



Next Meeting

Tuesday

February 17th @ 11:30

The Hills Club

\$15 Members

\$ 20 Guests

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Meet our February 2015 Speaker

Roger Williams

US Representative for Texas

Prior to his election in November 2012, Congressman Williams served his country in a number of ways and brings a unique background to Congress. He was raised in the Fort Worth area where he graduated from high school and later played baseball for Texas Christian University. After a brief stint in pro baseball, he began working in the family car business and has owned and operated the business for 40 years.



He served as Regional Finance Chairman for Governor Bush in 1994 and 1998 before he went on to later serve as the North Texas Finance Chairman and National Grassroots Fundraising Chairman for Bush/Chaney '04, Inc. Williams was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001 as the Chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee's Eagles Program. He has also served as State Finance Chair for John Cornyn for U.S Senate Inc., in 2002 and as the National Director of the "Patriots" program for Senator Cornyn.

In 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed Congressman Williams to serve as Texas Secretary of State. As Chief Election Officer for Texas, he worked to insure the uniform application and interpretation of election laws throughout the state. The Congressman worked tirelessly to promote economic development investment and job creation in Texas. He also served as the state's Chief Liaison for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs as well as Chair of the state's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure response Strike Force. Congressman Williams was elected to his first term in Congress on November 6th, 2012 and was selected to serve on the House Committee on the Budget, along with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Happy Valentine's Day

Admiral Bobby Inman focused on the areas of great concern and started with the Middle East. **Tunisia** had its election in late 2014. They elected Habib Essid as Prime Minister and the islamists were defeated. They have mostly avoided the political strife faced by other Arab spring countries. **Libya** is about to fail. Negotiations between the opposing factions are being mediated by the Egyptians. **Egypt:** after the resignation of president Hosni Mubarak they had an election and the Islamic Brotherhood's candidate Mohamed Morsi won the election in June 2012. But he was overthrown within a year. In June 2014 Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was elected president. He is the first major leader to condemn the jihadism. **Israel/Palestine:** no deal foreseen.



Then he talked about ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). We are confronted with a large and successful ISIS. It started from Saddam's men that were detained in a US prison camp in West Iraq. When they were released during the Awakening Movement in Iraq (2009) they said "We will see you in New York". The group is very sophisticated in their recruiting methods. There are about 500 members from the US. This US members travel to Syria and from there to Europe where they do not need a visa. In Paris and Brussels there is a great impact on youngsters attracted to ISIS. There exist small cells which are hard to find. The only leads for the FBI are e-mails. The way to deal with ISIS? Air strikes coalition –which has been done. But air strikes do not change what is happening on the ground. In 2002 we were successful in Afghanistan but now we do not have comparable forces to deal with ISIS. There were attempts to train forces in NW Iraq to deal with ISIS but the Shia leadership did not last long. At least a year long effort will be required to be able to fight ISIS. He said not to expect any early successful effort –maybe if the Syrian army intervenes. We can recruit youngsters at camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey but they will need training. We may be able to contain ISIS but not their recruiting efforts.

Iran: President Obama wants to make a deal with Iran about nuclear use. We have posted sanctions but they do not really affect the rich people of Iran. If their president cares about their economy then he may support an agreement. The new president has a much better attitude than his predecessors. The situation is not very stable but it is better than 6 months ago. **Pakistan:** they just suffered a massacre of children of Pakistani military personal. They are a long way from being stable. **India:** the new president won a sweeping election. They have many internal problems. **Turkey** worries him because they are turning much more fundamentalist. The new president is very popular but has a big ego.

Western Europe's economy is at the edge of depletion. **Greece** will be having an election soon –will they leave the EU? **Britain and Germany** strained relations.

North Korea's leader very unstable. **Japan:** the new Prime Minister would like to change the constitution so he can change the military. But his first challenge will be to move the economy.

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