RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
Date/Time Stamp
9/1/26
2026 SEP -1
11:10 AM
AM 11:22

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification:*In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
American Task Force on Lebanon

Travel Dates:
08/12/2026 to 08/17/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$2,673.83	$1,021.20	$372.81	$0.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/1/26
Date

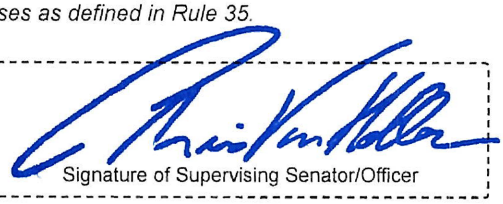
Shervin Ghaffari
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/1/26
Date


Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

● Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	$2,673.83	Travel plans did not change; the revised total expense reflects the final cost of airfare ($2,431.87) and Ground Transportation ($241.96).
Lodging	$1,021.20	Lodging Plans did not change; the revised total expense reflects the final amount paid to the Hotel.
Meals	$372.81	Pre-travel estimate: $450.00. Final actual meal costs were $372.81. The lower final cost reflects that Shervin Ghaffari did not attend the ATFL-provided dinner on August 15, as well as applicable taxes, gratuities, and final restaurant charges.
Misc. Expenses	$207.69	Pre-travel estimate: $0.00. Final miscellaneous expenses were revised to include a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) security detail ($192.31 per person) and a professional guided tour of Byblos ($15.38 per person). Given the security environment in Lebanon, ATFL had sought to arrange an LAF security detail for the congressional staff delegation. The detail was not confirmed prior to the pre-travel submission because of LAF scheduling constraints. A professional tour guide was also retained for the planned cultural visit to Byblos. The guided visit provided additional historical and cultural context regarding the city's significance, including the role of cultural heritage preservation and its connection to tourism and economic development in Lebanon.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

● Yes ○ No

Explanation: Thursday, August 13th 11:30–12:30 — Meeting with General Wassim Halabi, Adviser to the President of Lebanon: The meeting was also attended by additional advisers to President Joseph Aoun. The meeting time, location, and purpose remained unchanged. 13:00–14:45 — Working Lunch with Advisers to Prime Minister Nawaf Salam: The pre-travel submission identified the attendees generally as advisers to the Prime Minister because final RSVPs had not yet been confirmed. The final attendees included Ambassador Claude Hajal, Sateh Arnaout, Lamia Moubayed, and other advisers to Prime Minister Nawaf Salam. The meeting time, location, and purpose remained unchanged. 15:15–16:30 — Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Adviser to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri: The meeting was extended by 15 minutes from the pre-travel schedule of 15:15–16:15. The location and purpose remained unchanged. Friday, August 14th 7:45-8:15 — ATFL Coffee Briefing with Ambassador Michel Issa: The group was joined by US Ambassador Michel Issa, who provided an overview of current US policy and objectives and had the chance to participate in a Q&A session with the Ambassador about contemporary policy challenges in Lebanon. The location and purpose of the briefing remained unchanged. 09:00–10:00 — Meeting with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolphe Haykal / 10:30–11:30 — Meeting with Director General of State Security Major General Edgar Lawandos: Following the meeting with General Haykal, the delegation split. The three Senate staffers covered by this submission, along with most of the delegation, remained for additional discussion with General Haykal and did not attend the meeting with General Lawandos. A smaller group of House staffers proceeded to the Lawandos meeting as scheduled. 12:00–13:00 — Meeting with Minister of Public Works and Transportation Fayez Rasamny: The previously scheduled meeting with Ambassador Simon Karam was canceled due to a change in Ambassador Karam's schedule. It was replaced by a meeting with Minister of Public Works and Transportation Fayez Rasamny at the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation. The meeting provided the delegation with an overview of recent efforts to modernize port-of-entry operations and strengthen customs enforcement. Participants learned about newly installed cargo-scanning systems and discussed their role in improving inspections, facilitating legitimate trade, combating corruption and smuggling, and preventing the illicit movement of narcotics, weapons, and other prohibited goods through Lebanon's ports of entry. The meeting time remained unchanged. 16:45–18:30 — Humanitarian Site Visit and Briefing with Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed: The site visit was extended by 45 minutes from the pre-travel

schedule of 16:45–17:45. In addition, the staffers received a briefing at the Grand Serail, Beirut prior to the site visit. The purpose remained unchanged. Saturday, August 15th 08:15–09:15 — Meeting with Independent Figures & Activists: The meeting location was confirmed as Elyssar, GF Level, Beirut. The meeting title and description were revised from the pre-travel submission's "Shia Opposition Meeting" to reflect that participants included independent figures and activists from a variety of communities, rather than only Shia opposition figures. The meeting focused on perspectives supporting state sovereignty, strong government institutions, and alternative political visions for Lebanon. The meeting time and attire remained unchanged.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ◉ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

★ ATFL ★
American Task Force
On Lebanon

July 1, 2026

Shervin Ghaffari
Office of Senator Van Hollen
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Shervin,

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) invites you to attend an ATFL-sponsored trip to Lebanon from August 11 – 16 for a series of high-level meetings and focused site visits. Meetings may include top government and military officials in addition to key civil society and business leaders. Site visits will focus on current issues facing Lebanon's security as well as the Lebanese people at large who are facing multiple debilitating crises.

We anticipate a series of candid and in-depth discussions on topics concerning governmental reforms, regional security, US support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces, US humanitarian support for the Lebanese people and support for American universities in Lebanon, among other matters.

ATFL unites Americans of Lebanese heritage to promote a strong, reliable, and proactive bilateral relationship between the United States and Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for Congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US-Lebanon relationship. ATFL has planned the itinerary for meetings in consultation with US government leaders and the US Embassy.

The mission and objectives of ATFL shall always be in the best interest of the United States and will promote the national unity, independence, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon.

In compliance with the House/Senate Committee on Ethics, ATFL will cover all participants' transportation, meal, and hotel costs for the duration of the trip. We will communicate with you individually to secure your air travel, hotel stay, and visa processing. We kindly request your response at your earliest convenience by no later by July 10, 2026, to steven.howard@atfl.org, clarifying any food allergies or other needs that require accommodating so that we may plan accordingly.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We look forward to continued outreach and cooperation on behalf of the US-Lebanon relationship.

Sincerely,

Ambassador (ret.) Edward M. Gabriel
President and CEO

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp
July 31, 2026 4:34 PM

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Shervin Ghaffari

Employing Office/Committee:
Chris Van Hollen

Private Sponsor(s):
American Task Force on Lebanon

Destination(s):
Beirut, Lebanon

Travel Dates:
08/11/2026 to 8/16/26

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

As a Senior Legislative Assistant, I work heavily on issues related to Lebanon and U.S. policy, and how that intersects with the rest of the Middle East. During this trip, we will meet with Lebanese leaders in both their executive and legislative branches, as well as meetings Lebanese civil society and humanitarian actors. This will help me better understand issues that impact US Lebanon relations, especially as it relates to our office's work on the Appropriations Committee.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? **Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

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

7/31/26 — Date

Shervin Ghaffari — Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Senator Van Hollen (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) hereby authorize Shervin Ghaffari (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☑ (signify "yes" by checking box)

7/31/26 — Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

American Task Force on Lebanon: ATFL StaffDel Aug 2026

Shervin Ghaffari

Title:
ATFL StaffDel Aug 2026

Employing Office/Committee:
VAN HOLLEN, CHRIS

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Beirut, Lebanon

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As a Senior Legislative Assistant, I work heavily on issues related to Lebanon and U.S. policy, and how that intersects with the rest of the Middle East. During this trip, we will meet with Lebanese leaders in both their executive and legislative branches, as well as meetings Lebanese civil society and humanitarian actors. This will help me better understand issues that impact US-Lebanon relations, especially as it relates to our office's work on the Appropriations Committee.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
American Task Force on Lebanon

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address
1100 Connecticut Ave NW

Address 2 (Optional)
Ste 1050

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20036 United States

Phone Number
(202) 223-9333

Organization URL
https://atfl.org/

History of Congressional Travel

The American Task Force on Lebanon is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1986 that has sponsored bipartisan Congressional delegations in the past, most recently in 2021 and 2022.

Educational Activities

In addition to congressional trips, the American Task Force on Lebanon hosts webinars, private round tables, and other meetings with administrative officials, legislative members and staff, health professionals, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, NGOs, and other stakeholders both in the United States and Lebanon. We regularly publish about our activities and network through our website and social media channels.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The purpose of ATFL's August delegation to Lebanon is to educate policymakers on Lebanon's efforts to reclaim state sovereignty following the recent Trilateral Agreement signed in Washington, DC, the status of economic and judicial reforms, humanitarian needs following the recent Hezbollah-Israel war, and the impact of US bilateral assistance to Lebanon. The delegation also aims to help participating Congressional staff better understand how their Lebanese counterparts are approaching these challenges, while exposing Lebanese policymakers to bipartisan perspectives on US policy toward Lebanon.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) is a non-sectarian, non-partisan, and independent 501c3 non-profit organization. Comprised of prominent Americans of Lebanese heritage, our mission is to educate policymakers and the public about the importance of a robust US-Lebanon bilateral relationship by facilitating dialogue around common principles and issues of strategic importance. We are motivated by American interests and values, with a commitment to improving the civic, cultural, educational, and charitable ties between both countries while promoting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and prosperity of a democratic and pluralistic Lebanon. ATFL sponsors beneficial exchanges for congressional leaders who are interested in strengthening the US Lebanon relationship.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/11/2026 @ 10:55 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/16/2026 @ 08:55 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $2,700.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$2,200.00
Note Round trip		
Ground Transportation	N/A	$500.00
Note Car & driver Includes security services		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $960.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/12/2026	08/16/2026	Hotel Phoenicia	Beirut		Lebanon	4	$240.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $450.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/12/2026	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$50.00**	Beirut		Lebanon	No
08/13/2026	$25.00	$50.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$125.00**	Beirut		Lebanon	Yes
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason Safety of locations and food standards									
08/14/2026	$25.00	$50.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$125.00**	Beirut		Lebanon	Yes
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason Safety of locations and food standards									
08/15/2026	$25.00	$50.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$125.00**	Beirut		Lebanon	Yes

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason Safety of locations and food standards									
08/16/2026	$25.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$25.00**	Beirut		Lebanon	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes

There are no miscellaneous expenses.

Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: ATFL Staffdel Aug 2026

Travel Date(s): August 11-16, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Beirut, Lebanon

Sponsor: American Task Force on Lebanon

The Hon. Edward M. Gabriel — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

President & CEO — *(title)*

Edward M. Gabriel Digitally signed by Edward M. Gabriel Date: 2026.07.09 11:14:40 -04'00' — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

7/9/26 — *(date)*

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American Task Force
On Lebanon

ATFL Delegation to Lebanon List of Invitees
August 11-16, 2026

Reason for Invitation

Participants are from offices who are members of committees of jurisdiction related to foreign affairs and national security or who represent states with large Lebanese-American populations.

Invited Participants:

Ausan Al-Eryani, Office of Sen. Jeff Merkley

Shir Attias, Office of Sen. Chuck Schumer

Roy Awabdeh, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Daisy Bledsoe-Herring, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Luke Burke, Office of Sen. Dave McCormick

Molly Cole, Office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen

Jessica Elledge, Office of Sen. Chris Murphy

Jorie Feldman, Senate Armed Services Committee

Margaret Flynn Sapia, Office of Sen. Chris Coons

Shervin Ghaffari, Office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen

Tyler Goldstein, Office of Sen. Jacky Rosen

Khenadi Grubb, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Sophia Hays, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

JC Jain, Office of Sen. Tim Kaine

Molly Lazio, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Walter Lohman, Office of Sen. Dan Sullivan

Jonathan Lord, Office of Sen. Angela Alsobrooks

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Hassan Sheikh, Office of Sen. Elissa Slotkin

Georgia Wood, Office of Sen. Elissa Slotkin

Abigail Zarzar, Office of Sen. Ted Budd

Reza Zomorrodian, Office of Sen. Brian Schatz

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Tuesday, August 11, 2026

22:55 **Departure from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to London Heathrow Airport (LHR)**
Flight Info: Virgin Atlantic (VS) 22 (IAD-LHR): 10:55pm - 11:20am (+1 Day) (all travelers)

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

19:35pm **Arrival to Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY)**
Flight Info: Middle East Airlines (ME) 202 (LHR-BEY): 1:00pm - 7:35pm (all travelers)

21:15- 22:30 **ATFL Welcome Dinner**
Location: Phoenicia Hotel
Purpose: To welcome the congressional staff delegation to Lebanon, review the schedule and key objectives for the visit, and provide initial context on Lebanon's political, security, and economic landscape. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs, and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Smart Casual

Thursday, August 13, 2026

07:45-8:10 **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

08:10-08:45 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

09:00-10:30 **US Embassy Country Team Brief**
Location: Awkar

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Purpose: This briefing will provide an opportunity for the delegation to meet with US Embassy officials in Lebanon to receive updates on current USG policy priorities in Lebanon.
Attire: Business

10:30-11:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

11:30-12:30 **Meeting with General Wassim Halabi and Other Advisers to President Joseph Aoun**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political, security, and economic priorities, including state sovereignty, regional stability, reform efforts, and the U.S.-Lebanon relationship.
Attire: Business

12:30-13:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

13:00-14:45 **Working Lunch with Ambassador Claude Hajal, Sateh Arnaout, Lamia Moubayed, and Other Advisors to the Prime Minister Nawaf Salam**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security priorities, the current status of US-Lebanon relations, and opportunities to strengthen diplomatic engagement and support for Lebanese sovereignty and stability.
Attire: Business

14:45-15:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

15:15-16:30 **Meeting with Ali Hamdan, Advisor to Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's political and security landscape, parliamentary priorities, regional stability, reconstruction in the south, and efforts to advance reform and strengthen state institutions.
Attire: Business

16:30-17:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

17:00-18:00 **Meeting with Central Bank Governor Karim Souaid**
Location: Hamra
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's financial and banking sector challenges, monetary stability, the path toward economic recovery, and the Central Bank's role in advancing reform and restoring confidence.
Attire: Business

American Task Force on Lebanon
1100 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1050 | Washington, D.C. 20036
p 202.223.9333 | web: atfl.org

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18:00-18:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***
18:15-20:15 **Executive Time**

20:15-22:15 **Dinner with Parliamentarians Hosted by MP Fouad Makhzoumi**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to engage with MP Fouad Makhzoumi and Lebanese parliamentarians on Lebanon's political landscape, reform priorities, and strengthened state institutions.
Attire: Business

22:15-22:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

22:30 **Return to Hotel**

Friday, August 14, 2026

7:45-8:15 **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Business

08:15-09:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

09:00-10:00 **Meeting with Lebanese Armed Forces Commander General Rodolphe Haykal**
Location: LAF HQ, Yarze
Purpose: This provides the delegation with an opportunity to discuss implementation of the ceasefire agreement and to learn more about the expanded operations of the LAF and identify areas where US support can strengthen the LAF and Lebanese state authority.
Attire: Business

10:00-10:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

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10:30-11:30 **Meeting with Director General of State Security Major General Edgar Lawandos**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To discuss State Security's role in protecting Lebanese state institutions, supporting internal stability, combating corruption and security threats, and strengthening coordination among Lebanon's security services.
Attire: Business

11:30-11:50 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

12:00–13:00 **Meeting with the Minister of Public Works and Transportation Fayez Rasamny**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the delegation with an overview of recent efforts to modernize port of entry operations and strengthen customs enforcement. Participants learn about the newly installed cargo-scanning systems and discuss their role in improving inspections, facilitating legitimate trade, combating corruption and smuggling, and preventing the illicit movement of narcotics, weapons, and other prohibited goods through Lebanon's ports of entry.

13:00-13:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

13:30-14:45 **Lunch with Humanitarian & Civil Society Leaders**
Location: Beit el Kanz, Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to meet with representatives from leading humanitarian and civil society organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross, International Rescue Committee, and Beit el Baraka, and learn more about their work supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Lebanon.
Attire: Business

14:45-15:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

15:15-16:15 **Meeting with Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber**
Location: Beirut, Riad El Solh Square, Ministry of Finance Building, 6th Floor, Minister Office
Purpose: To discuss Lebanon's economic and fiscal priorities, including financial sector reform, public debt, the state budget, international assistance, and measures to strengthen transparency, restore investor confidence, and support sustainable economic recovery.
Attire: Business

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16:45-17:45 **Humanitarian Site Visit with the Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to better understand the humanitarian challenges facing displaced and vulnerable communities in Lebanon, including shelter, basic services, and coordination between Lebanese institutions and international partners.

17:45-18:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

18:00-19:30 **Executive Time**

19:30-20:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

20:00-22:00 **Dinner Hosted by ATFL Vice Chairman Nijad Fares**
Location: Broummana
Purpose: To provide an informal setting for delegation members and invited guests to exchange perspectives on Lebanon's political, economic, and regional priorities.
Attire: Smart Casual

22:00-22:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

22:30 **Return to Hotel**

Saturday, August 15, 2026

7:45-8:00 **ATFL Coffee Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To preview the day's meetings and engagements, review the schedule and key objectives, and provide relevant political, economic, and social context to help frame the delegation's discussions throughout the day. ATFL participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; and Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor.
Attire: Smart Casual

08:00-08:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

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08:15-09:15 **Meeting with Independent Figures & Activists**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To hear from independent figures & activists advocating for state sovereignty, strong government institutions, and an alternative political vision for Lebanon.
Attire: Smart Casual

09:15-10:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

10:15-11:45 **Lebanese Armed Forces Site Visit and US Security Assistance Briefing**
Location: Amchit
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to assess the impact of US security assistance on LAF readiness, border security, counterterrorism capabilities, and Lebanese state authority, while engaging with US military advisors and Lebanese counterparts on priorities for continued US support.
Attire: Smart Casual

11:45-12:00 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

12:00-15:15 **Cultural Visit and Lunch in Byblos**
Location: Byblos
Purpose: The delegation will visit Byblos, one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they will receive a guided tour of the historic site. The city's history spans multiple civilizations, and the United States has supported cultural heritage preservation in the area. This visit will give staffers a firsthand look at the value of international preservation programs—how they can foster a unifying national identity in a pluralistic country and boost tourism in a country in need of economic rejuvenation.
Attire: Smart Casual

15:15-15:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

15:30-16:30 **University Visit and Roundtable with Faculty and Students with American Universities**
Location: Lebanese American University - Byblos
Purpose: This visit will provide an opportunity for the delegation to see firsthand the impact of US assistance to American institutions of higher education in Lebanon, specifically the American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University, through a roundtable discussion with faculty and US scholarship recipients. Participants will include LAU President President Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah and Provost Dr. Greg Heileman.
Attire: Smart Casual

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16:30-17:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

17:15-18:15 **Visit to the Sursock Museum**
Location: Gemmayze
Purpose: Participants will receive a guided tour of the Sursock Museum to learn about Lebanon's cultural heritage and artistic traditions. The visit aims to educate participants on Lebanese society and sociocultural dynamics through engagement with Lebanon's cultural heritage sector and insight into the role of arts and cultural institutions in preserving national identity, fostering resilience, and strengthening social cohesion.
Attire: Smart Casual

18:15-18:30 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

18:30-20:00 **Executive Time**

20:00-20:15 ***Estimated transit time between meetings***

20:15-22:15 **ATFL Closing Dinner and Briefing**
Location: Beirut
Purpose: To provide the congressional staff delegation an opportunity to reflect on key takeaways from the visit, discuss implications for US-Lebanon policy, and identify follow-up priorities after the delegation returns to Washington. ATFL Participants include Ambassador Ed Gabriel, President of ATFL; Philippe Nassif, ATFL Chief Operating Officer; Paul Salem, Senior Policy Advisor; Steven Howard, Director of Government Affairs; Ryan Halawi, Political and Security Advisor; and Matthew Audi, Government Affairs Associate.
Attire: Smart Casual

Sunday, August 16, 2026

04:30 **Checkout from Hotel**

05:00 **Depart Hotel for Beirut Airport (BEY)**

08:10 **Depart Beirut (BEY) for Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD)**
Flight Info: MEA 201 (BEY-LHR) 8:10am - 11:15am // VS 21 (LHR-IAD) 5:55pm - IAD 8:55pm

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