

2011 APR -5 AM 10: 53

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives
112th Congress

EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for meetings, speaking engagements, fact-finding trips or similar events in connection with official duties. You need not disclose government-funded or political travel on this form, or travel that is unrelated to official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report all privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those persons required to file them. In accordance with clause 5 of House Rule 25, complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within **15 days** after travel is completed. The Clerk is to make these forms publicly available as soon as possible after they are received. *Obtain the dollar amounts from the sponsor; if exact dollar amounts are unavailable, provide a good faith estimate.*

Name of Employee (print or type): Susan Collins

Name of Accompanying Family Member (if any): NA

Relationship to Employee: Spouse Child Other (specify): NA

Date of Departure and Date of Return: March 18 -25, 2011

Dates at Personal Expense: None

Itinerary (cities of departure – destination – return): Washington DC - Istanbul - Washington DC

Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turkish American Federation of Midwest

Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary):
See attached itinerary

Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify "yes" for each item by checking the corresponding box*):

1. the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form completed by trip sponsor, including all attachments;
2. the Privately-Sponsored Travel Approval Form completed by the employee; **and**
3. the Committee on Ethics letter approving my participation on this trip.

I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda (*signify "yes" by checking box*):

If not, explain: _____

GUTIERREZ

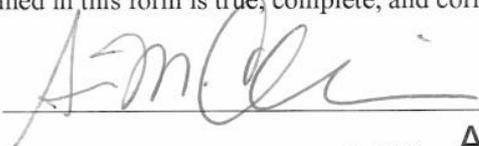
TRAVEL EXPENSES:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses
For employee:	\$1650	\$600	\$270
For accompanying family member:	NA	NA	NA

	Other Expenses (dollar amount)	Specific Nature of Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For employee:	\$180	Museum fees and parking
For accompanying family member:		

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE:



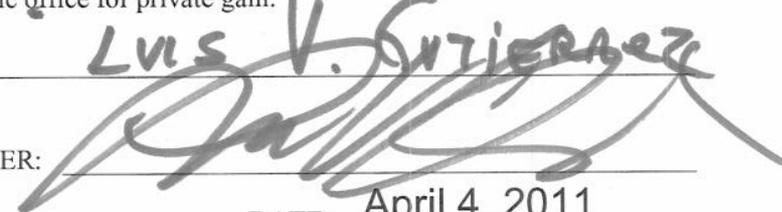
DATE: April 4, 2011

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed above were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:

Luis V. Gutierrez

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:



DATE: April 4, 2011

Itinerary

FRIDAY, Mar 18 (Washington, DC to Istanbul)

Departure from Dulles International Airport (Turkish Airlines TK8)

SATURDAY, Mar 19 (Istanbul)

Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey
Check in the hotel (Ortakoy Princess)
Dinner in Ortakoy Square with Turkish Businessmen
Return to the hotel

SUNDAY, Mar 20 (Istanbul)

Breakfast at the hotel
Meet **Historian Mr. Aykut Ayik**
Visit Topkapi Palace
Lunch and Briefing about Turkish History
Visit Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern & Blue Mosque
Boat Trip
Dinner with **Journalists, Mr. Mustafa Akyol and Mr. Ardan Zenturk** (Discussion on Turkish Politics)
Return to Hotel

MONDAY, Mar 21 (Ankara)

Flight to Ankara
Check in the hotel (Aktif Metropolitan Hotel) & Breakfast
Grand National Assembly of Turkey Tour
Lunch with **Hon. Suat Kiniklioglu**, MP, AK Party (Justice and Development Party), Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Briefing about Turkish Foreign Policy
Visit **Mr. Faruk Ener**, Head of the Undersecretaries for Foreign Trade (Briefing on US-Turkey Bilateral Trade)
Visit Private Ahmet Ulusoy Science Academy (Briefing on Turkish Educational System)
Dinner with Local Businessmen and **Ms. Sevgi Akarcesme**, Advisor for Center for Strategic Research.
Return to the hotel

TUESDAY, Mar 22 (Ankara)

Breakfast
Visit Presidency of Turkey (Meeting with **Mr. Barbaros Dicle**, Chief of Section of The Cabinet of The President)
Visit **Honorable Francis J. Ricciardone**, US Ambassador to Turkey
Visit Journalists and Authors Foundation (Briefing on intercultural dialog efforts)
<http://www.gyv.org.tr/index.php/main/index>
Visit **Hon. Ufuk Uras**, Member of BDP Party. (Briefing on Upcoming General Elections in Turkey)
Visit Anitkabir, Mausoleum of Ataturk, Founder of Turkish Republic
Dinner

Return to the hotel

WEDNESDAY, Mar 23 (Nevsehir)

Breakfast at the hotel

Bus trip to Nevsehir

Lunch

Meet with Historian

Visit Cappadocia and Underground Cities

Visit The City of Avanos and Pottery Making

Dinner with the members of GESIAD, a local business association, deputy mayor and deputy governor of Nevsehir

Return to hotel the Hotel

THURSDAY, Mar 24 (Istanbul)

Hot Air Balloon Tour

Flight to Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul

Visit Grand Bazaar

Dinner with The Mayor of Sariyer **Mr. Sukru Genc** from CHP Party and his deputies.

(Superintendent of The Police of Sariyer, Deputy Governor of Sariyer and Head of The Zoning Committee of Istanbul Municipality as well as some VIP businessmen also attended the dinner)

Return to the hotel

FRIDAY, Mar 25 (Istanbul to Washington, DC)

Flight from Istanbul back to Dulles Int'l, DC (Turkish Airlines TK7)

Arrive at Dulles on the same day.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM
(provide directly to each House invitee)

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers or employees under House Rule XXV, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee.

Private sponsors are urged to submit this form to each House invitee at least 30 days before travel is scheduled to begin. The failure to provide the Committee with adequate time to review the form and attachments may result in the invitee not receiving approval for the trip. The submission of an incomplete form will delay the review process. Before completing this form, sponsors are urged to carefully review the Committee's private travel guidelines and advisory memoranda detailing the rules and restrictions for private travel, as well as the instructions for completing this form. Sponsors should call the Committee with any questions prior to submitting the form. Please type form.

1. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): _____
TURKISH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MIDWEST (TAFM)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a federally-registered lobbyist or a registered foreign agent (signify "yes" by checking box):
3. I represent that the trip sponsor(s) has not accepted from any other source funds earmarked directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box):
4. Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
5. Provide names and titles of ALL House invitees; for each invitee, provide explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LIST.

6. Dates of travel: MARCH 18-25, 2011
7. Cities of departure – destination – return: WASHINGTON DC - ISTANBUL - WASHINGTON DC

8. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities taking place during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities) (signify "yes" by checking box):
9. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: or
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist or registered foreign agent: or
 - c. The trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
10. If travel is for participation in a one-day event (i.e., if you checked Question 9(c)), check one of the following:
 - a. One-night's lodging and meals are being offered: or
 - b. Two-nights' lodging and meals are being offered:
If "b" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____

11. If the trip is not sponsored by an institution of higher education, I represent that a federally-registered lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box):
12. Private sponsors must have a direct and immediate relationship to the purpose of the trip or location being visited. Describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip: _____
TAFM AIMS TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THRU INTERACTION
BETWEEN THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS AND THE TURKISH PEOPLE & OFFICIALS.
13. Describe each sponsor's organizational interest in the purpose of the trip: _____
THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO PROVIDE A FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE TO STAFFERS TO EXPLORE
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN TURKEY.
14. Describe the type and class of the transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first-class transportation will be provided. In addition, for travel via aircraft, please indicate if travel is being offered on a commercial flight, chartered flight or on an aircraft operated or paid for by a carrier not licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate for compensation or hire (i.e., a private aircraft). If first-class fare is being provided, or if travel is via chartered or private aircraft, please provide an explanation describing why such travel is warranted: AIR TRAVEL, COMMERCIAL AND COACH CLASS.
15. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify "yes" by checking box):
16. I represent that either (check one of the following):
 a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: or
 b. The trip involves events that are arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:
 If "b" is checked, detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$45 PER DAY
17. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: TURKEY IS HISTORICALLY A STRATEGIC
ALLY TO THE UNITED STATES IN REGARDS TO ITS POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE.
18. Name of hotel or other lodging facility: RAMADA ISTANBUL OLD CITY-AKTIF METROPOLITAN ANKARA-DEDEMAN NEVSEHIR
19. Cost per night of hotel or other lodging facility (approximate cost may be provided): _____
RAMADA \$100/NIGHT, AKTIF METROPOLITAN \$95/NIGHT, DEDEMAN \$90/NIGHT
20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility: _____
LOCATION AND AFFORDABILITY.

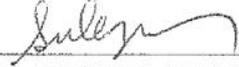
21. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1,350 AIR / \$250 GROUND	\$580	\$255
For each accompanying family member			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$200	MUSEUM FEES AND PARKING
For each accompanying family member		

22. I represent that reimbursement for miscellaneous travel expenses for the trip, such as travel to and from airports, security costs, interpreter fees, visa application fees, and similar expenses, will be for actual costs incurred and are necessary for the purpose of the trip (*signify "yes" by checking box*):

23. I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 
 Name and title: SULEYMAN TURHANOGULLARI, PRESIDENT
 Organization: TURKISH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MIDWEST (TAFM)
 Address: 501 MIDWAY DR. MOUNT PROSPECT, IL 60056
 Telephone number: 847-227-8380, 312-215-2337
 Fax number: 847-789-0043
 Email Address: STURHAN@TURKISHFEDERATION.ORG

The Committee staff may contact the above individual above if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 HT-2, The Capitol
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)
 (202) 226-7172 (fax for travel approvals)

Version date 1/2011 by Committee on Ethics

Turkey Trip Attendee List for March 18-25, 2011

Organized by: Turkish American Federation of Midwest

Participants:

Robyn Russell, Office of Congressman Quigley-IL

Lindsey Matese, Office of Congressman Quigley-IL

Kim Muzeroll, Office of Congressman Schakowsky-IL

Susan Collins, Office of Congressman Gutierrez-IL

Timothy Robinson, Office of Congressman Rush-IL

Yul Edwards, Office of Congressman Davis-IL

Caleb Gilchrist, Office of Congressman Davis-IL

Elizabeth Glidden, Office of Congressman Walz-MN

Rachel Hines, Office of Congressman Carnahan-MO

Breanna Cameron, Office of Congressman Cleaver-MO

A Field Trip to Turkey

March 18-25, 2011

April 22-29, 2011



TURKISH AMERICAN
FEDERATION

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INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Program Sponsor:

Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)

The Turkish American Federation of Midwest is a non-profit organization, which aims to bring all the Turkish-American and sister community associations (Bosnian, Albanian, Macedonian, Kyrgyz, Azeri, Uzbek, Turkmen, Kazakh) in Midwest under one umbrella.

The Federation thrives to serve the following purposes:

- To represent the Turkish American and the sister communities living in Midwest area.
- To promote and organize intercultural, educational, spiritual, sporting and social events.
- To exert activities maintaining and spreading the Turkish culture and heritage;
- To assist member associations be organized and strengthen Turkish and the sister communities in the USA.
- To organize educational and cultural trips to Turkey.
- To coordinate the exchange of information among member associations in order to present the same, the realistic and the most updated view of Turkey, and promote the general welfare of Turkish communities.
- To obtain, hold, manage, and expend funds for the execution of the above purposes and perform all necessary or proper things for the accomplishment of those purposes,

CONTACT INFORMATION

Suleyman Turhan

President

sturhan@turkishfederation.org

501 Midway Dr

Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Telephone: (847) 227 8380

Fax: (847) 789 0043

<http://www.turkishfederation.org>

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM) is sponsoring the trip to Turkey for the intellectuals of the United States, entitled “A Field Trip to Turkey” on March 18-25, 2011 and April 22-29, 2011.

The Federation has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- * To introduce and provide broad exposure to Turkish political, economic, and social issues.
- * To gain an understanding of topics including national security, foreign policy, trade, economic development & finance, remarkable achievements of the civil society, religious diversity and minority rights.
- * To promote mutual understanding through dialogue and discussion among the American participants and the Turkish authorities / civil society.

The project will address the following themes:

Istanbul, 3 days

- * Overview of the minority rights in Turkey
- * Turkish Media
- * International trade and the Turkish business life
- * Dialogue among diverse cultures

Ankara, 2 days

- * Turkish Financial Policy
- * Domestic Issues of Turkey
- * Turkish Foreign Affairs
- * Turkey's National Security
- * Turkish Parliamentary System
- * Private Education System in Turkey

Cappadocia, 1 day

- * Local Governance in Turkey
- * Municipality Services
- * Local Business Development

Following people will be visited during the trip:

- **Hon. Ahmet Davutoglu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Hon. Francis J. Ricciardone**, US Ambassador to Turkey
- **Hon. Suat Kiniklioglu**, MP, Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- **Hon. Sukru Elekdag**, MP, (Republican People's Party)
- **Hon. Mithat Melen**, MP, (Nationalist Movement Party)
- **Hon. Nursuna Memecan**, MP, (Justice and Development Party)
- **Melih Gokcek**, Mayor of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality
- **Hasan Unver**, Mayor of Nevsehir Municipality
- **Asim Hacimustafaoğlu**, Governor of Nevsehir
- **Sedat Laciner**, Director of International Strategic Research Organization
- **Abdulhamit Bilici**, Director of the Cihan News Agency
- **Mustafa Akyol**, Journalist, Turkish Daily News and Star Newspaper

TURKEY IN BRIEF

Official Name: The Republic of Turkey (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti)

Capital: Ankara

Population: 76,805,524 (July 2009 est.)

Istanbul: 12,782,960

Ankara: 4,466,756

Language: Turkish (uses Latin Alphabet)

Currency: Turkish Lira (TL)

Location: Eastern Mediterranean. Located on two continents Europe and Asia. The European part of Turkey is called Thrace, while the Asian part is called Anatolia or Asia Minor.

Area: 814 578 Km² (314 500 square miles)

3 % on the European continent

97 % on the Asian continent

Religion: 99 percent of the population is Muslim. Turkey is a secular state that assures complete freedom of worship to non-Muslims.

Government: Turkey is democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law based on the principle of the separation of powers;

Legislative Power: The Turkish Grand National Assembly

Executive Power: President and the Council of Ministers.

Judicial Power: Independent courts and supreme judiciary organs.

Coastline: 8333 Km. (5000 miles). Turkey is surrounded by sea on three sides, by the Black Sea in the north, the Mediterranean in the south and the Aegean Sea in the west. In the northwest there is also an important internal sea, the Sea of Marmara, between the straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

Itinerary

FRIDAY (Washington, DC to Istanbul)

11:55 pm Departure from Dulles International Airport (Turkish Airlines TK8)

SATURDAY (Istanbul)

4:10 pm Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey
6:00 pm Check in hotel Ramada Istanbul Old City
7:00 pm Leave hotel for boat tour and dinner
10:00 pm Return to hotel

SUNDAY (Istanbul)

8:00 am Breakfast at hotel
9:00 am Visit Hagia Sophia & Blue Mosque
12:30 pm Lunch at the Sultanahmet Koftecisi Restaurant
2:00 pm Visit Topkapi Palace
4:00 pm Travel to Istanbul Princes Islands
7:30 pm Dinner on the Island
9:00 pm Return to Hotel

MONDAY (Ankara)

7:10 am Flight to Ankara (Turkish Airlines - TK 122)
8:30 am Check in Hotel - Aktif Metropolitan Hotel
9:00 am Breakfast at hotel
11:00 am Grand National Assembly of Turkey Tour
12:30 pm Lunch with Hon. Suat Kiniklioglu, MP, AK Party (Justice and Development Party), Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
2:00 pm Visit Hon. Sukru Elekdag, MP, CHP (Republican People's Party)
3:00 pm Visit Hon. Mithat Melen, MP, MHP (Nationalist Movement Party)
4:00 pm Visit Anıtkabir, Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk,
6:00 pm Dinner at Samanyolu College Meet with Local Students
(<http://www.samanyolu.k12.tr>)
8:00 pm Return to hotel

TUESDAY (Ankara)

9:00 am Breakfast with Melih Gokcek, Mayor of Ankara
10:30 am Visit Honorable Francis J. Ricciardone, US Ambassador to Turkey
12:00 pm Visit International Strategic Research Organization (ISRO) and meet Sedat Laciner.
"ISRO was established in 2004, the International Strategic Research Organization (ISRO - USAK) has gained wide recognition as the Turkey's foremost source of independent and balanced information and research on a broad range of issues affecting Turkey and its region"
1:30 pm Visit Journalists and Authors Foundation-
<http://www.gyv.org.tr/index.php/main/index>
3:00 pm Visit Nursuna Memecan, MP, AK Party

4:30 pm Visit Hon. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs
6:30 pm Dinner at Kale Restaurant
9:00 pm Return to hotel

WEDNESDAY (Nevsehir)

7:30 am Breakfast at hotel
8:30 am Bus trip to Nevsehir
12:30 pm Lunch with Hasan Unver, Mayor of Nevsehir
2:00 pm Visit M. Asım Hacımustafaoğlu, Governor of Nevsehir
3:30 pm Visit Cappadocia and Underground Museum
5:00 pm Visit a Local Business Owner's Store (A member of GESIAD)
6:30 pm Dinner with Local Business Chamber Organization (GESIAD)
(<http://www.nevsehircesiad.org.tr>)
9:00 pm Return to hotel - Dedeman Hotel, Nevsehir

THURSDAY (Istanbul)

6:15 am Flight from Kayseri to Istanbul
7:45 am Arrive at Istanbul Airport
9:00 am Visit Today's Zaman Newspaper meet with Abdulhamit Bilici head of the Cihan News Agency (<http://todayszaman.com/tz-web/>
http://www.cihanmedya.com/media_services)
11:00 am Visit TUSKON (Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey)
TUSKON is operating as the top organization of associations of businessmen that are serving to make contributions for economic and social development of Turkey. TUSKON, formed by 7 different regional business federation throughout the country, was established in 2005 in Istanbul. There are 151 associations of businessmen within TUSKON, which are operating in 80 different provinces of Turkey. TUSKON represents 15,000 business people.
1:00 pm Lunch with Mustafa Akyol, Columnist – Star Newspaper and Turkish Daily News
3:00 pm Visit Grand Bazaar
6:00 pm Return back to hotel
7:00 pm Dinner at a local family
10:00 pm Return to hotel

FRIDAY (Istanbul to Washington, DC)

10:50 am Flight from Istanbul back to Dulles Int'l, DC (Turkish Airlines TK7)
4:25 pm Arrive at Dulles on the same day.

*In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.

HOSTS AND VENUES *(Listed in order of the visiting schedule)*

1 - BLUE MOSQUE

Phone: 01190 212 481 0606

Fax: 01190 212 482 8721

In the 17th century, Sultan Ahmet I wished to build an Islamic place of worship to rival the Hagia Sophia, and the mosque named for him is the impressive result. Sultan Ahmet died only a year after the completion of his masterpiece, at the age of 27. He is buried just outside the mosque with his wife and three sons. One of the most notable features of the Blue Mosque is its six minarets. This is very unique, as most mosques have four, two or just one minaret. Whatever the origins of the unique feature, the six minarets caused quite a scandal, as the mosque in Mecca also had six minarets. The problem was solved by adding a seventh minaret to Mecca's mosque. Hanging from the gates of the mosque are symbolic chains that encourage everyone, even the sultan on horseback, to bow his or her head upon entering. The interior's high ceiling is lined with about 20,000 blue tiles that give the mosque its popular name. Fine examples of 16th-century Iznik design, the tiles feature flowers, trees and abstract patterns.

2 - HAGIA SOPHIA

Phone: (212) 522 17 50

The church of Hagia Sophia was first dedicated in 360 by Emperor Constantinus, son of the city's founder, Emperor Constantine. Hagia Sophia served as the cathedral of the city. Originally called Megale Ekklesia (Great Church), the name Hagia Sophia came into use around 430. The first church structure was destroyed during riots in 404; the second church, built and dedicated in 415 by Emperor Theodosius II, burned down during the Nika revolt of 532, which caused vast destruction and death throughout the city. Immediately after the riots, Emperor Justinian I ordered the church rebuilt. The new building was inaugurated in 537. Architects Anthemios of Tralles and Isidoros of Miletos most likely were influenced by the mathematical theories of Archimedes and Heron of Alexandria's writings on vaults and arch support. After Mehmed II's conquest of the city in 1453, Hagia Sophia was converted to a mosque (Ayasofya Camii), which it remained until the fall of the Ottoman empire in the early twentieth century. During this period, minarets were built around the perimeter of the building complex, and exterior buttresses were added for structural support. In 1934, the Turkish government secularized the building, converting it into a museum.

3 - TOPKAPI Palace

Phone: 01190 212 512 0480

Faks : 01190 212 528 5991

Topkapi Palace was home to all the Ottoman sultans until the reign of Abdulmecid I (1839-1860), a period of nearly four centuries. The order for the construction of the Topkapi Palace on the Seraglio Point, overlooking both Marmara and Bosphorus was given by Mehmed II after the conquest of Istanbul in 1453. The final form of the first palace covered an area 700m2, and was enclosed with fortified walls 1400 meters in length. The walls were pierced by a number of gates and many minor angled gates between them. After the reign of Mehmed II the Conqueror, the palace grew steadily to form a city like complex of buildings and annexes, including a shore palace known as the Topkapi shore palace, as it was situated near the cannon gate -Topkapi- of the ancient walls of Istanbul. When the shore palace was burned down in 1863, it lent its name to the great complex we now know as Topkapi Palace. The main portal, the Bab-i Humayun, was suited next to the mosque of Ayasofya (Haghia Sophia Church), and this led a series of four courts surrounded by various structures. The courts, chambers, pavilions and other sections can be viewed at the floor plan of Topkapi Palace.

4 - TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Phone: 01190 312 420 6742
Fax: 01190 312 420 6743
info@tbmm.gov.tr

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey is the unicameral parliament of Turkey which is the sole body given the legislative prerogatives by the Turkish Constitution. It was founded in Ankara on 23 April 1920 in the midst of the Turkish War of Independence. The parliament was fundamental in the efforts of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to found a new state out of the remnants of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of the World War I. There are 550 members of parliament who are elected for a five-year term by D'Hondt method, a party-list proportional representation system. To avoid a hung parliament and its excessive political fragmentation, only parties that win at least 10% of the votes cast in a national parliamentary election gain the right to representation in the parliament. As a result of this threshold, only two parties were able to obtain that right during the 2002 elections and three in 2007. Independent candidates may run. However they must also win at least 10% of the vote in their constituency to be elected. Since the 2002 general elections, an absolute majority of the seats belong to the members of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), who lead a single-party government. At the 2007 election, three parties managed to clear the 10% threshold — AKP, CHP, and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Furthermore, Kurdish politicians from the Democratic Society Party (DTP) circumvented the threshold by contesting the election as independents; 24 of them were elected, enabling them to constitute their own faction in the Assembly.

5 - Hon. SUAT KINIKLIOGLU, MP, Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Phone: 01190 312 420 5840
Fax: 01190 312 420 6961
kiniklioglu@tbmm.gov.tr

Dr. Kiniklioglu was elected to Parliament in the general election on July 22, 2007 and appointed as the Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was Appointed Executive Director of the German Marshall Fund's office in Ankara, Turkey, in 2005. He has a weekly column in the English daily Today's Zaman and is editor of Insight Turkey, a quarterly publication on Turkish foreign policy issues. He previously worked on Black Sea security and strategic issues as a Transatlantic Fellow with the GMF in Washington, D.C. Mr. Kiniklioglu comes to GMF from the Ankara Center for Turkish Policy (ANKAM), where he served as the center's founding director. Before his recent tenure at ANKAM, Mr. Kiniklioglu worked as a development officer responsible for Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan at the Canadian International Development Agency, based in Ankara. Prior to that, he was a senior political and economic research officer at the Australian Embassy in Turkey. Mr. Kiniklioglu holds the rank of division/liaison squadron commander in the Turkish Air Force. He received his Ph.D. degree in political science from Bilkent University. He received a Master of International Relations from Bilkent University and a B.A. in political science from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. He also holds a bachelor's degree in electronics from the Turkish Air Force Academy in Istanbul.

6 - SAMANYOLU College, Sister Organization of the Federation

Phone: 01190 312 335 9292
Fax: 01190 312 345 1020
Smanyolu@Smanyolu.k12.tr

Samanyolu Schools started their educational lives in 1983. They have had many achievements with its science and language laboratories, conference halls, gyms, dormitories and well equipped resourced classes since they were established. They have gained immense reputations at OSS (University Entrance Exam), Science and Sport Olympics. At Samanyolu Schools social and sporting activities play great importance alongside with education and science. Samanyolu Schools have won 233 medals at national and 85 medals at international level, in total 318. Samanyolu Sport Club consists of different teams such as wrestling, handball, fencing, table tennis and basketball. The Schools have primary and secondary schools in different parts of Ankara, aiming to educate young generations in having faith for the future, respect for oneself and others, passion and tolerance.

7 - MELIH GOKCEK, Mayor of Ankara

Phone: 01190 312 419 0102
Fax: 01190 312 384 0964
baskan@ankara.bel.tr

Melih Gokcek had been elected to Parliament in the general elections in 1991. After he served three years as a Member of Parliament, he stood for the Mayor Office of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and won the election in 1994. He was elected for the same duty again in 1999 and became the first person to be successively elected as the Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality for two times in the history of Ankara. Indeed he was elected for the same duty for third time in 2004. Mr. Gokcek graduated

from Gazi University, Department of Journalism and worked as a Parliament Correspondant following his graduation.

8 – Hon. Francis J. Ricciardone, US Ambassador to Turkey

Phone: 01190 312 455 5555

Fax: 01190 312 467 0019

Ambassador Ricciardone's Foreign Service assignments include two tours in Turkey, most recently (1995-1999) as Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires; and service in Cairo, Amman, and London. He served in two multinational military deployments: as chief of the Civilian Observer Unit of the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt's Sinai Desert, and as Political Advisor to the U.S. and Turkish commanding generals of Operation Provide Comfort, based in Turkey and operating in Iraq. In Washington, DC, Ambassador Ricciardone has served in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and in senior management positions under the Director General of the Foreign Service and of Human Resources. He has won high awards for policy and program management and for political reporting.

9 - JOURNALISTS AND AUTHORS FOUNDATION, Sister Organization of the Federation

Phone: 01190 212 232 1710

Fax: 01190 212 232 15 88

bilgi@gyv.org.tr

The Journalists and Authors Foundation (JAF) was established in 1994 to promote democratic civility in the face of diversity, to facilitate interfaith and intercultural relations and to abandon official and memorized statements that marked previous eras. In order to achieve its aims and to fulfill its mission JAF has established 3 main areas of activity. The one which is a well known forum known as the Abant Meetings has been gathering intellectuals, academics, journalists, politicians and representatives of civil society organizations from diverse backgrounds and affiliations to discuss local, regional and international issues of common concern. In 2007, the Abant Meetings focused on Islam, the West and Modernization which brought Turkish and Egyptian intellectual together; on Turkey-France Conversations held in Paris; and Alevism and its Historic, Folkloric and Contemporary Dimensions in Istanbul. Similar to that of Abant Meetings, The Intercultural Dialogue Platform as an activity of the JAF also aims at contributing to the development of democratic culture by promoting respect, mutual acceptance and establishing a working dialogue with members of other faith communities. Muslims, Christians and Jews are encouraged to participate in events organized by the Platform to find solutions to various problems on the basis of common moral values of three Abrahamic religions. The third area where considerable social and spiritual capital is invested in is the Dialogue Eurasia Platform. The Dialogue Eurasia Platform aims to establish a bridge between the culture and people of Europe and Asia to foster dialogue, better understanding and mutual appreciation of differences.

10 - Hon. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Phone: 01190 312 292 10 00

Professor Ahmet Davutoglu was born on February 26th, 1959 in Konya. Following the November 2002 elections he was appointed as Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister and Ambassador at large by the 58th Government of the Republic of Turkey. He continued to serve in the 59th and 60th Governments.

He worked at Beykent University in Istanbul as a professor from 1995 to 2004, serving as Head of the Department of International Relations, Member of University Senate and Member of Board of Management while teaching as a visiting scholar at the Marmara University. Professor Davutoglu published several books and articles on foreign policy in Turkish and English. His books and articles have also been translated into several languages including Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Persian and Albanian. On May 1, 2009 he was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 60th Government of the Republic of Turkey. Professor Davutoglu is married with four children and speaks English, German and Arabic.

11 - ZAMAN Newspaper

Phone: 01190 212 454 1454

Fax: 01190 212 454 1467

www.zaman.com

info@zaman.com.tr

Zaman is a major Turkish daily newspaper that was the first daily in the country to go online in 1995. The circulation of the paper is about 780.000, making it the most popular in Turkey. Zaman is an Istanbul-based daily paper that also prints special international editions for some other countries. In addition to four locations in Turkey, regional editions are printed and distributed in Australia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Turkmenistan, and the US. Zaman bureaus and correspondents are located in major world capitals and cities like Washington DC, New York, Brussels, Moscow, Cairo, Baku, Frankfurt, Ashgabat, Tashkent, and Bucharest. Special international editions are distributed in the native alphabets and languages of the countries they are published. Originally also having an English-language edition, since January 16, 2007, that role has been taken over by the newly-launched English-language daily newspaper Today's Zaman. It has been awarded for its design countless times, by bodies including Society for News Design.

12 - TUSKON (Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey)

Phone: 0212 368 81 10

Fax: 0 212 368 81 06

info@tuskon.org

Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey, is a non-governmental organization formed by regional federations of the business world which were founded in Istanbul in 2005 and expanded country-wide. Tuskon, represents 11500 businessmen who involve in activities in 150 organizations of businessmen. The organization aims to turn the enterprises and the entrepreneurs into the part of global business world by developing scientific and rational methods oriented to the commercial and industrial life as being the parent institution of businessmen's organizations which were formed to contribute to economic and social development of the country. The confederation which made a principle of carrying out its work with the understanding of transparency adopted to accept hardworking, honest, reliable businessmen with social responsibility awareness and their institutions as members as well.

13 - Mustafa AKYOL

Writer and Columnist, Turkish Daily News - Star

Phone: 01190 212 251 6580

Fax: 01190 212 245 47390

akyol@mustafaakyol.org

www.thewhitepath.com

Mustafa Akyol is a Turkish writer and columnist. He is currently the opinion editor and a columnist for Turkish Daily News, Turkey's foremost English-language daily. He also writes a regular column for the Turkish national daily, Star. Akyol's articles have also appeared on other publications such as The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, International Herald Tribune, The American Interest, First Things, The Weekly Standard, The Washington Times, The American Enterprise Magazine, National Review Online, The Forward, Tech Central Station, FrontPage Magazine and IslamOnline. Mustafa Akyol has a book in Turkish titled *Rethinking The Kurdish Question: What Went Wrong? What Next?* (Doğan Publishing, 2006) which has received praise from many prominent Turkish intellectuals. He is currently working on a book in English on the future of Islam and the Islamic world. He graduated from the International Relations Department of the Bosphorus University. He had his master thesis on the Kurdish question at the History Department of the same university. He has given seminars in several universities in the U.S. and the U.K. on issues relating to Islam and modernity.

VISA INFORMATION

U.S. & Canadian Citizens

A visa is required for all U.S. citizens entering Turkey. U.S. citizens may obtain their visas upon entry point in Turkey. Visas given at entry points are valid only for three months.

Non - U.S. Citizens

Non-U.S Citizens need to have to apply for their tourist or business visas in advance BEFORE going to Turkey. Applicants should directly contact a Turkish Consulate in person, by mail or by a courier service.

Limits

There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency that may be brought into Turkey, but not more than \$5,000 worth of Turkish currency may be brought into or taken out of the country.

Exchange Slips

The exchange slips for the conversion of foreign currency into Turkish lira should be kept, since you may be required to show these when reconverting your Turkish lira back into foreign currency, and when taking souvenirs out of the country (to prove that they have been purchased with legally exchanged foreign currency).

EMBASSY AND CONSULATE INFORMATION

U.S. Embassy - Ankara

110 Atatürk Blvd.
Kavaklıdere, 06100 Ankara / Türkiye
Phone: (90-312) 455-5555
Fax: (90-312) 467-0019
E-mail: usembassyankara@yahoo.com

U.S. Consulate General – Istanbul

İstinye Mahallesi, Kaplıcalar Mevkii No.2
İstinye 34460 - Istanbul / Turkey
Phone: (90) 212-335 90 00
Fax: (90-212) 335-9198
E-mail: acs_istanbul@state.gov

USEFUL INFORMATION

Time: Local time is equal to GMT + 2 hours. Same time zone all over the country (eight hours ahead of U.S. eastern standard time).

Electricity: 220 volts a.c. throughout Turkey

Weights and Measures: Metric and Kilo system

Weather:

March: In Istanbul you may encounter rain, and the air may be cool or even chilly at night, but comfortable during the day. Minimum temperature is 40 °F. Maximum temperature is 54 °F. Bring a coat and a warm jacket. Ankara and Cappadocia will be much cooler than Istanbul.

April: In Istanbul minimum average temperature is 45 °F. Maximum temperature is 59 °F. April is the time when the spring starts and one can boldly observe the awakening of the nature in historical Istanbul. Bring a thin coat and a warm jacket.

American Hospital in Istanbul

Güzelbahce St. No:20 Nişantaşı/İstanbul /Turkey

Phone: +90 212 311 20 00 – 7511

E-mail: basakh@amerikanhastanesi.com.tr

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

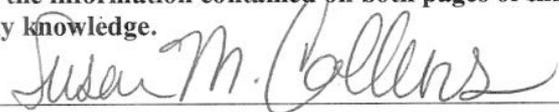
PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM
For Members, Officers, and Employees

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Please type form. Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 14 days before the trip commences.

Name of Traveler: Susan M Collins

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member/Committee: Rep. Luis Gutierrez

Office address: 2266 Rayburn HOB

Phone number: direct: 202-225-6593; office: 202-225-8203

Email address of contact person: susan.collins@mail.house.gov

- Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet and the traveler is a Member traveling to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 14 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Susan M Collins
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish American Federation of Midwest
3. Travel destination(s): Turkey: Istanbul, Ankara, Nevsehir
4. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: March 18 - 25, 2011
- b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: NA
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes, name of accompanying family member: NA
c. Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): NA
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(c) on the Trip Sponsor form (i.e., the travel is being sponsored by an entity that employs a lobbyist)? Yes No
b. If yes, check one of the following: N/A – Sponsor checked 9(a) or 9(b)
(1) Approval for one-night's lodging and meals is being requested: or
(2) Approval for two-nights' lodging and meals is being requested:
If "(2)" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____
7. Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments (indicate that form is attached by checking box):

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to your individual official or representational duties:

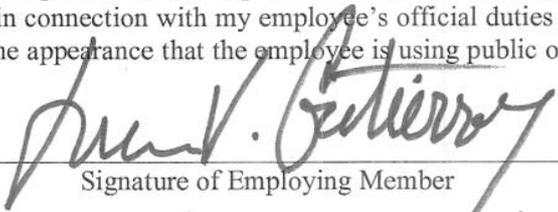
This trip will strengthen my knowledge of the political, social and economic landscape of Turkey. By visiting the country and its government, elected officials, and civic leaders, I will gain first hand

understanding of pertinent issues in the region as they relate to national security, government, trade and democracy—all essential to the Congressman's portfolio and my role as Legislative Director.

9. **FOR STAFF:**
TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: February 25, 2011


Signature of Employing Member

NOTE: This page must be submitted with your post-travel disclosure form within 15 days of your return, so you should maintain a photocopy of the completed form for your records.

JO BONNER, ALABAMA
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
CHARLES W. DENT, PENNSYLVANIA
GREGG HARPER, MISSISSIPPI

KELLE A. STRICKLAND,
COUNSEL TO THE CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515-6328

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DANIEL J. TAYLOR,
COUNSEL TO THE RANKING MEMBER

1015 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-7103

March 4, 2011

Ms. Susan Collins
Office of the Honorable Luis Gutierrez
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Collins:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Turkey scheduled for March 18 to 25, 2011, sponsored by the Turkish American Federation of the Midwest.

You must complete an Employee Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are required to attach a copy of this letter and the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form, including all attachments. You must also include a copy of the Traveler Form completed by you and signed by your employing Member. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$335 from a single source on Schedule VII of that statement.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$335] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$335 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use. Further, House employees may accept, under the FGDA, gifts of travel benefits from a foreign government, including food, lodging, transportation, and entertainment, within that foreign country. For your proposed trip to Turkey, the gift of travel benefits under the FGDA would include, but are not be limited to, the breakfast on Monday, March 22, 2011, which is hosted by the Mayor of Ankara. Any travel benefits in excess of \$335 received from a foreign government by you must, within 30 days of acceptance be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments. The FGDA form for tangible gifts or travel benefits must be filed directly with the Ethics Committee.

Ms. Susan Collins

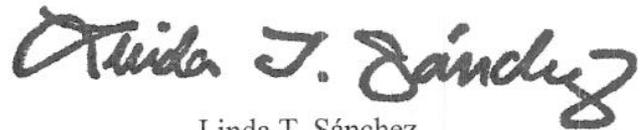
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If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Jo Bonner
Chairman



Linda T. Sánchez
Ranking Member

JB/LTS:haj