

# TCA-Sponsored Congressional Trips to Turkey



*Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA), Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY), and Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) with students from Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey.*



*August 2010 Congressional Staff Delegation in front of the Church of St. Clement of Ohrid, Macedonia.*

According to a report published by U.S. News and World Report, the Turkish Coalition of America ranked 3rd among the top non-profit organizations heading privately-sponsored Congressional travel in 2010. **As a result of TCA's efforts, Turkey became the second most traveled to international destination** behind Israel.

Since its inaugural trip in May 2009, TCA has organized 13 bipartisan Congressional delegations to Turkey. In the past three years, TCA has taken 8 Members of Congress and 124 senior staffers to Turkey.

TCA's Congressional trips consist of meetings with high-level U.S. and Turkish officials, civil society representatives, journalists, academicians and students, as well as business leaders. The itinerary includes Ankara, Turkey's capital; and Istanbul, its largest and most famous city; day excursions to other sites of historical significance to Turkey's steadfast partnership with the West – namely Patara, birthplace of proportional representation; Gallipoli, site of the last "Gentlemen's War" of the 20th century; and Troy.

TCA also sponsors staffer delegations to Turkey with stopovers in other countries in the region that are of significance to the United States and Turkey. Past TCA delegations visited Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Bosnia and Macedonia visits highlight past and ongoing collaboration between the U.S.-Turkey in the Balkans. Delegates participating in trips to Northern Cyprus are provided a unique opportunity to witness the realities on the ground first-hand and meet with officials working tirelessly to reunite this divided island.

For more information on past and upcoming delegations, please contact Beril Unver at [bunver@tc-america.org](mailto:bunver@tc-america.org), 202-370-1399, Ext. 14.

***"Participating in the Congressional Trip sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America to Turkey and Macedonia was informative, instructive, and gave our Congressional staff delegation an on the ground first-hand look on how US-Turkish relations can grow."** - Art Estopinan, Chief of Staff for House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)*

***"The staffdel is a vital resource to inform Congressional staffers about the essential bilateral relationship between the United States and Turkey and to put staffers in the midst of the vibrant and modern nation of Turkey that is simply impossible through mere briefings and books."** - Joshua Rogin, Chief of Staff for Congressman Ted Deutch (D-FL)*