

Thomas F. Farr

Thomas F. Farr is Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and International Affairs at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. He directs the [Religious Freedom Project](#) and the Program on [Religion and US Foreign Policy](#) at Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, where he is a senior fellow. He is also a senior fellow at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J.

A graduate of Mercer University, with a PhD in history from the University of North Carolina, Dr. Farr has served in both the U.S. Army and the American Foreign Service. As an Army officer he taught history at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, and served as Adjutant General of the Army's Transportation Command in Europe. As a diplomat, Farr specialized in strategic nuclear policy and arms control. He participated in US-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva and led an interagency task force to draft verification provisions for the START II Treaty. He also taught international relations at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

In 1999 Farr became the first director of the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom, in which capacity he led American diplomatic efforts to promote religious liberty. He has served as director of the Witherspoon Institute's [Task Force](#) on International Religious Freedom, a member of the Chicago World Affairs Council's [Task Force](#) on Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy, and a member of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's Working Group on Religious Freedom. He is currently a consultant to the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference.

Dr. Farr has testified on several occasions before the U.S. Congress and addressed the conference of American Roman Catholic Bishops. He has spoken on religion and foreign policy at government agencies, universities, law schools, think tanks, and gatherings of religious groups here and abroad. He teaches regularly at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute in Washington DC.

Farr is a contributing editor for the *Review of Faith and International Affairs* and has [published widely](#) on religious freedom and its implications. His work has appeared in many edited volumes, law journals, magazines, and newspapers, including the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, *Houston Journal of International Law*, *Drake Law Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *First Things*, *Weekly Standard*, *National Review*, *America Magazine*, *National Interest*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and many others.

Farr has appeared on PBS, America Abroad, Book TV, Al Jazeera, Alhurra, Fox News, EWTN, CBN, and many radio outlets. His first book, *World of Faith and Freedom: Why International Religious Liberty is Vital to American National Security*, was published by Oxford University Press. His second (with Dennis Hoover), *The Future of U.S. International Religious Freedom Policy: Recommendations for the Obama Administration*, was published by the Berkley Center.

Dr. Farr serves on the Board of Trustees of the First Freedom Center, the Board of Advisors of the Alexander Hamilton Society, the Administrative Board of Aid to the Church in Need, and the Boards of Directors of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and Christian Solidarity Worldwide-USA. He is a recipient of the Jan Karski Wellspring of Freedom Award, presented by the Institute on Religion and Public Policy for contributions to religious freedom. His wife, Margaret McPherson Farr, is a watercolor artist. They are Roman Catholics and have three daughters and nine grandchildren.