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# 2025 EMBASSY DIRECTORY

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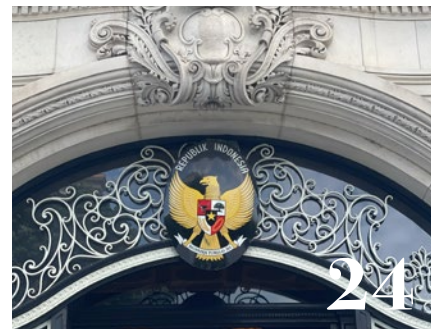
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Photo by: Jessica Latos

# LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Reader:

I've worked with foreign diplomats in this town for more than 30 years—throughout the presidencies of Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Joe Biden. And without a doubt, none have stirred up more controversies than the first and second terms of Donald Trump.

Whether it's Israel's war in Gaza, the Russia-Ukraine war—now in its third year—or the bruising tariffs recently imposed by the Trump administration on US allies and adversaries alike, diplomats have many valid concerns. Recently, one ambassador approached me and proudly outlined all the efforts his country was making to appeal to Trump. It was a lengthy, impressive list. He then asked me if there was more they could do.

To that end, seasoned consultant Christopher Harvin offers a strategic perspective on the Trump administration, with practical advice on identifying centers of power and employing creative approaches when dealing with this current White House.

Our media company, which mainly interviews ambassadors, has shifted its focus for a moment, to a look at the spouses—those who help ambassadors make decisions. Angel Gingras profiles five such women, all of them photographed by Jessica Latos at Georgetown's LXIV mansion.

Natalie Jacobsen provides insights into the history of foreign missions on Embassy Row, while John Rosenberg analyzes embassy security in a time of increased threats, both internal and external. And finally, news editor Larry Luxner offers an amusing look at the colorful, international hobby of license plates—with a focus on those issued to diplomats for official use.

As always, we are proud to present the most comprehensive and updated directory of nearly 180 Washington-based ambassadors. We delayed printing to include some new appointees awaiting White House confirmation. Yet this directory becomes outdated quickly, so I encourage you to visit our website and buy a digital subscription to receive updates throughout the year.

Enjoy the Embassy Directory 2025.

Respectfully,

Victor Shibley  
President & Publisher  
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# DIPLOMATIC SPOUSES ADD COLOR AND DEPTH TO FOREIGN MISSIONS IN DC

By Angelique Gingras

**F**rom hosting formal gatherings to fostering connections across cultural divides, Washington's diplomatic spouses live in an overlooked—yet vital—world of diplomacy.

The wives and husbands of ambassadors posted in the nation's capital take center stage in cultural diplomacy, bringing the traditions of their countries to the United States while engaging in the international mosaic of DC's diplomatic community.

It's not an easy job, as many of them readily admit. They must navigate protocol and public life alongside their partners while juggling personal responsibilities and the expectations that come with representing their countries—a role which often comes with no clear training.

To better understand them, I interviewed five of the nearly 180 diplomatic spouses in Washington from Bahrain, Mexico, Estonia, Djibouti and Vietnam. Whether it's their first time living abroad, like Mexico's Cecilia Moctezuma, or seasoned spouses like Vietnam's Bich Van Tran— a former diplomat herself— each play a vital role in Washington and the diplomatic scene during their tenure.





## MEET THE SPOUSES

Shaikha Aisha Al Khalifa is the wife of Bahrain's Shaikh Abdulla Rashed Al Khalifa. They have been posted here since July 2017 and have five children between the ages of 9 and 19.

Cecilia Moctezuma and her husband, Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma, have been in Washington since February 2021. This is the couple's first international posting. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Liis Prikk and her husband, Estonian Ambassador Kristjan Prikk, returned in May 2021 for their third stint in Washington. They have three teenage children.

Fatouma Souleiman Aouled is the wife of Ambassador Mohamed Siad Doualeh of Djibouti. The parents of four children, they've been in the United States since January 2016, making this their third diplomatic posting.

Bich Van Tran is the wife of Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Dzung. This is their second diplomatic posting. The parents of two sons and two grandchildren, they've been here since February 2022.

Their stories offer a rare glimpse into the personal side of diplomacy, where soft power is just as vital as global policy and protocol.

## HOW DO YOU DEFINE YOUR ROLE AS A DIPLOMATIC SPOUSE?

For these women, being married to an ambassador gives them front-row seats to the exchanges that shape ties between their countries and the United States.

Al Khalifa sees her role as an extension of Bahrain's diplomatic mission.

"Whether through organizing receptions, participating in cultural showcases or supporting charitable initiatives," she said, "I work to build bridges between Bahrain and the United States, highlighting our shared values and distinct heritage."

Cultural initiatives are at the core of their roles, not only by hosting events but also building bridges to diaspora communities and supporting other Washington-based embassies and charities.



Shaikha Aisha Al Khalifa, Bahrain

Moctezuma, who has long supported the arts, helps curate exhibits and events at the Mexican Cultural Institute. Promoting it helps her and her husband “be close to the Mexican community in the US, which is almost 40 million people,” she said.

Vietnam’s Van Tran says she was initially nervous about taking on this soft diplomacy role after her own career came to an end. However, she’s found that her past experiences have given her greater appreciation and excitement about sharing the customs of her Southeast Asian country.

“I kept wondering about adapting to a new life which I thought might be boring and dull. Amazingly, that was not the case,” she said, noting that this her second time in this role; the first was in Budapest.

“I found the chance to apply my diplomatic skills and my own innovative thinking to practically support the embassy’s works,” she said.



Cecilia Moctezuma, Mexico



Bich Van Tran, Vietnam

“I devoted myself to initiating cultural showcases and exchanges, bringing Vietnamese culinary arts, artworks and artistic performances, as well as our traditional costumes, to friends from various circles here in the US.”

But that’s not the only aspect of their role. These women often find themselves educating Americans and other diplomats who know little about their countries.

“I stay up to date with what is happening back home, here and around the world. And I try to bring that perspective into conversations and gatherings,” said Prikk.

“We welcome groups to the embassy and the residence that is our home, engaging with Americans who want to learn more about Estonia or are preparing a trip there, and it’s always a pleasure to share a bit of our culture and experiences.”

Djibouti's Aouled says it's important for her to shine an upbeat spotlight about her small East African nation.

"I have tried to the best of my ability to also tell a positive story about my country," she said. "My fellow colleagues and American friends have been passionately curious about Djibouti...a very strategically located country, but also a hidden travel gem."

"I never tire of telling them about the good, kind hearted and compassionate people of Djibouti, and our culture, art and food."



Liis Prikk, Estonia



## HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON?

Upon their arrival in Washington, all the women we interviewed joined one of five DC-based international clubs that cater to political, military, civic, cultural and media leaders.

Al Khalifa and Moctezuma belong to the International Friendship Club, Van Tran and Aouled are part of International Club 1, and Prikk is a member of International Neighbors Club 1. Most also participate in a book club exclusively for ambassadorial spouses in Washington.



*Photos were taken at **LXIV DC**, a private villa available for rent in Georgetown, Washington, DC.*

Beyond diplomatic circles, these women volunteer in charities and organizations that strengthen their own interests and heritage. Besides the Mexican Cultural Institute, Moctezuma belongs to the Sulgrave Club, an elite women’s group that hosts frequent lectures, concerts and fine dining.

Aouled is the dean of the Association of Spouses of African Ambassadors and is active in both Cultural Exchange for Diplomats and the Muslim Women’s Association.

Van Tran is also a member of Cultural Exchange for Diplomats, along with the International Ladies Club and the ASEAN Spouses Circle—a group for diplomatic spouses of the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. She’s also an honorary member of the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Prikk, meanwhile, co-chairs the Eleanor Roosevelt

Dialogue at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She and her husband also support various charities including the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

Likewise, besides spearheading her own initiatives, Al Khalifa is a member of the Muslim Women’s Association and is on the board of Washington Performing Arts.

“The arts are a powerful form of diplomacy, and my husband and I are deeply committed to supporting them. We attend and occasionally co-host events that promote emerging and established artists, both from Bahrain and the US,” Al Khalifa said.

“I’ve had the privilege to participate in international art fairs, cultural panels and museum partnerships that celebrate the richness of Bahraini culture while embracing the diverse artistic scene here in Washington.”



Fatouma Souleiman Aouled, Djibouti

## WHAT IS MOST REWARDING, AND CHALLENGING, ABOUT BEING A DIPLOMATIC SPOUSE HERE?

These women say the most meaningful aspect of their tenure in Washington is the connections they've made with each other and in the community. That camaraderie was evident when they gathered for their photo shoot: different walks of life and in different stages of their lives, they're united by the unique experience of being the spouse of a serving ambassador.

"This is an amazing and inspiring country," said Aouled. "It is a center of innovation full of people filled with enthusiasm and a phenomenal can-do spirit. You have colleagues and diplomats that are at the top of their game with whom you learn and grow."

Despite occasional feelings of homesickness, these women agreed that representing their various countries through cultural programs, engaging with their diasporas and forging links with their diplomatic peers are all essential in shaping the image of their nation abroad.

While these wives won't be in Washington forever, many are creating an unforgettable legacy in the meantime, including Prikk, who is bringing local Estonians back home in July to perform at the Estonian Song and Dance Festival. Likewise, Aouled is writing a cookbook dedicated to the cuisine of Djibouti. ■

**Angelique Gingras** is an associate editor at *The Washington Diplomat*. She is currently based in London where she is a postgraduate student in international journalism at City St. George's, University of London. She joined *The Washington Diplomat* in August 2021 as an intern.



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*President Donald Trump tours the Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.  
Official White House Photo by Daniel Torok*

# HOW FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS CAN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

By Christopher Harvin

**A**s Washington continues adapting to Donald Trump’s second term in the Oval Office, foreign governments and their ambassadors must navigate a dramatically altered diplomatic landscape.

Defined by a transactional ethos and an uncompromising “America First” doctrine, the new environment in Washington demands agility, pragmatism and a sophisticated understanding of the administration’s evolving priorities. For ambassadors seeking influence and leverage adapting to this reality isn’t optional, it’s essential.

In his second term, Trump prizes outcomes over process. His administration’s focus on national energy security, trade, economic revitalization, military strength, secure borders and recalibrated global trade mirrors his personal worldview.

Unlike traditional diplomacy built on multilateral consensus and quiet negotiation, Trump values bold leadership, bilateralism, deliverables and public affirmation. To engage successfully, foreign leaders must recalibrate their strategies to align with these guiding principles.

The emerging global order Trump envisions offers distinct opportunities for countries willing to embrace this pragmatic, transactional view. This demands cultivating ties with Trump’s inner circle, leveraging conservative and top-tier media, partnering with key Cabinet officials and promising tangible benefits to US strategic interests.

In this new environment, influence begins not with protocol but proximity to the president’s most trusted advisors, including family members and long-standing allies. Donald Trump Jr., for example, has emerged as a prominent player in the second term, exerting influence on foreign policy priorities much like Jared Kushner did during his first. Smart diplomacy acknowledges the power of these informal channels, where decisions are often shaped before they are formalized.



*President Donald Trump holds a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room. Official White House Photo by Molly Riley*

Strong relationships with Cabinet officials and their staff are equally critical. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick are successful veterans of the financial sector, bringing experience and deal-making mindsets to their economic portfolios. In that capacity, they emphasize foreign investment and trade models that create American jobs.

Similarly, Secretary of State Marco Rubio is firmly committed to confronting the strategic threats posed by China and Iran, shaping US foreign policy through a lens of global power competition and regional stability. Likewise, special envoys such as Massad Boulos and Steve Witkoff are similarly emerging as highly influential diplomats for Trump’s engagement in Africa and the Middle East. Embassies must therefore present clear, results-driven proposals aligned with American priorities through these channels.

“We understand that in some cases we’re competitors, in others we’re direct adversaries,” Rubio told Fox News with regard to China. “But there has to be communication, because the lack of communication could lead to conflict. That said, we are not going to live in a world where we depend on China for critical rare earth minerals, for critical components in our supply chain. We’re not going to live in a world in which China gets to dominate the Indo-Pacific and we’re not allowed to have commercial ties in that region because they’re holding countries hostage, and they all become tributary states.”

Trump also remains an avid consumer of news and places high value on public perception, particularly coverage in top-tier and conservative-leaning media. Foreign governments, strategically aligned with their diplomatic engagement, must prioritize robust media campaigns targeting outlets such as Fox News, Newsmax, Wall Street Journal, New York Post and Daily Mail, as well as social media platforms such as Truth Social and X.

Earned media placements, op-eds and favorable commentary in these venues and through MAGA influencers can significantly enhance a nation’s profile and open doors to deeper engagement. In addition, public praise of Trump—delivered through interviews, public addresses or strategic communications—always yields tangible diplomatic dividends.

Public media statements like these resonate powerfully within the administration. Under Trump, symbolic gestures carry little weight. Success is measured by transactions and outcomes rather than ceremony. The mantra is “Deals, Not Dialogue.”



*Anthony Pratt has pledged to invest \$5 billion in US manufacturing during a recent White House meeting with Trump.*

The Trump White House values clear, actionable proposals—such as commitments to purchase American goods, invest in US infrastructure, renegotiate trade agreements or establish joint security initiatives—far more than ceremonial diplomatic visits.



President Donald Trump walks toward Air Force One with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani at Al Udeid Air Force Base. Official White House Photo by Daniel Torok

“The president is here to protect American workers. He’s here to protect American industry. Let’s bring manufacturing back to America for the health of our economy and the strength of our national security,” said US Commerce Secretary Harold Lutnick

Foreign governments must therefore craft deliverables that serve both their national interests and American priorities, especially those that tangibly benefit US workers and industries. High-priority sectors include manufacturing, rare earth minerals, energy, defense technology and semiconductors. Bilateral agreements and co-investment ventures that boost US prosperity are likely to receive expedited attention.

***“The president is here to protect American workers. He’s here to protect American industry. Let’s bring manufacturing back to America for the health of our economy and the strength of our national security.”***

- US Commerce Secretary Harold Lutnick

Likewise, nations that align with Trump’s core foreign policy objectives such as countering China and Iran often stand to gain considerable favor. Those that offer regional military cooperation and coordination, intelligence-sharing, economic partnerships or diplomatic support aligned with these priorities will find Washington increasingly receptive and the White House open for business.

The Gulf states—particularly Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—as well as Israel have provided instructive models for Trump-era diplomacy. These nations have expanded security cooperation and invested billions in US infrastructure, energy and technology.

Similarly, in the Indo-Pacific, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines now are engaged on opportunities to bolster their US ties through security agreements and robust trade frameworks. In a world increasingly shaped by competition with China, nations offering strategic value will find better opportunities for partnership.

While the executive branch leads foreign policy, Congress still retains vital influence, especially regarding appropriations, defense cooperation and sanctions. Building strong relationships with key congressional allies—particularly Republicans aligned with Trump’s vision is essential.

GOP lawmakers often act as intermediaries, helping foreign governments navigate the complexities of Washington. Diplomats should maintain consistent outreach to congressional offices, prioritizing members of the foreign relations, defense and appropriations committees.

“We only have one president and one secretary of state, but our founding fathers very clearly insisted that Congress play a significant role in foreign policy,” Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) recently told the New York Times.

Diplomats must ensure their policy proposals align with US legislative priorities and the broader “America First” agenda, positioning their countries as indispensable partners in a revitalized, security-focused global order.



Former EC President Jean-Claude Juncker and Italian politician Federica Mogherini meet with President Donald Trump and former Polish President Donald Tusk in this 2017 file photo.




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With the elimination of USAID and budget cuts to multilateral channels, traditional development assistance has been sharply reduced. Yet this shift creates opportunities for innovative partnerships that emphasize mutual return on investment.

***The Trump administration represents a unique era in US foreign relations—one that prioritizes strength, performance and direct communication over tradition and protocol. For foreign governments and embassies, success lies in speaking the president’s language of deals and deliverables, and forging relationships with loyal insiders.***

Foreign governments can strengthen their value proposition by co-financing infrastructure, energy and security projects, particularly in Africa and Southeast Asia, where competition with China is most intense. Leveraging institutions like the US International Development Finance Corp. for public-private partnerships can be critical to advancing these initiatives.

Trump has made no secret that he admires strength, decisiveness and resilience. Leaders who assert a clear national vision, exhibit military and economic strength, and offer tangible contributions to regional stability will command his attention and respect. In this regard, Israel and Saudi Arabia are models for regional security cooperation and assistance through their recent military engagements in Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.



Backstage at CPAC, President Trump met with President Andrzej Duda of Poland and reaffirmed our close alliance. President Trump also praised President Andrzej Duda for Poland’s commitment to increase their defense spending.

Subtlety and traditional diplomatic deference are no longer effective. Success today demands directness, confidence and clarity.

The Trump administration represents a unique era in US foreign relations—one that prioritizes strength, performance and direct communication over tradition and protocol. For foreign governments and embassies, success lies in speaking the president’s language of deals and deliverables, and forging relationships with loyal insiders.

In this new era of assertive, media-savvy diplomacy, those who embrace strategic clarity, narrative alignment, and transactional execution will not just survive, they will thrive; while those who cling to outdated diplomatic norms and rely on tradition alone will be left behind. ■

**Christopher Harvin**, former advisor to the secretary of defense and the Trump campaign, is the managing partner at GlobalPoint International and a senior government affairs advisor to Becker & Poliakoff.





Hercules fencing outside the German Embassy at 4645 Reservoir Rd NW. Photos courtesy of Hercules.

# DC EMBASSIES TURN TO EXPERTS AS SECURITY THREATS GROW

By John M. Rosenberg

In the event of an emergency, most embassies in Washington can do little more than dial 911—just like the rest of us—or call the US Secret Service. Most embassies also have, at best, alarm and camera systems akin to that of an ordinary family home. One former ambassador of a small nation said Secret Service support would be requested only in case of an intrusion, threatening behavior or demonstrations—incidents unlikely to afflict a vast majority of the 180-plus diplomatic missions in the District of Columbia.

Drew Miller, a noted facilities and base security specialist, says most foreign governments view their US embassies, consulates and residences as a low-risk, low-threat environment in which to operate.

Contrast this with dangerous locations like Tripoli, Khartoum or Juba, where embassy officials from around the world conduct the business of diplomacy under severe challenges. In these places, officials work under strict security protocols, and in hardened, protected facilities.

“You design based on the threat environment,” Miller said of such precautions.

US missions abroad are especially sensitive about security matters, and for good reason. In the wake of the 1983 Marine barracks and US Embassy bombings in Beirut, the State Department overhauled how diplomatic outposts are set up and operate.

Before that, US embassy designs had long been “rather hodge-podge,” said Miller, adding that architects prioritized creativity and modernity over security. Additionally, US embassies these days are generally built on the outskirts of a foreign capital city rather than along a prominent, high-traffic thoroughfare.

“In terms of security, the greatest risk are the consular sections as they are more open and see a lot of foot traffic,” Miller said. “A lot of the foreign embassies here in DC would not meet a modern US standard, especially when it comes to building setback from the road.”



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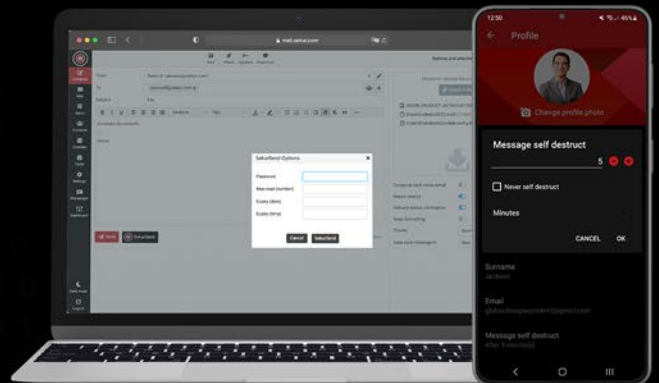


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Nowhere is this more evident than along Embassy Row, whose 50 or so missions occupy what until the Great Depression was known as Millionaire's Row. Though prestigious, these gilded mansions of the late 19th century would not meet current State Department security practices.

"You go up and down Massachusetts Avenue, and the only semi-decent ones are the British Embassy and a few others such as New Zealand up that drive that could easily be closed off," Miller said. Even outside of Embassy Row, some of the largest embassies abut busy roadways with almost no setback, such as the Canadian Embassy along Pennsylvania Avenue, and the recently rebuilt Australian Embassy dominating Scott Circle.

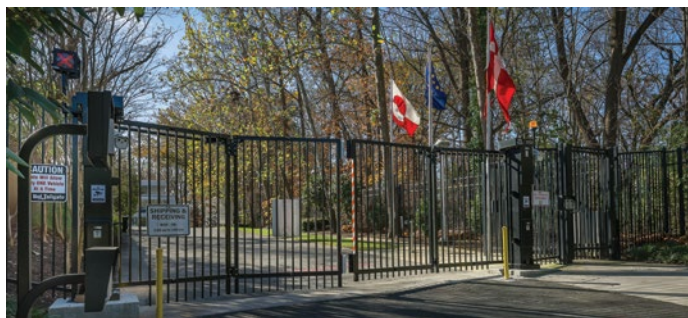
Setbacks aside, foreign embassies in Washington utilize security features such as those offered by Hercules Fence. President Evan Winston said many DC embassies are protected by his company's line of barriers and fences—including those of China, Germany, Great Britain and the United Arab Emirates.

Among other features, the UAE mission has a new security fence as well as gates integrated into its system of bollards, or security posts. A guard booth was also built, which along with other security improvements, he said, "gave the front of their embassy a sleek, modern look."

For large projects such as the Australian Embassy's renovation, Hercules supplied heavy-duty temporary fencing for security during construction.

"Typically, I am called on by contractors and embassies directly," Winston said. "Hercules is a trusted and respected leader in perimeter security, so we're often brought in for high-level, complex jobs where experience and reliability are critical."

Hercules often partners with Monarc Construction, a family-run company in business since 1987. Recognized as "the embassy expert in Washington" by Construction Today magazine, the firm boasts that it works in over 30 countries every year, yet never leaves Washington.



Hercules fencing outside the Danish Embassy at 3200 Whitehaven St NW

"One thing my dad told me years ago about the embassy world is 'we take care of them and do a good job, and they will talk about us amongst one another,'" said Monarc's president, Mark Bellingham. For example, after Monarc worked on the Ugandan residence, that country's ambassador then recommended Monarc to the former ambassador of St. Kitts & Nevis. That ultimately led to Monarc's successful bid for a design-build modernization of the tiny Caribbean nation's DC embassy.

"We have received a lot of referrals via that [diplomatic] network," Bellingham said, noting Monarc's installation of gates at the UAE Embassy possessing the highest-level K-rating—the standard used in anti-terrorism force protection.

One of the most costly security upgrades of all, he said, are bullet- and blast-resistant windows, usually made from a combination of two or more types of glass, one hard and one soft. In case of attack, the softer layer makes the glass more elastic, so that it can flex instead of shatter.

"Not only does the glass have to be rated but the frame has to be rated as well," said Bellingham. "It's not important if a bomb goes off and you have a nice strong piece of glass. It means nothing unless the frame and whatever the frame is attached to are also strong."

Embassies have a variety of options when it comes to security fencing, including chain link, crash-rated barriers, anti-terrorism cable and even ornamental anti-climb fences. A good fence can accentuate the overall look of an embassy compound, such as the perimeter fencing outside the British Embassy or that of South Africa, its neighbor facing it on Massachusetts Avenue. Likewise, the German Embassy along Reservoir Road is girded in what Winston calls "a really sleek and distinctive fence with a custom European design."

The US Secret Service plays a role in assisting foreign embassies. Its officers support motorcade movements and consult with diplomatic officials regarding protection and law enforcement matters, and handle demonstrations at diplomatic locations. In May 2019, after Code Pink occupied the Venezuelan Embassy for more than a month to protest the election of opposition leader Juan Guaidó as interim president, it was the Metropolitan Police who responded, along with additional help from the Secret Service and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. ■

**John M. Rosenberg** is a political and foreign affairs writer based in Arlington, Virginia.



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# MORE THAN DIPLOMATIC HOSPITALITY: THE HISTORY OF DC'S EMBASSIES AND FOREIGN RESIDENCES

By Natalie Jacobsen

One of Washington's most sought-after invites isn't always to a White House dinner, but rather an embassy tour. Long admired for their architecture, and alluring under their shroud of mystery, these illustrious and historic structures are more than office spaces for diplomats; they harbor history, art emblematic of their culture—and hauntings of a past.

Residents and visitors love strolling along Embassy Row, or bidding for exclusive tickets to private events inside. Each spring Passport DC's Around the World Embassy Tour and European Open House offer the public rare opportunities to glimpse the elusive lives that go on inside, and a chance to take in the glamor and culture they represent.

*Indonesian Embassy, also known as the Walsh-McLean House, Washington DC.*

“These embassies are beholden to the history and historic preservation of the buildings they inhabit, yet they’re expensive to maintain,” said former architectural designer Carolyn Muraskin, founder of DC Design Tours. “From permits and adhering to conservation laws and outdated maintenance systems, the embassies face tough conditions.”

Many of the buildings are opulent, still-standing representations of a bygone era. Their distinct architecture can be traced to inspirations by renowned designers and architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Henry Anderson who made their mark on cities worldwide nearly a century ago. Each carries a story of how they were built, what they once held, and then how they turned hands over to foreign dignitaries who have since kept the keys to the histories they once witnessed.

“There was a diplomatic presence by the United Kingdom and Japan on Massachusetts Avenue prior to the 1920s. [The foreign dignitaries] had a mentality of ‘if you build it, they will come,’” said Muraskin.

“After the Civil War, Washington became the place to be, and to do business. First, Millionaires Row exploded in population, and became a place to show off their wealth and build houses bigger than their neighbor. It was the birthplace of lobbying.”

The Gilded Age and the Roaring ‘20s ushered in a flurry of development, especially among businessmen and socialites who found Washington ideal for lobbying politicians, rubbing elbows with the elite, and seeing their careers and investments flourish. Along Massachusetts Avenue, dozens of homes were erected, turning it into one of the city’s most fashionable districts.

Yet it wasn’t all glitz and glam—and not for long, either. During Prohibition, the millionaires who inhabited Massachusetts Avenue defied the laws, spurring crime—typically gamblers seeking pay or those attempting to escape their debt—causing scandals and sparking tensions between affluent parties. And when the Great Depression hit, the parties and era of millionaires came to an abrupt end. The buildings deteriorated as owners defaulted on payments.

“Then, Embassy Row took control and repurposed the buildings,” Muraskin said. “There were some initial conniptions with the condition of the buildings and rehabilitation many needed after their original occupants abandoned them.”

A wave of dignitaries flooded the city. Surprisingly, the Holy See was among the first to establish an office here. As more arrived, they crowded into the city’s cramped row houses and office spaces in awkward corners, far from Capitol Hill and the White House.

As the elite left Washington, real estate suddenly became cheaper, and countries that could afford to use liquid assets to purchase the buildings, histories and ghosts along with them.

Some of the ghosts were abstract. Names of architects were carved into walls, some of which were adorned with colonial art. Details were painted over, and the art was traded for styles from their home countries. Embassies established their own histories and secrets, among them the famed Ernest Hemingway speakeasy in the Embassy of Cuba, traitors defecting from their duties, whisperings of spy activity, and suicides under strange circumstances.

Some of the ghosts were literal. In 1951, the Indonesian government purchased what was once the most expensive mansion in Washington. Known as the Walsh-McLean House, it was built in 1901-03 by Thomas F. Walsh for his daughter Evalyn; she later married Edward McLean, whose family owned the *Washington Post*. Edward bought his wife the Hope Diamond, and she wore the famous jewel as often as she could. She’s still said to haunt the halls and “glide down the stairs,” with



A portrait of Edward McLean and Evalyn Walsh McLean and their young son sits at the Embassy of Indonesia.



*Display of the Hope Diamond at the Embassy of Indonesia.*

several Indonesian diplomats said to have heard odd noises and seen their children with ghostly playmates.

Carolyn Sinulingga, the embassy's first secretary, claims that neighbors across the street have witnessed "orbs" that hung in the fourth-floor windows where intimate gatherings used to take place. Most sightings of figures, human-like or otherwise, have appeared there.

"There is no uncomfortable or 'bad' feeling here," said Sinulingga. "If a presence still lives here, they appear to be welcoming. This acquisition was a highly political choice by the Indonesian government to assert itself as a large global player, and not to be overlooked by the Americans or others. In exchange, we deeply respect the building and the occupants who may still be here."

Inside the building's ornate halls—still adorned with original murals from the 1920s, and carved trimmings and columns—are displays of Indonesian artifacts, valued porcelain, sculptures, costumes and instruments. In one of the dining rooms is an original organ that has sat in the halls for decades. Alongside it is a portrait of the Walsh-McLean family, with an encased display of the Hope Diamond. Nearby is art depicting the fight for Indonesian independence.

"We strive for harmony. We recognize the importance of it to American culture, but also know that we are here with purpose...when people come inside, we hope they will instantly know that Indonesia is here." Balancing preservation of American history and architecture with Indonesian art "is a form of diplomacy in itself," said Sinulingga.

The embassy is in the permit process to conduct much-needed renovation on safety and comfort, while working closely with experts on historic preservation.

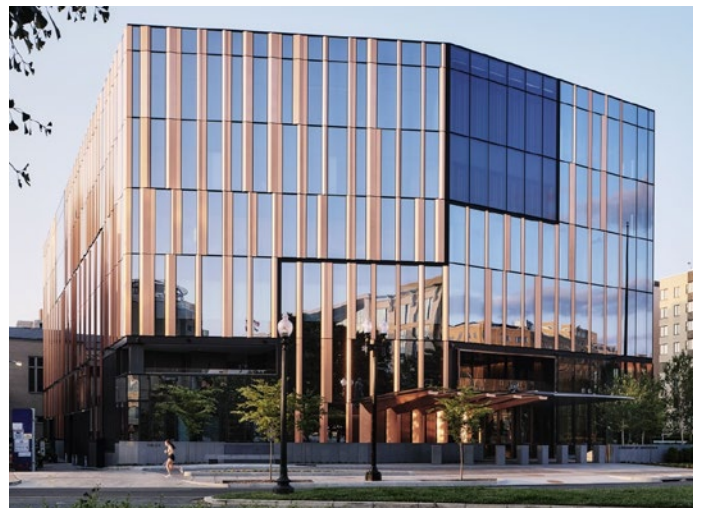
As countries expanded their economies and influence, their need for office space also expanded, and they quickly outgrew the slimmer mansions of the early 20th

century. For example, Australia first took up residence in 1940 before moving seven years later into the Emily J. Wilkins Building, which it sold to Peru in 1973. The Australian government had already established a newer location in 1965 at Scott Circle, opting to build its own embassy rather than purchase an existing property. During 2020, despite setbacks from the pandemic, that structure was demolished to make way for a newer, more sustainable design.

The embassy enlisted the expertise of Bates Smart, one of Australia's oldest architecture firms. The new building's glass facade and modern look was an intentional diversion from the traditional design and architecture of the American Gilded Age—planting, perhaps, an idea for future embassies hoping to honor their own cultures.

Australia's new state-of-the-art embassy ... captures the character of Australia," said the country's ambassador, Kevin Rudd. "The exterior pays tribute to the unique Australian landscape. The interior features Tasmanian Blackbutt wood paneling and a vast central atrium with lots of natural light and open skies – just like Australia."

Inside, shades of red and eucalyptus evoke the Australian outback, while art by aboriginal peoples and sculptures of Australia's animals fill the rooms. On the roof is another surprise: an apiary maintained by two embassy volunteers. In a city with parks just big enough for dogs and rules that keep native plants trimmed, bees have few options to pollinate. That's why the sanctuary offered on the rooftop of the Australian Embassy is more important—especially at a time when climate change and pesticide use is slashing the US bee population by 70% or more.



*The new Australian Embassy building sits at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW.*



*Inside the Australian Embassy.*

“The rooftop of the embassy is home to approximately 240,000 resident bees and an extensive solar panel array – both of which helped earn the Embassy the highest environmental design credentials,” said Rudd. “In 2025, we hope to produce our first batch of Australian Embassy honey.”



*Beekeeping at the Embassy of Australia.*

One of Muraskin’s favorite stories involves the Turkish Embassy. George Totten Jr., an architect who had lived and worked briefly in Ottoman Turkey, built the original residence in 1915 for industrialist Edward Everett. When Everett died, he allocated it to his five daughters, sparking a huge legal battle. Their fight for control coincided with the fall of the Ottoman Empire and rise of Turkey—whose eagerness to establish a presence in Washington led it to buy the building.

According to Muraskin, the sons of then-Ambassador Munir Ertegun would sneak out at night to enjoy Washington’s nightlife, particularly jazz musicians Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

“They loved the music so much that they invited them to play at the Turkish Embassy,” she said. “The property was not subjected to segregation laws, so that building actually held the first mixed-audience concerts in American history. Those sons later founded Atlantic Records.”

“At a time when traditional diplomacy is being upended, it’s ironic that foreign diplomats reside in some of the District’s most iconic buildings,” said Muraskin. “I still hope that embassies feel a sense of pride when they showcase [and protect] American history.” ■

**Natalie Jacobsen** is an author at the *Washington Diplomat*.



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# A LICENSE TO COLLECT: UNRAVELING THE OBSCURE HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC PLATES

By Larry Luxner

**P**residential motorcades, huge monuments and noisy political protests are all part of the fabric of life in Washington DC.

So are foreign diplomats and their license plates—which, like in any world capital, imply special privileges like immunity from speeding tickets and parking tickets.

Until the 1980s, individual states and the District of Columbia were responsible for issuing diplomatic license plates for embassies and consulates within their jurisdictions. Since then, however, only the federal government issues such plates.

The State Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) assigns random two-letter codes following the initial "D" for diplomat or "S" for embassy staff to specific countries. Generally, each country gets one code, but some—such as Israel—have various codes scattered throughout the alphabet to make them more difficult to identify.

*Veteran US diplomat and license plate collector Jonathan Moore holds up two of his prized possessions: one of the last plates issued to the US Embassy in Havana before the rupture of US-Cuba diplomatic ties in 1961, and a plate issued to American diplomatic personnel in Taiwan in the 1960s, long before Washington switched its allegiance to Beijing. Photo: Robert E. Birkenes*



Top row: Kuwait, Israel, Central American Parliament, Czech Republic, India. Second row: Zambia, Mauritania, Spain, Nepal and Switzerland. Third row: USA, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Canada, Lebanon. Fourth row: Texas (USA), Nicaragua, Guatemala, Belize, Arizona (USA).

The plates themselves are manufactured in Virginia—hence their similarity to Virginia plates in style and font—and diplomats must return all such plates to OMF’s Diplomatic Motor Vehicle Office when their assignment comes to an end.

OMF doesn’t publicize its embassy codes for obvious security reasons. Yet anyone who hangs around outside an embassy parking lot long enough can figure out which numbers are assigned to which countries.

But what about these so-called “diplo plates” as collectibles? In general, they’re much harder to find than normal passenger plates.

If one can collect rare art, stamps, coins, maps and autographs, why not those colorful little rectangular pieces of tin that have come to symbolize the ultimate in diplomatic privilege?

Actually, a handful of people do seek out these plates, myself included. But the hobby is so esoteric, there isn’t even a name for it. One of them is Daniel Morales-Bronner, a Colombian by birth who moved to the United States in 2002 and now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“I like these plates because they feel powerful,” says Morales-Bronner, who has about 40 diplo plates in his collection—a passion fueled more than 20 years ago when his mother landed a part-time job at the Austrian Embassy in Bogotá. Her car was assigned a blue non-diplomatic staff plate, “AT-0228.” When his mom left the job, she gave him that plate as a souvenir.

Since then, he’s acquired more diplomatic plates from Austria, Colombia, France, Panama, Germany and Switzerland.

### License plate collecting has its risky moments

Ross Day is archivist of the Virginia-based Automobile License Plate Collectors Association (ALPCA), which has about 3,000 active members in all 50 US states and 19 countries. He says most ALPCA members focus only on US and Canadian plates, with only a handful of others who collect non-North American tags.

“Their motivations are no different from their colleagues: an interest in license plate design and manufacture, a facility with non-Roman scripts, or an attraction to a plate’s historical and geopolitical context,” he said, explaining that collectors often have personal or professional interests in regions from where they collect.

Back in 1991, Day was detained by Syrian police while trying to photograph a license plate on a 1940s vintage Buick parked, of all places, in front of a police station in Damascus. After a friendly chat with the cop, Day was freed, but warned to be more careful when taking pictures.

Another time, Day spotted a military vehicle in Samarqand, an ancient city along the fabled Silk Road in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan. He had his wife pose nearby in hopes of getting a photo of the plate, drawing unwanted scrutiny from a young army recruit. Day was rescued by a more senior officer who assured his colleague that Western tourists were strange but harmless creatures.



Top row: France, Israel. Second row: Bosnia, Greece. Third row: Albania, India. Fourth row: Serbia, Moldova. Fifth row: Slovenia, Spain. Sixth row: Israel, Russia. Seventh row: Pakistan, Rwanda. Bottom row: Afghanistan, Saharawi People’s Democratic Republic.

“Worldwide, the notion of preserving—let alone collecting—license plates is, well, foreign. And there is always the possibility of restrictions on the possession or export of license plates, which may be considered ‘government property,’” he said. “For me as the club’s archivist-cum-historian, my interest is both academic and personal.”

My own collection of 675 plates includes roughly 60 issued to foreign diplomats. These include heavy cast plates from the 1960s issued to US Embassy staff in Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, as well as a communist-era Albanian plate picked up during my second visit to that Balkan country in 1992.

### Every license plate tells a story

In addition, I have diplo plates from Afghanistan to Zaire and many countries in between—including Bosnia, Burundi, Cambodia, Guyana, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia and Slovakia. Also in the collection: consular tags from four Australian states (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia), and two US states (Texas and Arizona).

Some of these plates were free for the asking, and others cost \$100 or more, though more often than not, I’ve traded plates I don’t need for ones I really want.

Outside the United States, nearly all diplo plates contain the letters “CD” or “CC,” making them relatively easy to identify. Throughout Central America, they often bear the letters “MI” for *misión internacional*, and in Israel, diplo plates almost always end in “22.”

A few are exceedingly rare, such as Andorra, given that this little microstate in the Pyrenees has only two embassies: that of France and Spain.

My two oldest diplo plates are from Spain (1955) and Guatemala (1957), while one of my most unusual is “C.D. - 4” from Belize. This hand-painted plate once belonged to Bruce Pearson, a former US diplomat stationed in that English-speaking country who is now enjoying his retirement in New Mexico.

### An unusual breed: Diplomats who collect diplo plates

Ambassadors are, of course, a great source for exotic license plates.

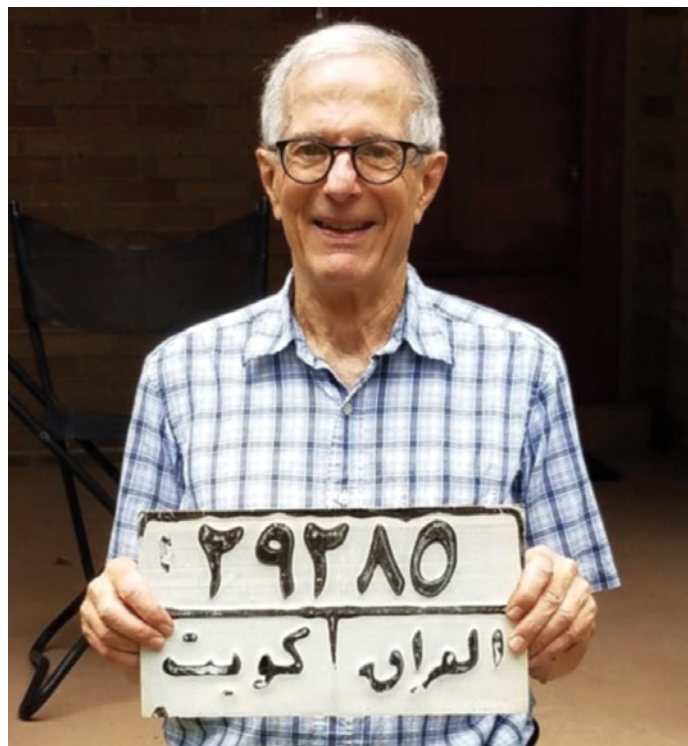
Jonathan Moore, a former US diplomat now living in the northern Virginia suburbs, has been collecting since the age of 7, when he found two old plates at his grandmother’s house.

“I decided to keep them, and gradually found more and more plates,” he said. “Then I started learning about international plates, and was fascinated by the fact that unlike “NJ” for New Jersey, for example, you had to learn the color combinations and letters to decipher what they were and where they were from.”

Moore eventually specialized in the following: diplomatic plates, those issued in 1966—his birth year—plates from Denmark and the former Yugoslavia, and early Chinese porcelain issues.

A diplomatic career eventually took Moore to Africa and the Balkans, where he served in Namibia, Serbia, Lithuania, Belarus and Bosnia & Herzegovina. In Bosnia, Moore was also ambassador and head of mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Moore says his collection today consists of around 500 plates, including such rarities as a pair of Vatican plates from the 1930s, a US consular plate from Jerusalem dating from the late 1940s or early 1950s and bearing the Stars and Stripes, and diplomatic issues from Equatorial Guinea, North Korea, Sudan, Iran and Yemen. Among his gems: a #88 plate from



David Mack, former US ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, holds up the “souvenir” he picked up in 1991 during an official tour to Kuwait after Iraq’s defeat in the first Gulf War. Saddam Hussein had issued these license plates for Kuwait, which he considered the 19th province of Iraq. But the Kuwaitis hated them and destroyed as many as possible—making these plates a rarity highly sought by collectors. Photo: Victor Shible

the remote Pacific island of Nauru, and the #1 plate issued by Australia's Northern Territory.

"Since then, I've culled the collection a bit," he said. "I had close to 6,000 plates at my parents' home in Illinois, but when they passed away, I couldn't move them all and thought it was time to downsize."

David Mack, the former US envoy to the United Arab Emirates, picked up a particularly rare specimen in 1991 during an official tour to Kuwait following Iraq's defeat in the first Gulf War. Saddam Hussein had issued these plates for Kuwait—which he considered the 19th province of Iraq. But the Kuwaitis hated them and destroyed as many of them as possible—making the one Mack recently gave me a rarity highly sought by collectors.

But some plates are simply too valuable to be given away.

One such example is "26 53," the square black Libyan plate with Arabic script that had graced the diplomatic vehicle of former US Ambassador Joseph Palmer. In November 1972, Palmer was recalled to Washington after a young Col. Muammar Qaddafi closed US air bases in Libya and partially nationalized foreign oil companies. When diplomatic relations were finally restored 35 years later—in 2007—the State Department sent Gene Cretz to reopen the embassy in Tripoli.



Gene Cretz, former US ambassador to Libya, displays the diplomatic license plate and flag that graced the car of the last American ambassador in Tripoli, Joseph Palmer, who left in 1972.

Photo: Larry Luxner

Two years later, the *Washington Diplomat* interviewed Cretz during a reporting trip to Libya. At the end of our meeting, Cretz proudly took the souvenir from a desk drawer and held it up for a quick photo. But it was obvious this plate wasn't leaving the embassy; it's a relic of history.

## Germany's quirky little plate museum

According to *Registration Plates of the World*—the online Bible of all serious international plate collectors—the first country in the world to issue license plates for automobiles was France, in 1893. The first US plates were issued in 1901. Unfortunately, nobody knows when the first diplomatic license plates appeared, or in which country.

Perhaps it was inevitable that sooner or later, someone would open a license-plate museum. The sleepy German hamlet of Großolbersdorf—about 20 kilometers from what in communist times was the border between East Germany and Czechoslovakia—boasts exactly that: an enormous museum dedicated exclusively to license plates.

The three-story former factory building contains 350 square meters of huge wooden vertical panels packed with license plates. Founded in 2001 by veteran collector Sven Rost, the museum features 5,000 plates (only a small fraction of the collection's total size), representing every country and jurisdiction on Earth.

Among the more unusual items on display here: an official "0-001" plate used by Theodor Heuss, the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany—one of only two known to exist. There's also a green-on-yellow Tunisian diplomatic plate—"PLO-1-CD"—assigned to the Embassy of Palestine in Tunis.

"I always call this a transportation museum for the whole family, but without vehicles," said Rost, who began saving plates in 1984 and charges visitors a nominal €2.20 admission fee. "Everything you see here is 99.9% from my private collection."

## The Dutch diplo plate collector king

Some collectors have turned their homes into mini-museums, while others have put their collections online, such as Bart Bartholomeus, who has about 190 diplo plates from 83 countries.

"Around 1986, my aunt moved from Belgium to the Netherlands and she gave me my first foreign license plate to hang on the wall," said the 56-year-old Dutchman, a facility manager at a local pharmaceutical warehouse.

One day, Bartholomeus spotted a car with Alberta plates at a local repair shop and left a note on the windshield asking for them. A few weeks later, he received six Canadian plates from that Good Samaritan—and that started him on the road to serious collecting. Eventually he decided to focus only on Dutch and diplomatic plates.



Dutch collector Bart Bartholomeus holds up a Mexican diplomatic plate, one of 190 such plates in his collection.

Throughout the years, Bartholomeus has employed a clever method for expanding his collection: he simply asks Dutch diplomats overseas for their plates when their assignment ends.

“Back in the early ‘90s, in the pre-Internet era, I wrote to Dutch embassies in foreign countries, explaining about my collection. Most of the time, I was told that it was impossible, but sometimes I received nice plates by mail. Now that we have Internet, searching and contacting embassies is a little easier, but obtaining diplomatic plates is still not so easy. It’s a matter of contacting the right person at the right time—and assuming that person understands my hobby and trusts that I won’t use the plates illegally.”

His favorite plates: a CD specimen from Burkina Faso, where a friend of his father lived for 20 years, and another from Sudan, which came from a Dutch TV news reporter who had picked it up during an African assignment; after his death, the reporter’s son gave it to Bartholomeus.

## A passionate collector in Australia

It’s much the same story in Australia, home of internationally known collector Jim Gordon.

“Living in and around Canberra, Australia’s national capital, meant a constant exposure to diplomatic plates,” said Gordon, who has 6,200 plates (including 100 diplo tags) from 60 countries. “They were grey on maroon and this color was specifically chosen as there were no other plates of this color in Australia, making them very easy to spot.”

The 66-year-old geologist, who now resides in Western Australia, got into the hobby after registering his first car with the local motor vehicle office. There, while at the inspection area, he noticed a huge collection of plates displayed on the wall, including dozens of diplomatic plates donated by returning Aussie diplomats who had served in embassies around the world.

“I was captivated by these displays and set out on the path to get my own collection,” Gordon told us. “By trading with the blokes at the registry, I was able to get my own Australian Capital Territory (ACT) diplomatic plates, and a trickle of overseas ones.”

Gordon “got proactive and creative” by sending letters to every Australian embassy and high commission around the globe, asking for plates.

“I soon discovered the plate collecting fraternity and clubs with like-minded individuals, and I was on my way,” he said. “Forty years on, I’m still going strong.” ■

*Miami native **Larry Luxner**, a veteran journalist and photographer, has reported from more than 100 countries in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia for a variety of news outlets. He lived for many years in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Washington, D.C., area before relocating to Israel in January 2017. Larry has been news editor of The Washington Diplomat since 2005.*



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# NATIONAL DAYS

1 January	Cuba	Liberation Day/ Día de la Liberación	22 May	Yemen	Independence Day
1 January	Haiti	Independence Day	23 May	Bermuda	Bermuda Day
4 January	Myanmar	Independence Day	24 May	Bermuda	Independence Day
26 January	Australia	Australia Day	24 May	Eritrea	Independence Day
31 January	Nauru	Independence Day	25 May	Jordan	Independence Day
4 February	Sri Lanka	Independence Day	26 May	Georgia	Independence Day
6 February	New Zealand	Waitangi Day	26 May	Guyana	National Day
7 February	Grenada	Independence Day	28 May	Azerbaijan	Independence Day
10 February	Iran	Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution	28 May	Ethiopia	Derg Downfall Day
11 February	Japan	National Foundation Day	30 May	Croatia	National Day
15-16 February	Serbia	National Day	1 June	Samoa	Independence Day
16 February	Lithuania	Independence Day	2 June	Italy	Republic Day / Festa della Repubblica
17 February	Kosovo	Independence Day	5 June	Denmark	Constitution Day
18 February	The Gambia	Independence Day	6 June	Sweden	National Day
23 February	Brunei	National Day	10 June	Portugal	Portugal Day
24 February	Estonia	Independence Day	12 June	Philippines	Independence Day
25 February	Kuwait	National Day	12 June	Russia	Russia Day
27 February	Dominican Republic	Independence Day	17 June	Iceland	National Day
1 March	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Independence Day	23 June	Luxembourg	Grand Duke's Official Birthday
3 March	Bulgaria	Liberation Day	25 June	Mozambique	Independence Day
6 March	Ghana	Independence Day	25 June	Slovenia	Independence Day
12 March	Mauritius	National Day	26 June	Madagascar	Independence Day
15 March	Hungary	National Day	27 June	Djibouti	Independence Day
17 March	Ireland	Saint Patrick's Day	29 June	Seychelles	National Day
18 March	Aruba	National Day	30 June	Democratic Republic of Congo	Independence Day
20 March	Tunisia	Independence Day	1 July	Burundi	Independence Day
21 March	Namibia	Independence Day	1 July	Canada	Canada Day
25 March	Greece	Independence Day	1 July	Rwanda	Independence Day
26 March	Bangladesh	Independence Day	1 July	Somalia	Republic Day
4 April	Senegal	Independence Day	3 July	Belarus	Independence Day
17 April	Syria	Independence Day	4 July	United States	Independence Day
18 April	Zimbabwe	Independence Day	5 July	Algeria	Independence Day
27 April	Sierra Leone	Independence Day	5 July	Venezuela	Independence Day
27 April	South Africa	National Freedom Day	5 July	Cabo Verde	Independence Day
27 April	Togo	Independence Day	6 July	Comoros	National Day
22 April (2026)	Israel	Independence Day (Yom Haatzmaut)	6 July	Malawi	Independence Day
1 May	Marshall Islands	Constitution Day	7 July	Solomon Islands	Independence Day
9 May	European Union	Europe Day	9 July	Argentina	Independence Day
14 May	Paraguay	Independence Day	9 July	South Sudan	Independence Day
17 May	Norway	National Day	10 July	Bahamas	Independence Day
20 May	Cameroon	Independence Day	12 July	São Tomé & Príncipe	Independence Day
20 May	East Timor	Independence Restoration Day	14 July	France	National Day
21-22 May	Montenegro	Independence Day	17 July	Slovakia	Anniversary of the Declaration of Sovereignty of the Slovak Republic

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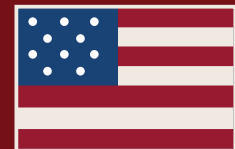
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20 July	Colombia	Independence Day	1 October	Nigeria	Independence Day
21 July	Belgium	National Day	2 October	Guinea	Independence Day
23 July	Egypt	Revolution Day	3 October	Germany	Day of German Unity
26 July	Liberia	Independence Day	3 October	Iraq	National Day
28 July	Peru	Fiestas Patrias	4 October	Lesotho	Independence Day
1 August	Benin	Independence Day	9 October	Uganda	Independence Day
1 August	Switzerland	National Day	10 October	Fiji	Independence Day
3 August	Niger	Independence Day	10 October	Taiwan	National Day
5 August	Burkina Faso	National Day		Republic of China	
6 August	Bolivia	National Day	12 October	Equatorial Guinea	Independence Day
6 August	Jamaica	Independence Day			
7 August	Cote d'Ivoire	Independence Day	12 October	Spain	National Day
9 August	Singapore	National Day	24 October	Zambia	Independence Day
10 August	Ecuador	Independence Day	26 October	Austria	National Day
11 August	Chad	Independence Day	27 October	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Independence Day
13 August	Central African Republic	Independence Day			
14 August	Pakistan	Independence Day	28 October	Czech Republic	National Day
15 August	Republic of Congo	National Day	29 October	Türkiye	Republic Day
15 August	India	Independence Day	1 November	Antigua and Barbuda	Independence Day
15 August	Republic of Korea	Liberation Day			
15 August	Liechtenstein	National Day	3 November	Dominica	Independence Day
16 August	Gabon	Independence Day	3 November	Micronesia	Independence Day
17 August	Indonesia	Independence Day	4 November	Tonga	National Day
19 August	Afghanistan	Independence Day	9 November	Cambodia	Independence Day
24 August	Ukraine	Independence Day	11 November	Angola	Independence Day
24 August (2025)	Maldives	National Day	11 November	Poland	Independence Day
25 August	Uruguay	Independence Day	15 November	Palestine	Independence Day
27 August	Moldova	Independence Day	18 November	Oman	Birthday of Sultan Qaboos
31 August	Kyrgyzstan	Independence Day			
31 August	Malaysia	Independence Day / Malaysia Day	18 November	Latvia	Independence Day
31 August	Trinidad & Tobago	Independence Day	18 November	Morocco	Independence Day
1 September	Uzbekistan	Independence Day	19 November	Monaco	National Day
2 September	Vietnam	Independence Day	20 November (2025)	Oman	National Day
3 September	San Marino	National Holiday and Foundation of the Republic	22 November	Lebanon	Independence Day
6 September	Eswatini	Somhlolo Day	25 November	Suriname	Independence Day
7 September	Brazil	Somhlolo Day	25 November	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Statehood Day
8 September	North Macedonia	Independence Day			
8 September	Andorra	National Day	28 November	Albania	Flag and Independence Day
9 September	Tajikistan	Independence Day	28 November	Mauritania	Independence Day
9 September	North Korea	Foundation Day	28 November	Panama	Independence Day
15 September	Costa Rica	Independence Day	30 November	Barbados	Independence Day
15 September	El Salvador	Independence Day	1 December	Romania	Great Union Day / Unification Day
15 September	Guatemala	Independence Day			
15 September	Honduras	Independence Day	2 December	Lao	National Day
15 September	Nicaragua	Independence Day	2 December	United Arab Emirates	National Day
16 September	Mexico	Independence Day			
16 September	Papua New Guinea	Independence Day	5 December	Thailand	Anniversary of Birthday H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej
18 September	Chile	Independence Day			
19 September	St. Kitts & Nevis	Independence Day	5 December	Thailand	National Holiday
19 September	Nepal	Constitution Day	December	Finland	Independence Day
21 September	Armenia	Independence Day	9 December	Tanzania	Independence Day
21 September	Belize	Independence Day	12 December	Kenya	Jamhuri Day
21 September	Malta	Independence Day	16 December	Bahrain	Independence Day
22 September	Mali	Independence Day	16 December	Kazakhstan	Independence Day
23 September	Saudi Arabia	National Day	16-17 December	Bahrain	National Day
24 September	Guinea-Bissau	Independence Day	17 December	Bhutan	National Day
27 September	Turkmenistan	Independence Day	18 December	Niger	Republic Day
30 September	Botswana	Independence Day	18 December	Qatar	National Day
1 October	China	National Day	24 December	Libya	Independence Day
1 October	Cyprus	Independence Day	29 December	Mongolia	Independence Day

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# WOMEN AMBASSADORS

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<b>Brazil</b>	Ambassador <b>Maria Luiza Viotti</b>
<b>Canada</b>	Ambassador <b>Kirsten Hillman</b>
<b>Chad</b>	Ambassador <b>Leónie Kitoko Gata Ngolou</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Ambassador <b>Catalina Crespo Sancho</b>
<b>Cuba</b>	Ambassador <b>Lianys Torres Rivera</b>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Ambassador <b>Maria Isabel Castillo Báez</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	Ambassador <b>Milena Mayorga Valera</b>
<b>Finland</b>	Ambassador <b>Leena-Kaisa Mikkola</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	Ambassador <b>Tamar Taliashvili</b>
<b>Greece</b>	Ambassador <b>Ekaterini Nassika</b>
<b>Guinea</b>	Ambassador <b>Fatoumata Kaba</b>
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Ambassador <b>Maria Da Conceição Nobre Carbral</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	Ambassador <b>Svanhildur Hólm Valsdóttir</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	Ambassador <b>Geraldine Byrne Nason</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	Ambassador <b>Dina Kawar</b>
<b>Kuwait</b>	Ambassador <b>Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Naser Al-Saud Al-Sabah</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	Ambassador <b>Elita Kuzma</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	Ambassador <b>Nada Hamadeh</b>
<b>Lithuania</b>	Ambassador <b>Audra Plepyté</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Ambassador <b>Nicole Bintner-Bakshian</b>
<b>Madagascar</b>	Ambassador <b>Lantsoa Rakotomalala</b>
<b>Malawi</b>	Ambassador <b>Justice Esme Jynet Chombo</b>
<b>Mauritania</b>	Ambassador <b>Cissé Mint Cheikh Ould Boide</b>
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<b>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	Ambassador <b>Jacinth Henry-Martin</b>
<b>St. Lucia</b>	Ambassador <b>Elizabeth Darius-Clarke</b>
<b>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</b>	Ambassador <b>Lou-Anne Gaylene Gilchrist</b>
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Ambassador <b>Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud</b>
<b>Spain</b>	Ambassador <b>Ángeles Moreno Bau</b>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Ambassador <b>Elsie Sia Kanza</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	Ambassador <b>Hanène Tajouri Bessassi</b>
<b>Uganda</b>	Ambassador <b>Robinah (Robie) Kakonge</b>
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# EMBASSY DIRECTORY

Putting together a comprehensive and standardized directory of all foreign ambassadors to the United States is a daunting task. To accomplish this, we had to call each embassy to get CVs and photos, then condense the information into one-paragraph biographies in a tightly written, consistent manner.

Much of this information can already be found scattered all over the internet, but it is neither consistent nor complete. For example, ambassadors' names can take different styles. Questions abound, such as how to address an ambassador who's also a monarch, like Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Naser Al-Saud Al-Sabah of Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia's Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud.

The structures of names vary according to region. In Latin America, the mother's maiden name becomes a person's "segundo apellido," or second last name, but that's often dropped on second reference or not used at all. For example, María

Isabel Castillo Báez of the Dominican Republic is referred to "Ambassador Castillo" – omitting "Báez." Likewise, in Asian countries names may be reversed. For example, Cambodian Ambassador Koy might be listed as "Koy Kuong," even though "Koy" is his last name.

Some publications have offered abbreviated versions of a directory, but they are not nearly as extensive as ours. We took on this challenge to compile embassy listings and other useful information into the best directory of its kind you will ever find. With that in mind, please remember that no directory will ever be 100% accurate. By press time, some ambassadors will have left their posts, a few embassies may have moved, and other details could be outdated.

For that reason, we promise to update this directly annually. If you see an error, please notify us at [directory@washdiplomat.com](mailto:directory@washdiplomat.com). We will immediately publish corrections online.

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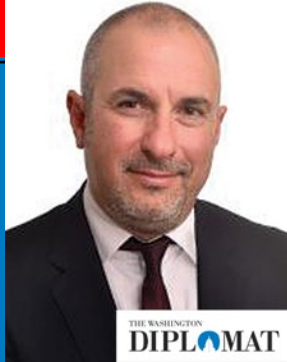
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# EMBASSY DIRECTORY



ALBANIA



Ambassador  
**Ervin Bushati**

## Embassy of Albania

2100 S Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Tel: +1 202 223-4942 | Email: [embassy.washington@mfa.gov.al](mailto:embassy.washington@mfa.gov.al)

Ervin Bushati took over in July 2023 as Albania's ambassador to the US, replacing Floreta Faber, who had been in the position for eight years.

A business graduate of Chicago's DePaul University, Bushati—born in 1975—founded and managed a construction firm in Tirana, Albania's capital, for 12 years before winning election to Tirana's Municipal Council. A rising star in the Socialist Party, Bushati was secretary of the party's Economic Council (2012-16), and later chaired the Albanian-USA Friendship Group (2017-21).

A member of Albania's Parliament from 2013 to 2021 (and secretary of that body's Socialist Party group from 2017 to 2021), Bushati also headed the Socialist Party of Tirana as well as Albania's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Bushati said the reason he got into politics was "my passion for social justice, making a tangible difference in the community, and resolving people's problems."

Besides the embassy itself, Bushati oversees two consulates—one in Washington and one in New York—as well as three honorary consulates in Atlanta, Dallas and Detroit.



ALGERIA



Ambassador  
**Sabri  
Boukadoum**

## Embassy of Algeria

2118 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20008

Tel: +1 202 265-2800 | Email: [mail@algerianembassy.org](mailto:mail@algerianembassy.org)

Sabri Boukadoum, Algeria's new ambassador to the United States, has an unusual claim to fame: for nine days in December 2019, he was acting prime minister of his vast North African nation.

Boukadoum, 65, was born in the eastern city of Constantine, nearly four years before Algeria declared independence from France. He graduated from the École nationale d'administration, and his first diplomatic post was first secretary at the Algerian Embassy in Budapest (1987-88).

Later assignments included counselor at the UN in New York (1988-92); director for political affairs, the UN and disarmament at Algeria's Foreign Ministry (1993-96); ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire (1996-2001); chief of protocol (2001-05), and ambassador to Portugal (2005-09).

After a later stint as Algeria's permanent representative to the UN and his brief stint as acting prime minister, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune named Boukadoum foreign minister.

Among other things, Boukadoum has worked to ensure peace in neighboring Libya and access to vaccines in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Married with two children, Boukadoum speaks fluent Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.



ANGOLA



Ambassador  
**Agostinho  
Van-Dúnem**

## Embassy of Angola

2100-2108 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Tel: +1 202 785-1156 | Email: [info@angola.org](mailto:info@angola.org)

Agostinho Van-Dúnem has replaced Joaquim do Espírito Santo as Angola's ambassador to the US. Before coming to Washington, Van-Dúnem was a member of Parliament in the Angolan National Assembly, holding the positions of vice-president of the Committee of Foreign Relations and member of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

Van-Dúnem began his career in 1998 as a senior diplomatic assistant for the presidency, working there for nearly 10 years. He's also been affiliated with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) since 1992.

The new ambassador has a bachelor's degree in political and cultural international relations from Portugal's University of Minho; he also has an MBA and a master's degree in governance and public management.

In addition to his native Portuguese, the married father of two speaks Spanish and English.



Ambassador  
**Sir Ronald  
Sanders**

## Embassy of Antigua & Barbuda

3234 Prospect Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007  
Tel: +1 202 362-5122 | Email: embantbar@aol.com

Sir Ronald Sanders has represented Antigua & Barbuda as ambassador to the US since 2015.

A seasoned diplomat, businessman and academic, Sanders served for separate periods in 2016 and 2021 as president of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. He also chaired the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) against drug trafficking and money laundering (2003-04) and served on the executive board of UNESCO (1985-87).

Sanders was twice Antigua's high commissioner to the UK. In 2004, he earned the distinction of being the only representative of a small state to lead an arbitration case at the WTO and win. He's also negotiated tax and investment agreements with the US, Britain, Australia and China.

A former visiting fellow at Oxford University, Sanders holds a master's in international relations from the University of Sussex and is the author of "Crumbled Small: The Commonwealth Caribbean in World Politics" (London, 2005).

Sanders writes a regular column in leading Caribbean newspapers and is frequently interviewed by the BBC, Caribbean News Agency and other media outlets.



Ambassador  
**Alejandro  
Oxenford**

## Embassy of Argentina

1600 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009  
Tel: +1 202 238-6400 | Email: eeuu@mrecic.gov.ar

Alejandro Oxenford is Argentina's new ambassador to the US, taking over from Gerardo Werthein, who held the job from April to October 2024 before being named foreign minister by President Javier Milei.

An experienced entrepreneur, investor and arts patron, Oxenford, 56, has an MBA from Harvard Business School as well as a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Catholic University of Argentina. The political appointee is fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

In 2014, Fortune magazine called Oxenford a "CEO rock star of sorts" in South America. Among other things, he founded the eCommerce platform DeRemate—which was later sold to eBay—as well as New York-based OLX targeting Brazil, India and Eastern Europe, and letgo, a mobile classified ad app for the US market.

Before his tech ventures, Oxenford was a senior executive with Boston Consulting Group. He supports Argentine artists and institutions through the Oxenford Collection. Among other things, he belongs to the Argentine President's Advisory Council and the Economic Advisory Council at Torcuato Di Tella University; he also sits on the board of Endeavor Argentina.



Ambassador  
**Narek Mkrtchyan**

## Embassy of Armenia

2225 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: +1 202 319-1976 | Email: armembassyusa@mfa.am

Narek Mkrtchyan has been named Armenia's ambassador to the United States, replacing Lilit Makunts, who had served here since January 2021. Makunts will be chief adviser to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, following the Aug. 8, 2025, signing of a peace accord between Armenia and arch-rival Azerbaijan.

Mkrtchyan, born in 1987 in the Armenian town of Parakar, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history at Yerevan State University (YSU). He also has a master's in political science and international relations from the American University of Armenia (AUA), as well as a PhD in world history from YSU.

Fluent in Russian and English in addition to his native Armenian, Mkrtchyan has been an assistant professor and lecturer at both AUA and YSU. From 2018 to 2021, he was a member of Armenia's parliament, and from 2021 until his current appointment, he served as minister of labor and social affairs.

In January 2025, Mkrtchyan attended President Trump's inaugural reception in his capacity as foreign relations chief of the Civil Contract party.



Ambassador  
**Kevin Michael  
Rudd**

### Embassy of Australia

1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: +1 202 797-3000 | Email: media.us@dfat.gov.au

Kevin Michael Rudd, a longtime Labor Party politician and Australia’s 26th prime minister (from 2007 to 2010, and then again briefly in 2013), now represents his country as ambassador to the United States.

On the job since March 2023, Rudd was born in Nambour, Queensland. He graduated with honors in Asian studies from Australian National University and received his PhD from Oxford in 2022. He also studied at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, and is fluent in Mandarin.

Rudd started his diplomatic career in 1981 with postings to Beijing and Stockholm. In 1988, he was appointed chief of staff to Queensland Premier Wayne Goss. He was director-general of Queensland’s Cabinet Office (1991-95) and senior China consultant for KMPG (1996-98) before joining Australia’s Parliament, where he served from 1998 to 2013.

Since leaving government, Rudd has resided in the US, where he’s considered a leading China analyst. In 2015, he became inaugural president of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York; in 2020, he was appointed president and CEO of the Asia Society globally, and in 2022, he founded the Asia Society Policy Institute’s Center for China Analysis.

Rudd is accompanied on this posting by his wife, Thérèse Rein.



Ambassador  
**Petra  
Schneebauer**

### Embassy of Austria

3524 International Court NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: +1 202 895-6700 | Email: washington-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Petra Schneebauer, Austria’s new ambassador to the US, was born in Wels and studied at both the University of Vienna and the University of Salzburg. A lawyer by profession who also has a doctorate in philosophy, Schneebauer began her diplomatic career in 1993 as an intern at the European Commission in Brussels.

Assigned to Austria’s United Nations mission in New York (1997-2001), Schneebauer helped coordinate her country’s first EU presidency in 1998. Among her other overseas appointments was Austria’s consul-general in Zürich, Switzerland (2007-11) and ambassador to Malta (2011-15). She then headed the Consular Crisis Center (2015-17), where her duties included the timely update of travel advice as well as assisting Austrian victims of terrorist attacks and natural disasters abroad.

In December 2017, Schneebauer became director-general for consular affairs at Austria’s Foreign Ministry. One of her greatest challenges was coordinating 36 repatriation flights during the pandemic in early 2020. She also led the ministry’s task force to combat human trafficking.

The new ambassador is fluent in German, English, French and Italian; she also speaks some Spanish and Russian.



Ambassador  
**Khazar Ibrahim**

### Embassy of Azerbaijan

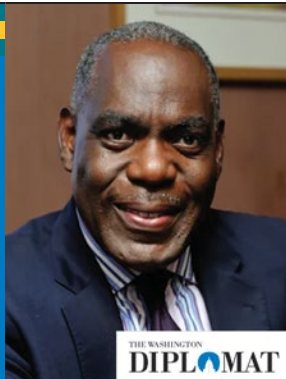
2741 34th Street NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: +1 202 337-3500 | Email: azerbaijan@azembassy.us

Khazar Ibrahim is Baku’s new ambassador in Washington as of July 26, 2021. He replaced Elin Suleymanov, who had the job for 10 years before being reassigned to London on July 26, 2021.

Ibrahim previously served at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Washington from 2002 to 2005—where his portfolio included political, military and public diplomacy issues—then came back from 2009 to 2011 as deputy chief of mission. He was also a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as head of his country’s mission to NATO until 2017, and then ambassador to Turkey for the four years preceding his appointment to Washington.

Ibrahim has a master’s degree in international relations from Baku State University, and another master’s in security studies from Washington’s Georgetown University. He also attended senior courses at the NATO Defense College in Rome (2000-01).

He is married and has one son and three daughters.



Ambassador  
**Wendall Kermith  
Jones**

## Embassy of the Bahamas

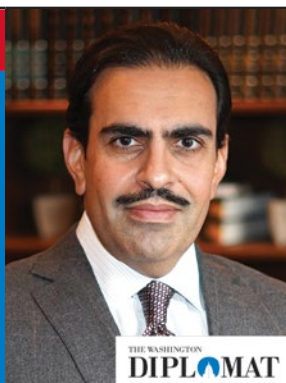
600 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Suite #530, Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: +1 202 319-2660 | Email: [embassy@bahamasembdc.org](mailto:embassy@bahamasembdc.org)

Wendall K. Jones, who replaced Sidney S. Collie in March 2022 as ambassador of the Bahamas to the United States, is a prominent journalist and CEO of Jones Communications International Ltd. (JCI), which owns Radio Love 97 FM, JCN-TV Channel 14 and a book publishing venture.

Jones, who studied at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, began his journalism career with the Broadcasting Corp. of the Bahamas in 1972, and later worked at WTVJ-Channel 4 in Miami and the Voice of America in Washington. Among other things, he's published a locally bestselling book, "The 100 Most Outstanding Bahamians of the 20th Century" as well as its companion, "Bahamian Legends" Volumes I and II.

As a broadcaster, Jones has hosted two popular current-affairs radio and TV programs, "Jones and Company" and "Issues of the Day," and has interviewed several famous people including Margaret Thatcher and Gen. Colin Powell.

The ambassador enjoys reading, painting and playing piano in his leisure time.



Ambassador  
**Shaikh Abdulla  
bin Rashid bin  
Abdulla Al Khalifa**

## Embassy of Bahrain

3502 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: +1 202 342-1111 | Email: [ambsecretary@bahrainembassy.org](mailto:ambsecretary@bahrainembassy.org)

In June 2017, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa appointed Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa as the island nation's ambassador to the United States.

Abdulla obtained a bachelor's degree from Boston's Bentley University, later earning an MBA from that same institution as well as a certificate from Harvard's Kennedy School focusing on innovation in governance.

In 2010, he was named governor of Bahrain's Southern Governorate, by far the largest of the country's four governorates. As such, he launched a partnership with the US nonprofit organization DARE to develop an anti-violence and anti-addiction program run by police officers in elementary and secondary schools. The initiative would later be transformed into a national program sponsored by Bahrain's National Anti-Drug Committee.

In 2007, Abdulla was elected vice president of the Asian Shooting Confederation, and also served on the Bahrain Olympic Committee from 2008 to 2017. In addition, he was president of the Asian Bodybuilding Federation.



Ambassador  
**Tareq Mohammad  
Ariful Islam**

## Embassy of Bangladesh

3510 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel +1 202 244-0183 | Email: [mission.washington@mofa.gov.bd](mailto:mission.washington@mofa.gov.bd)

Tareq Mohammad Ariful Islam has been named to fill the long-vacant position as Bangladesh's ambassador to the US. He replaces Asad Alam Siam, who was appointed foreign secretary.

Ariful, a career diplomat, joined his country's foreign service in 1998. He served as first secretary and later counselor at the Bangladeshi permanent mission to the UN in New York (2005-09). He then was a counselor at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata, India (2009-12).

In November 2020, he became deputy permanent representative at the UN mission in New York. He later served as Bangladesh's high commissioner to Sri Lanka, succeeding Mohammad Sufur Rahman in the UN role.

Since June 2024, Ariful had been Dhaka's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

With 175 million people, Bangladesh—roughly the size of Iowa—is one of the world's most crowded countries, and ranks eighth in population worldwide.



BARBADOS



Ambassador  
**Victor Anthony Fernandes**

## Embassy of Barbados

2144 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

Tel: +1 202 939-9200 | Email: [washington@foreign.gov.bb](mailto:washington@foreign.gov.bb)

Veteran broadcaster Victor Anthony Fernandes will represent Barbados—an Eastern Caribbean island of 282,000 people—as its new ambassador in Washington.

His career in radio and TV began at the age of 17. Fernandes became deputy general manager of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corp. before heading Starcom Network’s predecessor, the Barbados Rediffusion Group. In 2006, after Fernandes was named CEO of One Caribbean Media, he started acquiring stations on nearby islands, creating the Caribbean SuperStation network—a regional first.

Fernandes was the longest serving president of the 20-member Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), holding the post from 1991 to 1999 and again from 2003 to 2013. During that period, he introduced hallmark events such as the annual Caribbean Broadcasting Awards in 1995; he also established the CBU satellite uplink as well as Caribbean Media Corp.

Fernandes was inducted into the CBU Caribbean Media Hall of Fame in 2004, and won a Silver Crown of Merit in the 2014 Barbados Independence Awards for his “invaluable contribution made over the last 40 years in the radio and television industry.”



BELARUS

Chargé d’affaires  
**Pavel Shidlovsky**

## Embassy of Belarus

1619 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009

Tel: +1 202 986-1606 | Email: [usa@mfa.gov.by](mailto:usa@mfa.gov.by)



BELGIUM



Ambassador  
**Frédéric Bernard**

## Embassy of Belgium

1430 K Street NW, Suite #101, Washington, DC 20005

Tel: +1 202 333-6900 | Email: [washington@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:washington@diplobel.fed.be)

Frédéric Bernard, the former chief of staff to European Council President Charles Michel, has replaced Jean-Arthur Régibeau as Belgium’s ambassador to the United States.

As head of cabinet for Michel from 2020 to 2024, Bernard helped shaped positions of the 27-member EU at the highest level. Before that, he was sherpa for the EU, and he also worked closely with Michel during his tenure as Belgium’s prime minister as diplomatic advisor for European affairs.

Prior to this, he was coordinator for external action at Belgium’s mission to the EU (2013-17), managing the country’s official positions on EU enlargement and the Western Balkans.

A career diplomat, Bernard joined Belgium’s Foreign Ministry in 2006, and was soon posted to Senegal as first secretary of the Belgian Embassy in Dakar (2007-09). He holds a specialized degree in European affairs from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a master’s degree in history from the Université de Liège. He also studied at Germany’s Universität Bayreuth.

The ambassador is fluent in French, English and Dutch, and enjoys field hockey, carpentry and playing the piano.

# EMBASSY APPENDIX

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Burkina Faso		Korea (South)		Sierra Leone	
Burundi	52	Kosovo	75	Singapore	98
Cabo Verde		Kuwait		Slovakia	
Cambodia		Kyrgyzstan		Slovenia	
Cameroon	53	Laos	76	Somalia	99
Canada		Latvia		South Africa	
Central African Republic		Lebanon		South Sudan	
Chad	54	Lesotho	78	Spain	100
Chile		Liberia		Sri Lanka	
China		Libya		Sudan	
Colombia	55	Liechtenstein	79	Suriname	101
Congo, Dem. Rep. Of		Lithuania		Sweden	
Republic Of Congo		Luxembourg		Switzerland	
Costa Rica	56	Madagascar	80	Tajikistan	102
Côte D'ivoire		Malawi		Tanzania	
Croatia		Malaysia	81	Thailand	
Cuba	57	Maldives		Timor-Leste	103
Cyprus		Mali	82	Togo	
Czech Republic		Malta		Trinidad & Tobago	
Denmark	58	Marshall Islands		Tunisia	104
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Ecuador		Micronesia	84	Ukraine	
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El Salvador	60	Monaco		United Kingdom	106
Equatorial Guinea		Mongolia	86	Uruguay	
Eritrea		Montenegro		Uzbekistan	
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Finland		Nepal		Zimbabwe	109
France		Netherlands			
Gabon	63	New Zealand	89		
The Gambia		Nicaragua			
Georgia		Niger			



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