

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Contact: 609-258-5545):**

**Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University**, is pleased to announce a lecture in the series, Princeton Lectures in Religion and Ethics:



## **“The Impact of Faith in Public Service”**

**Congressman  
Frank Wolf (R-Va.)**

**Monday, November 12, 2007  
4:30 PM**

**[Robertson Hall, Bowl 1.](#)**

The lecture is free and open to the public. A map designating Robertson Hall is here <http://www.princeton.edu/~pumap/buildings/23.html>.

Members of the news media interested in attending should RSVP no later than noon Wednesday, Nov. 7 by e-mailing [csrelig@princeton.edu](mailto:csrelig@princeton.edu).

### **About Frank Wolf:**

Congressman Wolf, the most senior of the 11 members of the House of Representatives from Virginia, is serving in his 14th term in Congress. He represents the 10th District of Virginia, which stretches from McLean to Winchester.

Congressman Wolf sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he is the senior Republican on the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee. He also serves on the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development subcommittee.

Congressman Wolf is one of the House's leading crusaders for human rights. He is the co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a bipartisan organization of over 200 House members that identifies and works to alleviate human rights abuses worldwide.

Congressman Wolf believes members of Congress have an obligation to speak out for those who are persecuted around the world. He has traveled to Ethiopia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and other countries in Africa to see firsthand the tremendous suffering of the people at the hands of corrupt governments, war, AIDS and famine. He led the first congressional delegation to Darfur in western Sudan to bring attention to the crisis there, later officially declared by the U.S. government as genocide. He also has worked to call attention to the human rights abuses and religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, Tibet, Romania, Nagorno-Karabakh, Chechnya, Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, and the Middle East.

Congressman Wolf's international travels have allowed him to see the destruction caused by terrorists. He has visited Lebanon, where in 1983 car bombs were used to destroy a U.S. Marine barracks, killing 241 Marines. He has been to Algeria, where more than 70,000 people have been killed by terrorists, and has traveled to Sudan – which gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden for several years in the early 1990s – five times, most recently in July 2004. He also has traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Israel.

In 1998, he authored the bill creating the National Commission on Terrorism. Chaired by L. Paul Bremer, President Ronald Reagan's counterterrorism czar, the commission closely examined the problem of terrorism, studying its origins and its key players. The commission also developed a policy response and made a number of wide-ranging recommendations when it released its report in June 2000. The report can be found at <http://www.fas.org/irp/threat/commission.html>.

Following his September 2005 trip to Iraq (click [here for Trip Report](#)), Congressman Wolf called for the creation of an independent, bipartisan panel to bring what he called “fresh eyes” to U.S. efforts in Iraq. The result was the establishment of the Iraq Study Group headed by James Baker and Lee Hamilton. The 10-member panel spent eight months developing a series of recommendations that were released in December 2006.

Congressman Wolf also is one of Congress's leading opponents of gambling, citing its destructive force on society and on children in particular. In 1997, he pushed for the creation of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, which uncovered a myriad of destructive effects caused by gambling. The commission showed that as gambling has spread quickly throughout the country, it has had negative social and economic impacts on communities. When he saw the explosion of casino gambling on tribal lands and how the vast majority of Native Americans continue to suffer in abject poverty, he proposed legislation to examine U.S. policy toward Native Americans and develop policy recommendations to improve the welfare of tribes in the areas of health, economic development, housing and transportation infrastructure. He also called for a moratorium on the opening of any new tribal casinos and a halt to the federal recognition process of tribes until Congress can review the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 and consider a reform package. Congressman Wolf also has worked to support laws to stop the proliferation of gambling on the Internet and on high school and college athletics. In addition, he also has worked to educate elected officials who potentially see legalized gambling as a quick fix to economic problems.

Congressman Wolf was born in 1939 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. degree from Penn State University in 1961 and his law degree from Georgetown University in 1965. He lives in Vienna with his wife, Carolyn. They have five adult children and 12 grandchildren.

**About Center for the Study of Religion:**

Founded in 1999, Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University encourages greater intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary scholarly studies about religion among faculty and students in the humanities and social sciences. The Center aims to facilitate understanding of religion through an integrated program of support for Princeton faculty to pursue research and teaching on thematic projects, awards for Princeton graduate students to complete dissertation research, interdisciplinary seminars, undergraduate courses, public lectures, and opportunities for visiting scholars to affiliate with the Center.

**Other upcoming events at the Center for the Study of Religion include:**

11/9/07-11/10/07 "[Mormonism and American Politics](http://www.princeton.edu/~csrelig/mormonism&politics)" a conference organized by Melissa Proctor, Harvard Divinity School. Begins at 8:00 PM on 11/09/07 and continues from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on 11/10/07, [222 Bowen Hall](#). (More information is available here <http://www.princeton.edu/~csrelig/mormonism&politics>).

11/19/07 "The Protocols of the Elders of Greenwich: The Secret American Plot to Rule the World," a lecture by Walter Mead, Council on Foreign Relations.

12/2007 "Religion and Politics in Iraq," a lecture by Anne Garrels, senior foreign correspondent, National Public Radio. Date, time, and location TBA.

**For more information, contact:**

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