



NGA  ST. LOUIS

OPENING CEREMONY

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



VICE ADMIRAL FRANK D. WHITWORTH

DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Vice Admiral Frank Whitworth is the eighth Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He leads and directs NGA under the authorities of the Secretary of War and Director of National Intelligence. He became NGA's director on June 3, 2022.

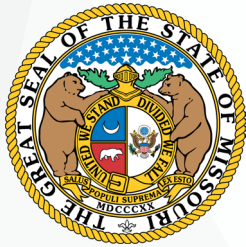
Whitworth is a 1989 graduate of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He holds a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia, as well as a diploma from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Whitworth's command tours included commander, Joint Intelligence Center Central; commanding officer, Navy Element of U.S. Central Command; and commanding officer, Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center.

Whitworth's operational tours included director of Intelligence for The Joint Staff, director of Intelligence for U.S. Africa Command, director of Intelligence for Joint Special Operations Command, director of Intelligence and deputy director of Maritime Operations Center for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. Fifth Fleet; director of Intelligence for a Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan during three deployments supporting Operation Enduring Freedom; director of Intelligence for Naval Special Warfare Development Group; special assistant for Political-Military Affairs at U.S. Sixth Fleet during Operation Allied Force; indications and warning officer at U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. Fifth Fleet, in support of Operation Desert Storm; and intelligence officer for Fighter squadron 31 during USS Forrestal's deployment in support of Operation Provide Comfort.

Whitworth's shore-based tours included the National Security Agency, chief of targets for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility; Navy federal executive fellow to American Enterprise Institute; senior duty officer at the White House Situation Room; intelligence briefer for the Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of the Navy; and intelligence watch analyst at the Office of Naval Intelligence and the National Military Joint Intelligence Center.

Whitworth is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (four awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), as well as the Edwin T. Layton Leadership Award, Vice Admiral Rufus L. Taylor Leadership Award, the Army's Knowlton Award for excellence in intelligence, the Republic of France's Médaille de la Défense nationale (Gold), and the Defense Intelligence Agency Directors Award.



THE HONORABLE MICHAEL KEHOE

58TH GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

Mike Kehoe was sworn in as Missouri's 58th Governor on January 13, 2025. Guided by a lifelong dedication to public service and a commitment to Missouri families, Governor Kehoe has made public safety, education, economic development, and agriculture the cornerstones of his administration.

Raised as the youngest of six children by a single mother who worked tirelessly to support her family, Governor Kehoe learned the value of hard work and resilience at an early age. Starting his career washing cars at 15, he advanced through the automotive industry to become one of the youngest Ford dealers in the nation. Later, he turned around Osage Industries, a struggling ambulance manufacturing company in Linn, Missouri, transforming the business into one of the largest ambulance manufacturers in the nation.

The Governor's entrepreneurial success and leadership skills in his early career naturally drew him to public service, where he could use his experience to improve the lives of Missouri families and strengthen the state's economy.

During his four-and-a-half years on the Missouri Highway & Transportation Commission, Governor Kehoe's leadership played a critical role in improving the state's infrastructure and elevating Missouri's road system from among the worst in the nation to one of the best. In 2010, he was elected to the Missouri Senate, where he worked to balance budgets, fully fund schools, and champion laws protecting Missouri's children and seniors. As Senate Majority Floor Leader, he advocated for reducing regulatory burdens, cutting taxes, and creating jobs.

Throughout his term as Missouri's 48th Lieutenant Governor, Governor Kehoe highlighted Missouri's businesses, agriculture, and tourism while serving as a voice for veterans and seniors.

As a first-generation-farmer and passionate champion of Missouri agriculture, Governor Kehoe owns and operates a 700-acre cattle farm in Phelps and Pulaski counties with his wife, Claudia. The Kehoes are proud parents of four adult children and are thrilled to embrace their new role as grandparents.

Governor Kehoe's priorities reflect his unwavering commitment to the people of Missouri: ensuring safe communities, advancing education, fostering economic growth, and supporting the backbone of the state's economy—agriculture.



THE HONORABLE TULSI GABBARD

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Director Tulsi Gabbard's life is defined by her unwavering commitment to service and her love of country. From her earliest days in public office to her extensive military career, she has dedicated her life in service to protect the safety, security and freedom of the American people and our nation.

The people of Hawaii elected Director Gabbard to the State Legislature when she was 21 years old, to the Honolulu City Council eight years later, and at age 31, to the United States Congress, where she served for four terms. Having experienced firsthand the true cost of war, the Director vowed to honor the lives and sacrifice of her brothers and sisters in uniform, serving on the Armed Services, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs Committees in Congress.

A combat veteran with three deployments to the Middle East and Africa as part of a special operations mission to counter terrorism, Director Gabbard has served in uniform since 2003. She served in a medical unit during her 2005 deployment to Iraq and later led a Military Police platoon in Kuwait, where she was the first woman to receive an award of appreciation from the Kuwaiti military, earning their hard-won respect. She currently serves in the U.S. Army Reserve as Battalion Commander of the 1-354 Regiment, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, leading soldiers in Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.

Director Tulsi Gabbard approaches every issue, domestic and foreign, with a focus on ensuring the safety, security, and freedom of the American people. She is honored to be President Trump's Director of National Intelligence and is committed to securing the nation, upholding the Constitution, and serving the American people.



U.S. Department of War

THE HONORABLE BRADLEY HANSELL

UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

Brad is a proven leader, national security expert, and business practitioner who is passionate about helping people and organizations reach their potential. Mr. Hansell has worked at the nexus of business, strategy, and national security for the past twenty plus years.

His most recent experience was with an investment firm specializing in the Aerospace, Defense & Government Services (ADGS) end-markets. His experience as an operating partner at an early-stage venture capital firm focused on value creation for 'dual-use' companies, those possessing both a commercial and government market application. Brad was previously an Associate Director and a Principal with Boston Consulting Group (BCG) where he was a leader in the Public Sector and the Aerospace and Defense practices. During this period, Brad was nominated by the President to serve as the Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence and Security. His nomination was favorably reported out of the Senate Armed Services Committee by unanimous consent, but his nomination did not make it to the Senate floor before the 2020 presidential election. Prior to BCG, Brad served as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on the National Security Council staff. As the Senior Director for Transnational Threats, he advised the National Security Advisor and coordinated inter-agency efforts on threats and opportunities related to transnational threat networks, threat finance, emerging technologies, and the information environment.

Brad is a retired Army Special Forces Officer, whose service includes commanding Special Forces teams in South America and Afghanistan. He began his military career in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer, where he served in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific maritime theaters. His military awards include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service Medal. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Villanova University and an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia as a Pat Tillman military scholar.



THE HONORABLE RICK CRAWFORD

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Raised in an Air Force family, Chairman Crawford has lived all over the United States and in England. His parents instilled in him a devotion to service from a young age. That simple life lesson has remained with Rick, and it is at the forefront of his mind when working on creating a more successful America for future generations.

Rick enlisted in the United States Army straight out of high school. He served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, completing four years of service and advancing to the rank of Sergeant. He earned numerous medals for service at home and in Southwest Asia.

After completion of his military service, Rick matriculated at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and he graduated in 1996 with a degree in Agriculture Business and Economics.

Throughout college, Rick competed in rodeos across the country and, while recovering from a career-ending injury, discovered a talent for announcing and producing rodeos. He became a freelance rodeo announcer and producer after completing his bachelor's degree, which led to a career in agri-news reporting and broadcasting. He founded and operated the AgWatch Network – a web-based farm news content provider serving more than 50 radio station affiliates in five states. Rick also served as marketing manager for one of the largest John Deere dealer groups in North America.

Driven by a desire to serve and help secure a brighter future for Arkansas's First District, Rick decided to run for Congress in 2010. In his seven terms in Congress, Rick has voiced the concerns of his district while bringing solutions to the national table. Rick has served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence since 2017 and was appointed Chairman in January 2025. During his tenure on the Committee, he has been honored to serve as the CIA Subcommittee Chairman and a member of numerous other subcommittees. Rick is a tireless advocate for the men and women of our Intelligence Community and believes that a strong America is essential to securing liberty around the world and enhancing our prosperity here at home.

In addition to the Intelligence Committee, he is a senior member on the House Agriculture Committee, having played a critical role in passing two Farm Bills, having served on the Conference Committees in 2014 and 2018, and as Chairman of Agriculture Subcommittees in three of his first five terms in Congress. He views agriculture as a national security issue: a nation that cannot feed itself is a nation that is not secure.

Rick also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he has worked to create safer and more reliable highways, waterways, railways, and runways. He proudly won an Interstate designation of I-555, a vital corridor for Northeast Arkansas. He has served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit and as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. He currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the full committee.

Rick and his wife Stacy, also an A-State graduate, live in Jonesboro with their two children. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his family, cooking, watching old western films, and playing guitar and singing with his band, Triple Nickel.



THE HONORABLE ANN WAGNER

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR MISSOURI'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ann Wagner's career is both deep and broad in service to her hometown, state and nation with over 30 years of work in the private sector, community and public service, and the political arena.

The 2nd District has always been home for Ann. It is where she and her husband of over thirty years, Ray, grew up, went to school, raised their children, work, volunteer, and go to church. This community has given her extraordinary opportunities to make a difference.

At an early age, Ann started working in the family business, a retail carpet store called Carpetime in Manchester. Working beside her parents she learned the value of a dollar, a strong work ethic, honesty, integrity, and that government should stay off the backs and out of the way of hard-working Americans trying to make a living.

Ann then took that experience to the University of Missouri-Columbia and received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Logistics. After college, Ann went to work in the private sector and held management positions at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City and Ralston Purina in St. Louis.

Ann's most important jobs, however, have always been as a wife, mother, and now grandmother. Ann and Ray have three children: Raymond, Stephen, and Mary Ruth.

Ann Wagner's public service began at the grassroots level. She served for nine years as a local committeewoman in Lafayette Township and went on to Chair the Missouri Republican Party, delivering historic Republican gains. She also served as Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee during the first term of President George W. Bush.

In 2005, following nomination by President Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Ann was sworn in as the 19th U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. She served as U.S. Ambassador for four years before returning to her home in Ballwin, Missouri.

Ann then decided to put her own name on the ballot and won her first Congressional race with over 60% of the vote, receiving more votes that election cycle than any other Republican Congressional candidate in Missouri. She took office in January of 2013 and was selected by both her freshman and sophomore class to be their representative on the Elected Leadership Committee.

As your representative from the 2nd District, Congresswoman Wagner serves on both the House Financial Services Committee and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and she is the Chair of the Financial Services subcommittee on Capital Markets. She has worked tirelessly to demand transparency and accountability from federal regulators, while continuing to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse. During her time in Congress, Representative Wagner has been committed to regulatory reform, authoring bills such as the Retail Investor Protection Act which protects access to retirement savings for middle class families.

Ann has made combating sex trafficking and online exploitation of women and children major legislative priorities. She authored the SAVE Act, which amended the Federal criminal code to allow prosecutions of those who knowingly advertise sex slavery, along with the Put Trafficking Victims First Act and the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA). FOSTA became law in April of 2018 and is the most significant anti-trafficking law Congress has passed in nearly 20 years, finally giving local, state, and federal prosecutors the tools they need to hold websites accountable when they profit from the sale of sex trafficking victims.



THE HONORABLE WESLEY BELL

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR MISSOURI'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Born and raised in North St. Louis County, Wesley Bell grew up in a union household that instilled in him a deep appreciation for public service and the dignity of hard work. Bell is a former member of the National Education Association. His uncle was a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union while working at Kroger, his stepfather was an electrician with IBEW Local 649, and his grandfather, the Reverend Melvin T. Bell, led a historic strike in 1967 at the Duncan Foundry steel mill to secure better pay and benefits for workers. Growing up around union halls and hearing first hand stories of struggle and triumph, Bell learned that organized labor is the backbone of economic justice in America.

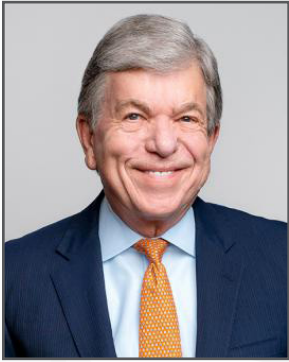
A proud graduate of Hazelwood East High School, Bell worked multiple jobs to put himself through college at Lindenwood University—waiting tables at Shoney's, refereeing youth sports, and working for a phone company—before earning his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

Bell dedicated his career to public service and the pursuit of justice. He began as a public defender in St. Louis, where he witnessed the barriers to fair treatment in the criminal justice system. He later worked as a criminology professor at Florissant Valley Community College and served as a municipal judge in Velda City and a municipal prosecutor in Riverview. In 2015, Bell was elected to the Ferguson City Council, where he played a key role in implementing police and court reforms. His efforts helped bring about stronger police training, officer body cameras, pay raises for law enforcement, and an overhaul of the municipal court system.

In 2018, Bell made history by defeating the incumbent to become the first Black person elected as St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney. Leading Missouri's largest prosecutor's office, he established specialized units to address violent crime, domestic violence, and auto theft, while expanding diversion programs for non-violent offenders struggling with mental health and substance abuse. His reforms focused on making the criminal justice system more effective, accountable, and fair.

Bell has long emphasized that 'if you want to deal with public safety, first fix your public health.' He understands that tackling crime requires a holistic approach—ensuring people have access to mental health care, addiction treatment, and stable housing. As both a prosecutor and now a Member of Congress, he has championed policies that address the root causes of crime while ensuring law enforcement has the tools necessary to keep communities safe. His approach to public safety balances accountability with prevention, making investments that strengthen neighborhoods and reduce recidivism. Leading Missouri's largest prosecutor's office, he established specialized units to address violent crime, domestic violence, and auto theft, while expanding diversion programs for non-violent offenders struggling with mental health and substance abuse. His reforms focused on making the criminal justice system more effective, accountable, and fair.

In Congress, Bell continues his commitment to public service, fighting for policies that strengthen working families, advance environmental justice, and address climate change. He is dedicated to ensuring that all communities have access to clean air and water, advocating for good-paying jobs, affordable healthcare, and public safety. Drawing from his experiences, he remains focused on common-sense solutions that improve the lives of Missourians and create opportunities for all.



THE HONORABLE ROY BLUNT

Senator Roy Blunt is the Chairman of the Leadership Strategies Advisory Services group at HB Strategies. He is an Executive Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC, Chair of the Advisory Board of the National Geospatial Agency of the U.S. Government and serves on the Boards of Southwest Airlines and Tenet Healthcare. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Danforth Plant Science Center and is a member of the Commission on Presidential Debates.

Senator Blunt's career in the U.S. Congress includes representing the state of Missouri for 12 years in the United States Senate and 14 years in the United States House of Representatives. Among his many achievements in the Congress, Senator Blunt is one of only two Americans in congressional history to be elected to leadership positions by his colleagues in both the House and the Senate.

In the United States Senate, Roy served as Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee and Senate Rules Committee and led the Presidential Inaugural Committees for the 45th and 46th Presidents of the United States. In addition, Senator Blunt was a member of the Appropriations and Commerce Committees as well as the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

As Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, he prioritized federal funding and resources while also raising awareness on critical issues including increased investment in medical research. Senator Blunt has been recognized by numerous health research advocates for his leadership during the COVID crisis and in the areas of Alzheimer's disease research and mental health. The National Institutes of Health named the Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in his honor.

Prior to his tenure in Congress, Senator Blunt was a history teacher, a university president, a county official, and Missouri's Secretary of State.

Senator Blunt is actively involved in promoting and preserving the arts and history. He has served as a member of the Smithsonian Council of American Art, a member of the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees, and currently serves as President of the State Historical Society of Missouri.



THE HONORABLE CARA SPENCER

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Mayor Cara Spencer was sworn in as the 48th mayor of the City of St. Louis on April 15, 2025. A proven leader with a deep commitment to public service, she is focused on building a stronger, more prosperous city for all St. Louisans.

Born and raised in St. Louis, she became the first in her family to earn a college degree, graduating with a B.S. in Mathematics from Truman State University. Her early career took her to cities across the country, where she saw firsthand the transformative impact of smart urban planning, economic investment, and engaged leadership. Inspired by those experiences, Mayor Spencer returned home and successfully ran for the Board of Aldermen in 2015, where she's worked ever since to put St. Louis on a path toward shared prosperity.

Mayor Spencer continues to lead the charge to make city government more transparent, efficient, and accountable. During her time as an alderperson, she authored legislation to curb predatory lending, improve air quality, and bring greater transparency to campaign finance. As a champion of public safety, she passed the city's first meaningful gun control law in decades, closing a loophole that allowed minors and individuals without permits to possess firearms. Since the law's passage in 2023, the city has seen a 15% decline in juvenile shooting victims.

A strong advocate for responsible governance, Mayor Spencer helped stop the privatization of Lambert International Airport, protecting one of the city's most valuable public assets. She's pushed for greater oversight in public spending, exposing mismanagement of federal relief funds and calling for more strategic use of Rams settlement dollars to revitalize downtown.

Mayor Spencer's work extends deep into the neighborhoods of St. Louis. She co-developed the innovative "mow-to-own" program, giving residents a path to reclaim and care for vacant lots. She led efforts to regulate short-term rentals, protect housing stock, and ensure that public contracts benefit local businesses. A staunch defender of the city's historic architecture and cultural institutions, she champions investments in parks, museums, and iconic landmarks that define St. Louis.

A dedicated mother, community advocate, and problem-solver, Mayor Spencer is committed to building a safer, more equitable, and vibrant city. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her 14-year-old son, Cy, and can often be found cycling, hiking Missouri's trails, or cross-country skiing through her neighborhood.



BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM C. HANNAN, JR.

COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE NORTHWESTERN DIVISION,
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Northwestern Division is headquartered in Portland Oregon and delivers vital engineering solutions covering over 1 million square miles and parts of 16 states. As division commander, he is responsible for providing guidance and direction to five districts with a combined professional workforce of nearly 5,800. The division's civil works mission provides planning, construction, operation of navigation structures, flood risk reduction, hydropower, environmental restoration, water management, recreation, and disaster response. Its military mission includes some of the Nation's most strategic bases and involves design and construction of operations buildings, airfields, barracks, hospitals, command headquarters and multiple other types of facilities directly improving lethality, readiness and quality of life.

Prior to his arrival at Northwestern Division, Hannan commanded USACE's Transatlantic Division and led its program delivering innovative design, construction, engineering, and contingency solutions in support of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations, and other global partners. He has served at various locations throughout Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East, including two deployments to Afghanistan and two to Iraq. Other key assignments include Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation – Iraq (OSC-I), Commander of USACE's Kansas City District, Director of Academic Operations of the U.S. Army War College, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Engineer School, Commander, 35th Engineer Battalion, Chief of Engineer Engagements for the Deputy Chief of Staff - Engineer, U.S. Army Pacific, and Commander 565th Forward Engineer Support Team – Advance.

A native of Ohio, Hannan, was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1997 after graduating from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He also holds master's degrees in engineering management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Hannan's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Silver de Fleury Medal.