



July 2026 Newsletter



Dr. Liane Hentschke
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

Greetings from the Tennessee World Affairs Council. As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we have an opportunity to reflect not only on America's history but also on the values that continue to shape our future.

On a personal note, becoming an American citizen in 2022 was one of the proudest moments of my life. Before making the United States my home, I lived in two other countries and traveled extensively through my academic and international work. Those experiences allowed me to witness very different realities, communities affected by poverty, political and religious persecution, limited educational opportunities, and children suffering from malnutrition. They also introduced me to remarkable people whose resilience in the face of hardship left a lasting impression.

Living in the United States has reminded me that many of the things we take for granted every day are privileges that millions of people around the world still hope to attain. According to the World Bank and the United Nations, hundreds of millions of people still lack access to clean drinking water, reliable healthcare, adequate sanitation, or consistent electricity. For many, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and confidence in the rule of law remains an aspiration rather than a reality.

Recognizing these differences is not a reason for complacency. Rather, it is an invitation to practice gratitude while continuing to improve our own society. No nation is perfect, but every generation has the responsibility to strengthen the institutions, freedoms, and opportunities it inherits.

This spirit of learning and civic responsibility lies at the heart of the Tennessee World Affairs Council. Our mission is to help Tennesseans better understand the world beyond our borders: its challenges, opportunities, and how international events affect our daily lives. By understanding other nations and cultures, we also gain a deeper appreciation for the freedoms and opportunities we often take for granted.

This summer, we are especially pleased to continue that mission through two outstanding programs in our Distinguished Speaker Series. On **August 12**, we will present "America at 250: The U.S. Armed Forces and Global Leadership." Together, they will explore the role of American military leadership, alliances, and national security in an increasingly complex world. Then, on **August 19**, we will welcome Dr. Mohammed Soliman, a leading expert on the intersection of geopolitics and technology, whose keynote address will examine the forces reshaping international affairs in the twenty-first century.

I hope you will join us for these conversations. As America marks 250 years of independence, there is no better time to reflect on our nation's place in the world, to appreciate the opportunities we enjoy, and to continue learning from one another. That commitment to informed dialogue and global understanding is, and will remain, the mission of the Tennessee World Affairs Council.

With gratitude,

Explore International Careers

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ANALYST

In this role, you will analyze global markets, trade policies, and economic trends to support businesses and government agencies in making informed decisions. You will collaborate with international partners, evaluate trade agreements, and provide insights that strengthen economic growth and cross-border cooperation. [Learn more...](#)

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

In this role, you will represent the United States abroad by advancing diplomatic relations, supporting U.S. citizens, and promoting economic and security interests. You will work with foreign governments, international organizations, and local communities to address global challenges and strengthen international partnerships. [Learn more...](#)

Did You Know?

Morocco Was the First Country to Recognize the United States

On December 20, 1777, Sultan Muhammad III made history by becoming the first foreign leader to recognize the newly independent United States. By opening Moroccan ports to American ships, he extended diplomatic recognition to the young nation months before France formally entered into its alliance with the United States.

Recognizing the opportunities presented by an emerging America, Sultan Muhammad III encouraged trade and initiated negotiations for a formal agreement. As part of his broader vision to strengthen Morocco's economy and international partnerships, he modernized the country's ports and expanded commercial relations with foreign nations.

This early friendship culminated in the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship, signed in 1786. The treaty remains one of the longest unbroken diplomatic relationships in U.S. history, highlighting a partnership that has endured for more than two centuries and demonstrating that international cooperation has been an essential part of America's story since its founding.

- [U.S. Department of State, A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Morocco.](#)
- [U.S. Department of State – National Museum of American Diplomacy. Tangier Old Legation: America's First Diplomatic Property.](#)

Sponsor Highlight:

**BASS
BERRY** 
SIMS

Bass, Berry & Sims is committed to delivering exceptional legal counsel with integrity, innovation, and a deep understanding of its clients' industries. With a legacy of excellence and a forward-looking approach, they serve clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to dynamic startups across a wide spectrum of sectors. Their team of experienced attorneys is dedicated to providing strategic solutions that help clients navigate legal challenges and achieve their business goals.

Thank you for your support!

Guest Columnist

The views and opinions expressed in our guest column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tennessee World Affairs Council.



Karl Dean

***Former Mayor of Nashville
TNWAC Board Chair***

I want to thank and congratulate all the people who have helped the Tennessee World Affairs Council have such a successful year. My thanks go to all our members, sponsors, contributors, program attendees, board members, and our Executive Director. TNWAC continues to offer truly outstanding and informative programs. Hard work and quality programs have placed TNWAC in a more secure financial position and enabled us to undertake the strategic planning necessary to build a stronger future.

I support the Tennessee World Affairs Council because it satisfies my lifelong curiosity about history, international affairs, and the forces shaping our world. TNWAC provides opportunities to learn from experts and engage with fellow Tennesseans to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing the world and our state. TNWAC's commitment to nonpartisan programs and thoughtful discussion can only succeed with your continued support and participation.

If you are interested in the history of the World Affairs Council, I recommend a book that describes the Council's founding and development. "Every Citizen a Statesman" by David Allen focuses on the decades after World War I, when advocates promoted citizen education in foreign affairs. Local World Affairs Councils strived to involve Americans in international affairs through discussion groups and meetings. Their slogan was "World Affairs Are Your Affairs." The author describes the successes and setbacks of the effort. The book reminds readers of the continued importance of an educated public and citizen participation in democratic discussion about international issues.

International affairs are more relevant than ever. Topics such as trade, immigration, health, climate, technology, national security, and economic development affect our nation, our state, and our local communities. I look forward to another productive year.

Board Member Highlight: Carolyn Buccerone



This month, we're proud to highlight Carolyn Buccerone, a Board member whose global legal expertise and commitment to community service strengthen our mission every day. As Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel at AllianceBernstein, Carolyn provides strategic legal guidance on international asset management, global fund platforms, employment matters, and data privacy compliance across worldwide markets.

Prior to joining AllianceBernstein in 2018, she served as Legal Counsel at UBS and earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Carolyn is a passionate advocate for community engagement, supporting initiatives through AllianceBernstein's Social Response Committee and serving Nashvillians through the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberslands. Her global perspective, legal leadership, and dedication to service make her an invaluable member of the TNWAC Board. Thank you for your service!

HIGHLIGHTS SPRING 2026



GLOBAL AFFAIRS KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

1 Which two Founding Fathers both died on the exact 50-year anniversary of the declaration of independence?

A Alexander Hamilton and John Adams

B Alexander Hamilton and George Washington

C John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

2 Before Donald Trump, who was the first American President to serve non-consecutive terms?

A Ulysses S. Grant

B Grover Cleveland

C William McKinley

3 How many Amendments to the US Constitution exist?

A 27

B 30

C 36

4 In which city did Francis Scott Key write the Star-Spangled Banner?

A New York

B Boston

C Baltimore

5 In which year was the 19th Amendment, the amendment that gave voting rights to women, to the Constitution certified?

A 1913

B 1920

C 1924

Find the answers to the quiz on the last page of the newsletter





REGISTER NOW

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



**SCOTLAND WITH THE
ROYAL EDINBURGH
MILITARY TATTOO**

Aug 2 - Aug 10



**CANADA'S MARITIME
PROVINCES**

Aug 14 - Aug 21

REGISTER NOW



Support TNWAC

As a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, our mission is to **promote international awareness, understanding**, and connections to enhance the region's global stature and to prepare Tennesseans to thrive in our increasingly complex and interconnected world.

1

Bring a friend to one of our events and encourage them to join us as a member!

2

Introduce our team to an **expert in your network** to join us as a speaker in 2026!

3

Encourage **businesses you love to join TNWAC** as a corporate member or sponsor!

AMERICA AT 250: THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

August 12



Moderator:
**BRECK
WALKER**



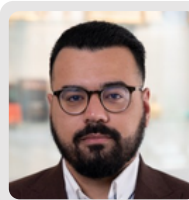
**LT CMDR
PATRICK RYAN**



**COL
KEVIN BAIRD**



**BRIG GEN
EDEN MURRIE**



**Mohammed
Soliman**

August 19, 2026



**Mona
Yacoubian**

September 15, 2026

Answers for the knowledge Quiz

- 5/5 – Your global knowledge is amazing. You're truly on top of world affairs! 🌍
- 4/5 – Impressive! You have strong global awareness.
- 3/5 – Not bad! You're well-informed, with room to grow.
- 2/5 – A good start! Keep exploring global issues.
- 1/5 – You're just getting started – stay curious!
- 0/5 – TNWAC bring knowledge and understanding through in-person events, webinars, and the Newsletter

1) C 2) B 3) A 4) C 5) B