



AMERICAN TASK FORCE
ON LEBANON

ATFL at 40

FOUR DECADES OF STRENGTHENING US-
LEBANON RELATIONS

A shared mission.
A future we build together.



Forty years. One mission.

For four decades, the American Task Force on Lebanon has brought Americans of Lebanese heritage and friends of Lebanon together around a lasting purpose: a strong US-Lebanon relationship and a sovereign, democratic, pluralistic, and prosperous Lebanon.



Community and conversation at ATFL's 2026 Annual Dinner.

01

A consistent voice

Independent, nonpartisan, and nonsectarian, ATFL educates policymakers and the public through dialogue, policy analysis, and sustained engagement.

02

A community of action

Members bring experience in public service, business, education, healthcare, and civic life. Their commitment turns shared concern into collective work.

03

A living connection

During moments of crisis, including the Civil War, the Beirut Port explosion, and the financial crisis, ATFL has helped mobilize support while keeping the longer the importance of the bilateral relationship.

[Discover ATFL's mission](#)

A connected vision for Lebanon.

Peace, Legitimate State Authority, Security, and Recovery belong in the same conversation. These principles guide ATFL's advocacy and its vision for the US-Lebanon relationship.

01

Lebanon at peace with its neighbors

Lasting peace requires diplomacy, civilian protection, secure borders, and national institutions able to make and uphold decisions.



02

Support for the Lebanese Armed Forces

A capable national army is central to Lebanon's security, territorial integrity, and the authority of its legitimate state institutions.



03

Sovereignty and disarmament

Decisions of war and peace must rest with the Lebanese state. Non-state armed groups cannot exercise authority above national institutions.



04

Reconstruction, reform, and recovery

Rebuilding Lebanon means restoring services and opportunity while increasing transparency, institutional accountability, and public confidence.



The Full Picture

A future in which these priorities move together, with Lebanese people at the center.

[VIEW THE FULL PICTURE](#)

Amb. Ed Gabriel on ATFL at 40.

Highlights from our anniversary conversation with ATFL's President and CEO.

What remains constant?

Our values: objective, fact-based policy work, a stronger US-Lebanon relationship, and listening to the needs of the Lebanese people. The issues change, but that purpose continues.

What does nonpartisan mean?

We approach this work as Americans who care about a constructive relationship with Lebanon. Consistent principles allow us to work across political differences and maintain trusted relationships.

What must the next generation carry forward?

We need to invest time and energy in younger Lebanese Americans: connect them with their heritage, engage them in civic life, and help them shape the future of this relationship.



**“We're not
Republicans.
We're not Democrats.
We're Americans.”**

AMB. EDWARD M. GABRIEL
President and Chief Executive Officer

► [WATCH THE FULL CONVERSATION](#)

Explore the interview and Ed Gabriel's reflections on policy, community, continuity, and the next generation.

ATFL at 40, explained.

Explore the issues shaping Lebanon's future, from sovereignty and diplomacy to the role of the Lebanese American community. ATFL Explainers connect these priorities with a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous Lebanon.



UNSCR 1701

Understanding the security framework

Here is a breakdown of the history of UNSCR 1701, what it actually mandates, and how it is being utilized in the current push for a stable, sovereign Lebanon.



SOVEREIGNTY

Sovereignty is not abstract

What legitimate state authority means for safety, services, and daily life.



POLICY

Policy over partisanship

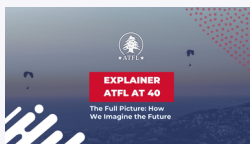
The principles that guide a consistent and independent Lebanese American voice.



COMMUNITY

A broad tent

Bringing Lebanese Americans together around shared concerns and a common mission.



THE FULL PICTURE

How we imagine the future

Connecting peace, sovereignty, reform, and recovery in one vision.

KEEP EXPLORING

ATFL Explainers are made to read and share.

[Explore ATFL on Instagram](#)

Recovery starts with trust.

In the last months ATFL explored the systems behind recovery: how money moves, how institutions regain credibility, and how reconstruction can create lasting opportunity. These three explainers offer our insights into recovery.



JUNE 26 2026

The parallel cash economy

How the banking collapse reshaped daily transactions, access to savings, and confidence in the financial system.

[Read the explainer](#)



JULY 3 2026

Banking reform and the IMF

Why financial restructuring, transparency, and credible reforms matter for restoring access to finance and international support.

[Read the explainer](#)



JULY 20 2026

The foundation of recovery

How urgent reconstruction, responsible investment, and accountable institutions can help communities return, rebuild, and stay.

[Read the explainer](#)

Watch the ideas come together.

Explore the choices shaping Lebanon's future and the role we can all play in advancing peace, sovereignty, and prosperity through ATFL's short videos. Here we try to connect policy decisions, economic realities, and shared responsibilities shaping Lebanon's future.



ATFL AT 40

A connected vision for Lebanon

Peace, sovereignty, reform, and recovery form a connected path forward.



ATFL AT 40

The remittance lifeline

A closer look at the ties between the diaspora, families, and Lebanon's economy.



ATFL AT 40

What we stand for

The purpose and principles behind ATFL's work and its role in the US-Lebanon relationship.



This is also what bipartisan means to ATFL

CLICK A VIDEO TO WATCH ON YOUTUBE

From dialogue to action.

ATFL's 40th anniversary came during a year of profound challenges and opportunities for Lebanon. Throughout the year, we continued to listen, analyze, and advocate on the critical issues shaping Lebanon's future.

JUNE 26

Diplomacy and sovereignty

ATFL responded to the Trilateral Framework, emphasizing the importance of restoring Lebanese sovereignty and a durable diplomatic path.

JULY 6

A direct exchange

A briefing with President Joseph Aoun addressed negotiations, state authority, and Lebanon's path forward.

AUGUST

Listening on the ground

Two consecutive delegations brought bipartisan congressional staffers and ATFL's Board and Advisers into dialogue with Lebanese institutions and communities.

SEPTEMBER 8

From visits to recommendations

ATFL's delegation report connected security, reform, reconstruction, and sustained US engagement in a comprehensive approach.



WASHINGTON to BEIRUT

Connecting US Policymakers with Lebanon

[READ THE DELEGATION REPORT](#)

Many voices. A shared commitment.

In new anniversary messages and selected archive clips, hear personal reflections on identity, service, partnership, and a shared commitment to Lebanon through memorable moments from ATFL's stage.



SCIENCE

Dr. Charles Elachi

Discovery and the power of bringing people together.



ARTS

Tony Shalhoub

A warm moment from the Annual Dinner archives.



FASHION

Reem Acra

Creativity and a connection that reaches across borders.



JOURNALISM

Paula Faris

Storytelling, community, and Lebanese heritage.



MUSIC

Paul Anka

A look back at an enduring cultural connection.



PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Donna Shalala

Former US Secretary of Health and Human Services on the role of ATFL in representing Lebanese Americans.



ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

Amb. Dorothy Shea

Building bridges between the US and Lebanon.



ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

Amb. Jeffrey Feltman

Sovereignty, diplomacy, and youth engagement.



SELECT ANY CARD TO WATCH THE CAMPAIGN CLIP

An evening of shared commitment.

On September 24, 2026, honorees, leaders, supporters and rising professionals gathered in Washington, DC to celebrate four decades of ATFL and the community carrying its mission forward.



RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT. CONNECTING GENERATIONS.

Celebrating eight Rising Leaders, with gratitude to our sponsors and the Lebanese American community.

2026 HONOREES



Fadlo R. Khuri, M.D.

President of the AUB

*Recipient of the Peter J. Tanous
Founder's Award*



Wael Sawan

Chief Executive Officer of Shell plc

*Recipient of the Joseph J. Jacobs
Distinguished Achievement Award*



Representative Nicole Malliotakis

Member of Congress

*Recipient of Philip C. Habib
Distinguished Public Service Award*

◆ ————— ◆
Recipient of the Ray R. Irani Lifetime Achievement Award



WATCH REMARKS

[Amb. Ed Gabriel](#)

[Amb. Michel Issa](#)

[Amb. Nada Hamadeh Moawad](#)

[Meet the Rising Leaders](#)

[Recognize our sponsors](#)

► [WATCH THE DINNER HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[EXPLORE THE PHOTO GALLERY](#)

The next 40 years.



THE HON. SPENCER ABRAHAM
Chairman of ATFL

ATFL's next chapter will focus on four priorities: strengthening our policy expertise, expanding our reach to more communities, ensuring the institution's long-term sustainability, and preparing the next generation of leaders to carry our mission forward.

01 Policy expertise

Expand senior policy advice and forums on the issues shaping the US-Lebanon relationship.

02 Community engagement

Broaden outreach, including the announced Ray R. Irani Speakers Program and regional forums.

03 Lasting sustainability

Build a permanent financial foundation that can help sustain policy, education, and outreach.

04 NextGen leadership

Create space for the next generation of Lebanese Americans to participate and lead.

A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

\$10M
ENDOWMENT GOAL

Nearly \$7M

in commitments announced September 25, 2026

STAY CONNECTED WITH ATFL

Watch the Chairman's remarks

[Read the endowment announcement](#)