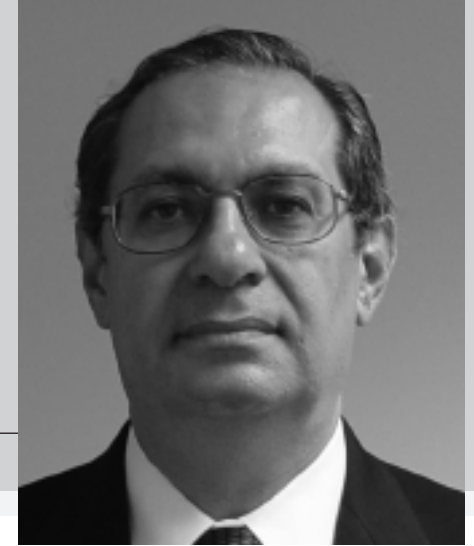




DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Theodore H. Kattouf '68



To Ambassador Theodore H. Kattouf for his lifelong commitment to foreign service and improving relations between the Middle East and the United States.

Theodore Kattouf has spent the past 35 years working in the Middle East for the State Department, as the U.S. Ambassador to both the United Arab Emirates and Syria and as president and CEO of AMIDEAST. As the head of AMIDEAST, he oversees the private, non-profit organization that has promoted greater cooperation and understanding between the Middle East and the United States for 57 years. AMIDEAST, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has 23 offices in 14 Middle Eastern and Northern African countries. Since Kattouf became president of AMIDEAST in 2003, revenues have increased 175 percent, and the organization's endowment has quadrupled.

After graduating from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in foreign service and international politics, Kattouf served three-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army infantry, attaining the rank of captain. He joined the Foreign Service in 1972, first working as an economic and commercial

officer in Kuwait. After completing the Foreign Service Arabic Language Program in Beirut and Tunis, he was assigned to Damascus as a political officer. Kattouf returned to the United States to serve as a Middle East analyst in the U.S. State Department and, from 1980 to 1982, as an international relations officer in the department's Near East Bureau. In that position, he played a key role in establishing the Multi-National Force and Observers in the Sinai. From 1982 to 1983, Kattouf was a State Department mid-career fellow at Princeton University.

From 1983 to 1986, during the Iran-Iraq war, Kattouf was deputy chief of mission in Baghdad. He then served one year as deputy chief of mission and one year as chargé d'affaires, ad interim in Sana'a, Yemen. Kattouf returned to the United States in 1988 to serve as deputy director and then director of the Office of Lebanon, Jordan, and Syrian Affairs. He returned overseas in 1992, first as deputy chief of mission in Damascus and from 1995 to 1998 as deputy chief of mission in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While serving as chargé d'affaires, ad interim in Riyadh, Kattouf managed the aftermath of the Khobar Towers bombing in 1996, in which

19 American airmen died. He worked with then-Secretary of Defense William Perry '57g to relocate U.S. air assets and training elements to more secure facilities within Saudi Arabia and with then-FBI Director Louis Freeh to facilitate FBI-Saudi cooperation during the subsequent investigation.

President Bill Clinton nominated Kattouf as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, and he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in September 1998. During his tenure, U.S.-U.A.E. cooperation expanded in numerous fields intended to bolster Persian Gulf security and combat terrorism. The embassy also played a crucial role in concluding an \$8 billion sale of U.S. fighter aircraft. President George W. Bush nominated Kattouf as ambassador to Syria, and he was sworn in on August 31, just days before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Two years later, Kattouf joined AMIDEAST.

During his foreign service career, Kattouf received the State Department's Charles E. Cobb Award for Trade Development by an Ambassador, two Meritorious Honor Awards, four Senior Performance Awards, and a Presidential Honor Award.

At the end of his ambassadorship in the U.A.E., the ruler awarded him the Order of Zayid in recognition of the outstanding contributions he had made to strengthening U.S.-U.A.E. ties.

A native of Altoona, Pa., Kattouf and his wife, Jeannie, live in Washington, D.C. Between them, they have four children and four grandchildren.

