesarea. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings and site visits in the north, open conversation and dialogue on topics including the Hezbollah drone threat and the role of Caesarea as the principal port in the Roman-era and how this compares to the Haifa Port complex of today. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.
- 20:00-21:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya
- Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya* *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 4: Wednesday, August 13th

U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:15- 09:15 Depart to the IDF HQ, HaKirya, Tel Aviv.
- 09:15-10:15 Briefing by **IDF BG (ret.) Daniel "Danny" Gold at the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)** on how Israel develops technological, logistical and industrial infrastructure to support Israeli national security operations at IDF HQ.
- 10:15-11:00 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod.
- 11:00-13:00 Visit to IAI and brief by **IAI executives Yael Barenboim (Rocket Division), Yechiel Shalev (Space Division) and Amir Dan (Aerial Defense Division)** in Lod.
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base, with a focus on the significant role IAI has played in the development of Israel's world class integrated air and missile defense systems, and emerging technologies in this field.

- 13:00 Lunch on the bus (no speakers)
- 13:00-15:00 Depart to the **David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd** in Lod.
- 15:00-17:00 Visit to the **David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd** main offices & testing sites and briefings by **Rafael executives Gidi Wise, Yossi Pinto (on Trophy) and Jonathan (on Iron Beam)** in Lod.
Topic: Gain insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries contribute to the defense of both nations in the air domain, particularly with regards to the Iron Beam directed energy missile defense system, the Trophy tank defense system, and Spike family of electro-optical missiles.
- 17:00-18:00 Drive to Ritz Carlton, Herzliya.
- 18:00-19:00 Briefing by **Koby Shtaierman, CEO of Oraqon**, on how Israel's defense industrial base quickly adapted to meet wartime requirements.
- 19:00-20:00 **Dinner** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings on the future of Israeli integrated air and missile defense efforts. Briefing on how Israeli's mandatory military service requirements operate. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 5: Thursday, August 14th

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Briefing by **IDF Col. Yotam Shefer with the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) office** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: How Israel manages humanitarian aid distribution in Gaza in coordination with partners including the UN, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, and private sector actors.
- 09:00-10:30 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem
- 10:30-11:30 Meeting with **Dor Shaphira, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs North America Bureau** official at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing of U.S.-Israeli relations from the Israeli perspective, including a challenges and opportunities presented by the current ongoing conflict between

Israel and Iran and its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah, and the upcoming need to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States.

- 11:30-12:15 Meeting with **Nadav Ashkar, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Strategic Affairs Bureau official** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on the Iranian nuclear program over the years, Operation Rising Lion (the 12-day war with Iran), and considerations for next steps moving forward to prevent the Iranians from rebuilding their nuclear program.
- 12:15-13:30 Meeting with the **Jonathan Tzadka, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East Bureau official** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on Israel's perspective of the Middle East and the current state of relations with countries including Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.
- 13:30-14:00 Depart to David Citadel hotel, Jerusalem.
- 14:00-15:00 Lunch at David Citadel hotel, Jerusalem (no speakers).
- 15:00-16:00 Executive Time
- 16:00-17:00 Briefing with **Dr. Avner Golov, VP Research & Alliances with MIND Israel**, Former Senior Director for Foreign Policy, at Israel's National Security Council.
Topic: Options for Israel's grand strategy post 10/7: A people that dwells alone vs. a leading valued partner in the international arena.
- 17:00-17:30 Depart for Western Wall, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500
- 17:30-19:00 **Western Wall Tunnel Tour**, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500
Topic: Western Wall Tunnel Guided Tour, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500
Topic: The Western Wall is one of the four supporting walls of the Temple Mount that still stands after the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. It is the wall that faces westward and is the closest in proximity to the site of the Holy of Holies, the most sacred location within the Temple for the Jewish people. Since the Temple's destruction, the Western Wall has served as a source of inspiration, and the focus of yearning and prayer for the Jewish people. It has helped keep the memory of the Temple alive and is now a site of prayer and a location for formal ceremonies of the State of Israel, including swearing in ceremonies for IDF soldiers. This guided tour examines archeological evidence about the history of the Temple Mount to enable participants to better understand how Israelis, from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, perceive their history and connection to the land of Israel, and to provide context for how and why struggles for control of religious sites in Jerusalem remain major political flashpoints with local and global security implications.

19:00-20:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya.

20:00-21:00 Dinner at Casa Bella Restaurant, Herzliya right below the Ritz-Carlton hotel complex (no speakers).

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 6: Friday, August 15th

Israel's Roots, Heritage, and the Impact on National Security

05:55 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (James Fleet)

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:30-09:00 Depart Hotel for Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum

09:00-11:00 Visit to **Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jerusalem**
Background: By 1945, the Nazi's Third Reich had killed the majority of Europe's Jewish population, destroying a civilization that had flourished for centuries. Yad Vashem encapsulates and memorializes this tragic history. The visit will provide participants with an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the Holocaust, how it is perceived and understood through the eyes of Israelis, and how it significantly impacts Israel's national defense posture and diplomatic relationships today.

11:00-11:30 Depart for the City of David, Jerusalem

11:30-14:00 Tour of the **City of David, Jerusalem**
Background: The United States Embassy in Jerusalem, together with the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, have recognized the City of David as a testament to America's Judeo-Christian heritage and founding principles. The archeological discoveries at the City of David bring Biblical Jerusalem back to life and reaffirm the prophetic messages of freedom, justice and peace that inspired America's founders. The City of David is an archaeological excavation of the city of ancient Jerusalem, prior to the Jewish-Roman wars and the destruction and the Second Temple in 70 CE. Participants will learn how Israelis, from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, perceive their history and connection to the land of Israel. A key focus will be how this history and the interpretation of it strongly manifests itself in the political and religious challenges that Israeli experiences today in the modern world and how this impacts Israel's national defense posture.

14:00-15:00 Lunch Abu Camal, Old City, Jerusalem. Briefing by **Mr. Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli Arab Journalist in Jerusalem.

Topic: Perspective on how the Arab world, (including Palestinian Arabs, Jordanians, Egyptians and others), understands and perceives Israel, how perceptions and misperceptions impact public opinion and government decision-making, and how this in turn impacts the regional security environment.

15:00-17:00 Guided tour of the Old City, Jerusalem with **Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide Ibgry Eliyahu**, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755

Background: Participants will be exposed to Jerusalem as city of continuing vital importance to three of the world's great faiths. The walk through of the Old City will include an overview of government administration of the West Bank and a discussion of the current political dynamics in the West Bank, specifically the relationship between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority and the ongoing security challenges that affect Israelis and Palestinians, and how this impacts the broader security environment in the Middle East.

They will start with a visit to the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City and learn about the layers of Judaism from the time of the First Temple until the present day, including the **Cardo**, the main thoroughfare of Roman Jerusalem. Participants will then continue to the traditional **Via Dolorosa**, the Way of the Cross, to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, to gain a greater appreciation of the importance of Jerusalem to the Christian world.

17:00-18:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.

18:00-19:30 Executive Time.

19:30-22:00 Shabbat Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya with **MG Ayish**.

Background: Shabbat is a day of rest that lasts from sundown on Friday evening through nightfall on Saturday night. Friday night dinner consists of a traditional meal and guests are considered an integral part of the weekly ritual. The Shabbat ceremony will consist of hymns, recitations, blessings, and eating, and provide participants with a unique window into modern Israeli cultural practices. Participation is an opportunity to strengthen ties with American foreign policy partners in Israel on a personal basis and gain a deeper understanding of each nation's rich heritage through participation in a shared communal experience.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

Day 7: Saturday, August 16th

Day of Departure / Israel's Roots & Heritage, the Impact on National Security

06:30 Breakfast Available

- 08:00-10:00 Drive to the city **Tiberias**, founded in 20 CE and named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius.
Topics: Briefing by **Ibgy Eliyahu, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755** on the importance Christians have placed on the Holy Land over the centuries and how this has impacted military and political decision making from diverse groups including Jewish revolutionaries in the Roman Era, Crusaders in the Middle Ages, and Great Britain in World War I.
- 10:00-12:30 **Tour of Capernaum and key Christian churches near the Sea of Galilee.**
 Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region with Ibgy Eliyahu by visiting Christian holy sites including the Mount of Beatitudes, site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount; and Capernaum, one of the first villages where Jesus taught to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to the Christian world, the security implications of the religious importance of the region, and how this impacts the global political landscape.
- 12:30-13:15 Tour of the **Kinneret**, also known as the Sea of Galilee.
Topic: Briefing on the importance of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River as both a border and a key water source for Israel and Jordan and the impact this plays in Israeli national security strategy. Discussion of the sea's historic importance, including to Christians for its connection to Jesus, who spent much of his life on or near it, and to late 19th century Zionists, who's dream of settling the Land of Israel became reality as pioneers and their families returned to the land and created a new form of agricultural settlement, the kibbutz.
- 13:15-13:30 Drive to the Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus, Kibbutz Kinneret.
- 13:30-14:30 **Briefing at Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus**, Kibbutz Kinneret, one of Israel's most sacred religious sites for Christians and the second oldest kibbutz in Israel.
Topic: Briefing on the significance the Christian community has placed on this historic site and the intimate relationship Christians have with Israel's biblical history.
- 14:30-15:30 Lunch, Magdalena Restaurant, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal (no speakers).
- 15:30-17:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 17:00-18:00 Voluntary review of trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

20:00 Departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

No overnight

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

TRAVEL: Sunday, August 17th

00:05 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (1) David Horsley)

01:00 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (2) Steven Goodall, 3) William Layton, 4) Delia Kashat, and 5) John Kolb)

04:05 Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (1) David Horsley)

05:50 Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (2) Steven Goodall, 3) William Layton, 4) Delia Kashat, and 5) John Kolb)

08:35 Departure from John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (all five)

10:14 Arrival in Washington Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C., USA (all five)

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Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

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Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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August 5, 2025

Mr. William Layton
Office of the Honorable Michael Lawler
324 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Layton:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for August 8 to 17, 2025, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) 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. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, 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 employees 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:rp