

VIOLA HERMS DRATH, journalist, author, playwright, academic, diplomatic advisor, longtime member of the NCAFP's executive committee, trustee and Project Director of the Cyprus Peace Initiative, has been a notable figure in German-American relations for over thirty years. As President George W. Bush states, "Over the years, Viola's prudent counsel has informed German-American relations. In that, her experiences have helped enrich and strengthen our Nation."

Drath is a former member of the White House Commission on Remembrance; Co-chair, Berlin Air Lift Diamond Jubilee Committee; Coordinator, International Consultative Mechanism on Remembrance; National Coordinator, National Observance to Mark Iraq Liberation Day.

The long time Washington correspondent and editorial writer for *Handelsblatt*, Germany's prestigious economic and financial daily, established herself as a young playwright in Munich. Written at the age of eighteen, her widely acclaimed first play "Farewell Isabell," was followed by another comedy "No Reliance upon a Woman?" In the United States her journalistic career started as editor of *Die Weltpost* in Omaha, commentator for KUON-TV and correspondent for the short-lived *National Observer*.

Her insightful writings, among them "Toward a New Atlanticism" and "Time to Reinvent the Alliance" (*Washington Times*), have helped Americans and Germans better understand post-war foreign policy. One of her essays for the NCAFP's *American Foreign Policy Interests*, "The Reemergence of the German Question," published in October 1988, proposed negotiations on German unification between the two German states and the four Allied Powers. As a foreign policy advisor to the 1988 Bush-Quayle Presidential campaign, her contribution helped lay the groundwork for the "2+4" process which led to the unification of Germany in October 1990. Her seminal work in promoting German unification was awarded the 2005 William J. Flynn Initiative for Peace Award.

Drath taught at American University and lectured at the University of Southern California and the U.S. Air War College. She received an M.A. in Philosophy and Germanic Literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has authored nine books including *Engagement and Provocation* (Macmillan), *What do the Germans Want?* (Macmillan) and six textbooks read in over 150 colleges and universities. The re-release of her seminal biography on former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, *Willy Brandt; Prisoner of His Past*, first published in 1975, was praised by Dr. Henry A. Kissinger as "a must read for those interested in fully appreciating an important statesman both within his own times and beyond."

Her articles and commentaries have appeared in major publications here and abroad including *American Foreign Policy Interests*, *Washington Times*, *Commentary*, *Businessweek*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Strategic Review*, *National Observer*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Das Parlament*, and *Der Spiegel*.

Drath served as diplomatic advisor and member of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the First Committee, 51st UN General Assembly; Advisor, Member of the

Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the 2006 Conference to Review Implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Eradicate the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, in All Its Aspects. Advisor, Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus to the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; Observer, Bamako Convocation of the Eminent Persons Group, Bamako, Mali; Special Advisor, Delegation of the United States to the 17th OAS General Assembly; Observer, 4th UN Meeting of the International Commission on Verification and Security; Observer, Esquipulas II.

Honors: Recipient of the Iraqi Minister of Defense Commendation Medal; Honorary Member, Berlin Air Lift Veterans Association; ranking among the 700 Great Nebraskans; inducted into Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame; recipient of *the William J. Flynn Initiative for Peace Award*; Honorable Mention for Writing by the Association of American University Women; Honorary Citizen of Dallas, Texas.