forty-ninth annual
MERIDIAN BALL
OCTOBER 20, 2017
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of Meridian International Center, welcome to the 49th Annual Meridian Ball. This evening is a special opportunity for leaders from the government, diplomatic corps, cultural community, and private sector in Washington, D.C. and around the country to celebrate Meridian and our mission to advance more effective global leadership and diplomacy.

This is a defining moment for Meridian, our country, and the world. Now more than ever, we must come together as a global community to combat conflict and polarization, and find sustainable solutions to international challenges. Your generous support, investment, and commitment to Meridian’s work enables us to continue our efforts to foster emerging leaders who have a global view, increased cultural awareness, and peer networks that allow them to collaborate and produce better outcomes.

This past year brought over 3,500 leaders from 184 countries through Meridian’s doors to take part in our exchange, cultural, convening, and training programs, strengthening U.S. engagement with the world to expand economic development opportunities, protect national and international security interests, and prepare for a complex global future.

Diplomacy starts with each and every one of us and we are grateful for your support. We especially want to extend our deep gratitude to Ball Chairs, The Honorable Tom C. Korologos and The Honorable Ann McLaughlin Korologos; our Congressional Co-Chairs Senator Mark Warner and Mrs. Lisa Collis, and House Speaker Paul Ryan and Mrs. Janna Ryan; and our White-Meyer Co-Chairs Mr. Andrew Florance and Mrs. Heather Florance, and Mr. Glenn Youngkin and Mrs. Suzanne Youngkin. We would also like to extend a special thanks to our leading corporate partners this year including Bayer, Chevron, Gallup, DLA Piper, BGR Group, Hess, and Long & Foster | Christie’s.

We look forward to staying connected throughout the year through our programs and events so you can see our work and impact firsthand. Thank you again and we hope you enjoy the evening.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Chairman of the Board
Meridian International Center

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday
President and CEO
Meridian International Center
CONGRESSIONAL CO-CHAIRS
SENATOR MARK WARNER AND MS. LISA COLLIS

CONGRESSIONAL CO-CHAIRS
HOUSE SPEAKER PAUL RYAN AND MRS. JANNA RYAN

BALL CHAIRS
THE HONORABLE TOM C. KOROLOGOS
AND THE HONORABLE ANN MCLAUGHLIN KOROLOGOS

WHITE-MEYER CO-CHAIRS
MR. AND MRS. GLENN YOUNGKIN

WHITE-MEYER CO-CHAIRS
MR. AND MRS. ANDREW FLORANCE
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>His Excellency</td>
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<td>and Mrs. Huberta von Yoss-Wittig</td>
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<td>and Mrs. Gouri Mirpuri</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hanene Tajouri Bestassi</td>
<td>Minister Plenipotentiary Hors Class</td>
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<td>The Jefferson Hotel</td>
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and Mrs. Lael Mohib

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Bin Suleymanov
The Ambassador of the
Republic of Azerbaijan
and Mrs. Lala Suleymanov

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and Mrs. Dinah Adjei-Bawua

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Ashok Mirpuri
Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore
and Mrs. Gouri Mirpuri

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Minna Mahluang
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and Mr. Thilivhali Ratshtanga
Political Counselor at the Embassy of South Africa

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The Ambassador of Sweden

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The Ambassador of Switzerland
and Mrs. Anita Dahinden

**TUNISIA**
*Mrs. Hanene Tajouri Bestassi*
Minister Plenipotentiary Hors Class
Embassy of Tunsia

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**
Constance J. Milstein
The Jefferson Hotel

*as of 10.13.2017*
Too often in public discourse we are presented with a binary choice between America’s national interests and robust U.S. global engagement. This is taking place in all spheres whether economic, political, or in ensuring our national security. This year’s Summit delved into the importance of international engagement and explored how the United States can more effectively use our position of global leadership to benefit everyone across the nation. We brought together notable speakers from government, business, and media to share perspectives on the growing domestic and international concerns with globalization. The findings of the Gallup Global Report “What Happiness Today Tells Us About the World Tomorrow” contributed to this dialogue through the analysis of key factors that might lead to significant shifts and unrest in countries around the world. Through Meridian’s signature cross-sector approach, panelists discussed America’s geopolitical standing, the correlation among the U.S. and global economies, and how international exposure sharpens leadership skills and business acumen.

At this year’s Meridian Global Leadership Summit, top leaders explored how the U.S. and other countries across the world can work together on “Advancing National Interests in a Globalized Society.” Thank you to all who were able to join this morning’s program.

THANK YOU TO THE 2017 SUMMIT FEATURED SPEAKERS:

HIS EXCELLENCY KASIMAT AL-KUWAITI 
Ambassador of Kuwait to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY KARAN RAINA 
Ambassador of the Indian Republic to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN KELLY 
Ambassador of Ireland to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY PETER VON TAKKE 
Ambassador of Denmark to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN BEAUFORD 
Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY RONALD SMALLEY 
Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM J. BURGER 
Ambassador of Australia to the United States

HIS EXCELLENCY PATRICK J. GIBBON 
Ambassador of Canada to the United States

MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
SUPPORT MERIDIAN

JOIN OUR NETWORK
Individuals and companies can support and benefit from Meridian’s work by joining our distinguished network of business leaders, public sector officials, and the international diplomatic corps. Membership networks include the Meridian Corporate Council and the Meridian Global Leadership Council.

THE MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
The Meridian Global Leadership Council is a network of leaders in Washington and around the country who support Meridian’s commitment to strengthening international collaboration and advancing U.S. engagement and global leadership. The Council is at the center of engagement between the diplomatic community, government policy makers and leaders from the business, cultural and philanthropic circles. Members are invited to participate in our dynamic programs and events throughout the year to stay connected to Meridian’s work and mission. From discussions on foreign policy issues at intimate salon dinners to lively cultural diplomacy receptions and exhibits, our curated events focus on cultivating relationships and impactful exchanges of ideas and culture from around the world.

THE MERIDIAN CORPORATE COUNCIL
The Meridian Corporate Council is a distinguished group of international business leaders who are at the forefront of private sector efforts to strengthen global leadership and collaboration. Council membership provides access to Meridian’s global network of diplomatic, public, private, and non-profit sector leaders, as well as invitations to programs and seminars, and guaranteed seats at networking events and ambassadorial briefings.

MAKE A PHILANTHROPIC GIFT
Individuals, foundations and corporations who wish to continue their support of Meridian are encouraged to donate and partner with us on global leadership, cultural diplomacy or diplomatic engagement programs that are tailored and aligned with their interests and goals.

PROVIDE A LEGACY
The Linden Legacy Society honors friends who are committed to supporting Meridian’s role in expanding international understanding through planned and estate gifts. Society members provide a sound financial foundation for Meridian and its historic buildings’ future for generations to come.

SPONSOR THE MERIDIAN BALL AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
The 50th anniversary of the Meridian Ball will take place next year on Friday, October 12, 2018. Our largest signature event, the Meridian Ball and Global Leadership Summit celebrate Meridian’s role in developing the next generation of leaders, and are highlighted by a day of topical discussions and a spectacular evening of Ambassador-hosted dinners followed by dancing, dessert, and dialogue at Meridian House.

To explore these and other ways to support Meridian, please contact the Development Office at (202) 939-5521 or merdevelopment@meridian.org.

Meridian International Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions may be tax-deductible.

CORPORATE COUNCIL MEMBERS
ABOUT MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

WHO WE ARE
Meridian International Center is a nonpartisan public diplomacy and global leadership nonprofit that works to prepare U.S. and international leaders to meet global challenges and opportunities. Building on more than 55 years of experience, our programs foster an environment for leaders to understand global issues and cultures, exchange ideas, collaborate on solutions, and build valuable relationships by bringing together a cross-section of established and emerging leaders.

OUR MISSION
To create innovative exchange, education, cultural, and policy programs that advance three goals:
• Strengthen U.S. engagement with the world through the power of exchange;
• Prepare public and private sector leaders for a complex global future;
• Provide a neutral forum for international collaboration and partnership across sectors.

OUR VISION
Meridian envisions a more secure and prosperous world that is characterized by mutual understanding, innovation, economic growth, and inclusion. The path to realizing this vision is through more effective and connected public and private sector leadership at all levels across the globe.

Meridian is supported by public grants, as well as corporate, foundation, and individual donations. It occupies a four-acre campus that includes the Meridian and White-Meyer Houses. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the District of Columbia’s Inventory of Historic Sites.

Meridian International Center is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Proceeds from this year’s Ball will support Meridian’s ongoing efforts to advance effective global leadership through exchange, forums, cultural diplomacy, and training programs.