

2019 CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS



Secretary Robert Wilkie

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

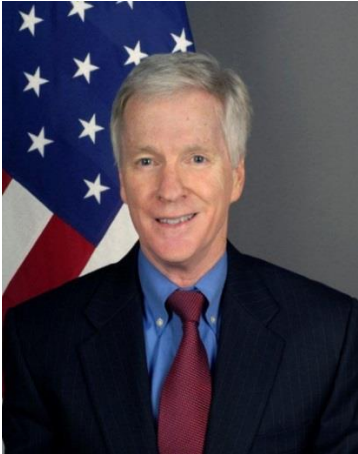
The Honorable Robert Wilkie was nominated by President Trump to serve as the tenth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 23, 2018 and sworn in on July 30, 2018. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs from March 28 to May 29, 2018. Before confirmation as VA Secretary, Mr. Wilkie served Secretary James Mattis as his Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness — the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel

requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families.

The son of an Army artillery commander, Mr. Wilkie spent his youth at Fort Bragg. Today, he is a colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Before joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, and the Office of Naval Intelligence. Mr. Wilkie has more than 20 years of federal service at the national and international levels. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005–2009, and he was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Mr. Wilkie was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

He also has extensive experience in the United States Congress, including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis and service as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS), and he was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge. Mr. Wilkie was Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL, one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms, where for five years he held program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S).

Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University, a Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, and a Master's in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. A graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, Air Command and Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College, Mr. Wilkie has published articles in the *Naval War College Review*, *Parameters*, *Armed Forces Journal International*, *Air and Space Power Journal*, and *Proceedings*. He holds personal and unit decorations, as well as the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest noncareer civilian award of the Department.



Ambassador Ryan Crocker

Diplomat in Residence, Princeton University

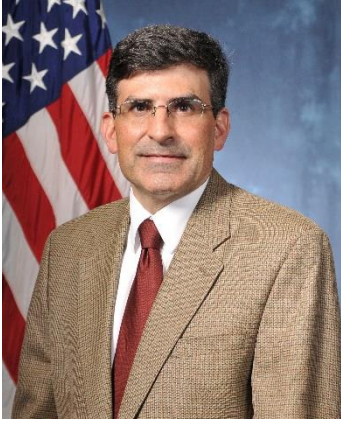
Ambassador Ryan Crocker is Diplomat in Residence at Princeton University. He served as Dean and Executive Professor at the George Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University, where he held the Edward and Howard Kruse Endowed Chair. He was the James Schlesinger Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia (2012-2014), and he served as the first Kissinger Senior Fellow at Yale University (2012-2013).

He retired from the Foreign Service in April 2009 after a career of over 37 years but was recalled to active duty by President Obama to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2011. He has served as U.S. Ambassador six times: Afghanistan (2011-2012), Iraq (2007-2009), Pakistan (2004-2007), Syria (1998-2001), Kuwait (1994-1997), and Lebanon (1990-1993). He has also served as the International Affairs Advisor at the National War College, where he joined the faculty in 2003. From May to August 2003, he was in Baghdad as the first Director of Governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs from August 2001 to May 2003. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1971, he also has had assignments in Iran, Qatar, Iraq and Egypt, as well as Washington. He was assigned to the American Embassy in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the bombings of the embassy and the Marine barracks in 1983.

Born in Spokane, Washington, he grew up in an Air Force family, attending schools in Morocco, Canada and Turkey, as well as the U.S. He received a B.A. in English in 1971 and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2001 from Whitman College (Washington). He also holds an honorary Doctorate in National Security Affairs from the National Defense University (2010), honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Gonzaga University (2009) and Seton Hall University (2012), as well as an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the American University of Afghanistan (2013). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the Association of American Ambassadors. In August 2013, he was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve on the Broadcasting Board of Governors which oversees all U.S. government-supported civilian international media. He is also on the Board of Directors of Mercy Corps International.

Ambassador Crocker received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, in 2009. His other awards include the Veterans of Foreign Wars Dwight D. Eisenhower Award (2014), Presidential Distinguished and Meritorious Service Awards, the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award (2008 and 2012), the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service (1997 and 2008) and for Distinguished Public Service (2012), the Award for Valor and the American Foreign Service Association Rivkin Award for creative dissent. He received the National Clandestine Service's Donovan Award in 2009 and the Director of Central Intelligence's Director's Award in 2012. In 2011, he was awarded the Marshall Medal by the Association of the United States Army. In January 2002, he was sent to Afghanistan to reopen the American Embassy in Kabul. He subsequently received the Robert C. Frasure Memorial Award for "exceptional courage and leadership" in Afghanistan. In September 2004, President Bush conferred on him the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the Foreign Service. In May 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the establishment of the Ryan C. Crocker Award for Outstanding Achievement in Expeditionary Diplomacy. In July 2012, he was named an Honorary Marine, the 75th civilian so honored since the founding of the Corps in 1775.

2019 CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS



Dr. Paul Carrese

Founding Director, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University; Graduate Fellowship Adviser

Dr. Paul Carrese is the founding director of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University, an interdisciplinary great-books program that aims to prepare leaders for American civil society and public service. For nearly two decades he was a professor of political science at the United States Air Force Academy. He has held fellowships at Harvard University; the University of Delhi (as a Fulbright fellow); and the James Madison Program, Politics Department, Princeton University.

He is author of "The Cloaking of Power: Montesquieu, Blackstone, and the Rise of Judicial Activism," and co-editor of three other books – on George Washington, constitutionalism, and American grand strategy. His most recent book is "Democracy in Moderation: Montesquieu, Tocqueville, and Sustainable Liberalism."

Dr. Carrese graduated from Middlebury College with a B.A. in political science before attending Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. At Oxford's Pembroke College, he earned two Master's degrees, one in Politics and Philosophy and one in Theology. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston College.



Dr. Evelyn Farkas

Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States; President, Farkas Global Strategies

Evelyn N. Farkas has three decades of experience working on national security and foreign policy in the U.S. executive, legislative branch, private sector and for international organizations overseas. She is currently Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, National Security Contributor for NBC/MSNBC, President of Farkas Global Strategies, LLC and Founding Partner at Scarlet Oak Advisors.

She served from 2012 to 2015 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia, Balkans, Caucasus and conventional arms control. From 2010 to 2012 she was Senior Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Special Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for the NATO Summit. Prior to that, she was Executive Director of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism and senior fellow at the American Security Project. From 2001 to 2008, she served as a Professional Staff Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee responsible for Asia Pacific, Western Hemisphere, Special Operations Command, and policy issues including combatting terrorism, and export control.

From 1997-2001 Farkas was a professor of international relations at the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College. She served 1996-97 in Bosnia with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She has published numerous journal articles and opinion pieces and [Fractured States and U.S. Foreign Policy: Iraq, Ethiopia, and Bosnia in the 1990s](#) (Palgrave/St. Martin's Press). She speaks Hungarian and German, has studied French, Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Russian and Hindi.

Dr. Farkas obtained her MA and Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and of the Board of Trustees of Franklin & Marshall College.



Dr. Michael Vickers

*Executive Vice President, In-Q-Tel; Principal, Telemus Group;
Senior Fellow at Johns Hopkins University – SAIS and CSIS*

Dr. Michael G. Vickers' career as a special operator, CIA operations officer, national security policy maker and Intelligence Community leader spanned the last two decades of the Cold War through a decade and a half of our war with Al-Qa'ida, its allies and its offshoots – service that saw unprecedented senior tenure across Republican and Democratic administrations.

Most recently, from 2011 to 2015, Dr. Vickers served as the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, exercising authority, direction and control over the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, Defense Security Service, and the intelligence components of the Military Services and Combatant Commands. As the USD(I), he conceived and led a comprehensive transformation of defense intelligence capabilities, encompassing the signals intelligence system and overhead space architecture, penetrating and persistent remotely piloted aircraft, the Department's strategic human intelligence posture, its corps of all-source analysts, and its cyber operations forces.

From 2007 to 2011, he served as the first and only Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations, Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities. As the ASD SO/LIC&IC, Dr. Vickers was the "Service" Secretary for all Special Operations Forces, and had policy oversight of all of DoD's operational capabilities – strategic forces (nuclear forces, missile defense, space, cyber), conventional force transformation (air, ground and maritime), and Special Operations Forces. He conceived and led the largest expansion of Special Operations Forces in our nation's history, and oversaw several other major capability investments ranging from next generation long-range strike to undersea warfare to deter future great power war.

As the principal strategist for the multi-billion-dollar Afghanistan covert action program – the largest and most successful covert action program in CIA's history – Dr. Vickers developed the winning strategy when very few thought it was possible to win. His contributions to the first war the Red Army had ever lost and US victory in the Cold War were chronicled in the film and New York Times best seller, *Charlie Wilson's War*.

Dr. Vickers has received the nation's highest awards in the fields of intelligence and defense, including the Presidential National Security Medal and the OSS Society's William J. Donovan Award. He holds a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. from the University of Alabama.

2019 CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



Ari Fleischer

*President of Fleischer Communications;
Former White House Press Secretary*

Mr. Ari Fleischer, former White House press secretary, was the primary spokesperson for President George W. Bush and delivered the daily White House briefings from 2001 to 2003. He previously served as the spokesperson for the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign. In his almost four years working for President Bush, he served as spokesperson during the historic presidential recount, September 11th, two wars, and the anthrax attack. His best-selling

book, *Taking Heat*, details his years in the White House and reached #7 on *The New York Times* Best Sellers list.

Prior to joining the Bush campaign, Fleischer was the national spokesperson and communications director for Elizabeth Dole's presidential campaign. He has also worked on Capitol Hill as a press secretary to three Congressmen and one U.S. Senator.

Fleischer is a native of Pound Ridge, New York and a 1982 graduate of Vermont's Middlebury College. Now president of his own firm, Ari Fleischer Communications Inc., he offers advice to clients in the corporate and sports worlds on how to handle the press. He is also a Fox News contributor.

He resides in Westchester County, New York, with his wife, Becki, and their two children.

Jim Hake

Founder and CEO of Spirit of America



Jim Hake founded Spirit of America in response to the attacks of 9/11. SoA is a citizen-funded 501c3 nonprofit that provides humanitarian and economic assistance in response to needs identified by US troops and diplomats serving abroad.

Spirit of America is a not-neutral NGO; it 'takes a side' and only provides assistance in support of the safety and success of US troops and diplomats and the local people and partners they seek to help.

Prior to Spirit of America Jim was an Internet entrepreneur. He founded Access Media, one of the first Internet media companies, and sold it to SOFTBANK Forums. It was later incorporated into Ziff Davis. In 2000 and 2001, Jim was named a "Technology Pioneer" by the World Economic Forum. Jim has been honored at the Marines Evening Parade. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an Honorary Member of the US Army Civil Affairs Regiment, and a member of State Department's Stabilization Advisory Council. Jim is a contributing author to *Warriors and Citizens*. He has lectured on entrepreneurship at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, the SMU Cox School of Business and USC's Annenberg School for Communication. He has given talks at the TED Conference, the Aspen Institute, the Bush School at Texas A&M and the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Jim received a BA and graduated with distinction in Economics from Dartmouth College. He earned an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.



Max Stier

Founding President and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service

Max Stier is the founding president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service. Max has overseen the creation and growth of a network connecting more than 1,000 colleges and universities with federal agencies; a center focusing on the presidential transition; an awards program that recognizes exceptional civil servants for their extraordinary accomplishments; annual rankings that examine employee engagement; numerous leadership development programs; and more.

Before coming to the Partnership he worked in each of the three branches of federal government. In the summer of 1982, he served on the personal staff of Congressman Jim Leach. In 1992, he clerked for Chief Judge James Oakes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and in 1994 for Justice David Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court. Between these two positions, he served as special litigation counsel to Assistant Attorney General Anne Bingaman at the Department of Justice. In 1995, Stier joined the law firm of Williams & Connolly, where he practiced primarily in the area of white-collar defense. And in his most recent federal position, Max served as the deputy general counsel for litigation at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

While in the executive branch, Max realized just how much influence great leaders have on improving their organizations. While at Justice, he started a paralegal program modeled after the private sector and watched as an influx of talented young graduates energized and transformed the agency's culture. His HUD experience underscored that skillful leaders also have a potent role in making a difference for the American public.

Max's favorite fed is Teddy Roosevelt who, along with his many other accomplishments, is the father of the civil service.