

Former U.S. Ambassador Speaks in Montgomery

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By Allen Henry, Reporter, WSFA 12

MONTGOMERY, AL

The Alabama World Affairs Council welcomed former Ambassador Joe Wilson to Troy University Montgomery on Tuesday.

The subject of his speech involved the relationship between Africa and the U.S.

Despite an abundance of natural resources and more than a billion people, Africa remains the poorest continent on Earth. Wilson says it's literally a gold mine of development waiting to happen.

"I think it should have much more importance," Wilson said. "In fact, when I was in the White House with President Clinton, I took him to Africa in 1998. That was his big trip to Africa and it was specifically to shine the lights of a presidential visit on a continent that is not very well understood."

Wilson served as a diplomat under five presidents. As an ambassador, Wilson says the criticism of Hillary Clinton over the Benghazi attacks has been largely partisan and not worthy of the memory of killed Ambassador Christopher Stevens

"He knew what he was getting into. He made the decision. I would have made precisely the same decision," Wilson said. "The practice of diplomacy is sometimes dangerous but you know the risk when you're in. I was the last American out of Baghdad during desert storm. So I have some idea of what it's like to be threatened and be under the gun."

The next president won't just be President-in-chief, they'll also be Diplomat-in-Chief.

Despite remaining non-partisan during his service, Wilson is making his choice in this next election clear.

"She's traveled widely, she knows most of the leaders around the world personally, and she has an outward looking perspective," Wilson said. "Mr. Trump, on the other hand, I don't think that he would really know what to do if he stepped out of his plane on the continent of Africa."

[Video and photos omitted]

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