

## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEXTILE ORGANIZATIONS

2026 SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES  
*(in scheduled order of appearance)*

Tuesday, April 14 – 12:50 PM  
Annual Meeting Kickoff

### **Chuck Hall**

NCTO Chairman 2025-26  
President & CEO  
Barnet



Chuck Hall is the President & Chief Executive Officer and an Operating Partner at William Barnet & Son (Barnet), LLC. Since joining Barnet in 1998, he has held roles in manufacturing, business development, and business management and was based in Shanghai, China for two years to install, staff, and start up Barnet Fibers Shanghai, a manufacturing operation.

Prior to joining Barnet, Mr. Hall held various manufacturing, project management, and corporate leadership roles with Hoechst Celanese Corporation where he worked for 11 years.

Mr. Hall earned his Bachelor's degree and Master of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1985 and 1987, respectively. He has served on the External Advisory Board to the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Georgia Tech and has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

Mr. Hall has lived in the Greenville-Spartanburg area for the past 25 years. He has two daughters; Abby, 24, and Allie, 23. They are recent graduates of the University of South Carolina and The College of Charleston, respectively. Chuck is married to his high school sweetheart and best friend, Heather Webb Hall.

Mr. Hall serves on The Pelham Medical Center Advisory Board, the School of Chemical Engineering External Advisory Board at Michigan Technological University, is the Chair of the National Council of Textile Organizations and is a past Chair of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance.

## Procurement Update

### Major General David J. Sanford

J3 Director, Logistics Operations/Commander, Joint Regional Combat Support  
Defense Logistics Agency



Major General David J. Sanford is the Director of Logistics Operations (J3) and Commander of Joint Regional Combat Support for the Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. DLA Logistics Operations is responsible for the end-to-end supply chain management of DLA's nine supply chains, providing logistics and material process management policy, guidance, oversight and monitoring supply chain performance. DLA Logistics Operations oversees the daily operation of DLA's field activities in supporting 2,300 weapon systems and engages customers around the world to maximize readiness and logistics combat power by leveraging enterprise solutions. Maj. Gen. Sanford also serves as the Commander, Joint Regional Combat Support, overseeing DLA's three regional commands that provide unified DLA interfaces for warfighters in the United States Europe and Africa Command, United States Central Command and Special Operations Command, and United States Indo-Pacific Command areas of responsibility.

Maj. Gen. Sanford received his commission through the Air Force Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in 1995. He graduated from Georgia State University, Atlanta, with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. He is a Joint Qualified Officer who performed duties as the Chief, Distribution Division, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He has served at all levels of command to include flight, group, wing, major command and combatant command levels. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Director of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

General Sanford's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze stars, Armed Forces Service Medal, and Air and Space Campaign Medal.

## TextilePAC Update

### Amy Bircher Bruyn

NCTO Vice Chair 2025-26  
Founder & CEO  
MMI Textiles Inc.



Amy Bircher Bruyn is the CEO and Founder of MMI Textiles, Inc., a global industrial and custom textile supplier she established in 1997. With over 40 years of experience in the U.S. textile industry, Amy has driven innovation, expanded U.S. manufacturing, and strengthened domestic supply chains.

She has successfully acquired three textile businesses, including her family's company, NDW Textiles (formerly National Dye Works, Inc.), with her latest acquisition of Jason Mills LLC closing in December 2024.

A recognized leader in the industry, Amy holds both design and utility patents for CTEdge™, a revolutionary concealed edge technology for webbing and tape used in military and law enforcement applications. To support this innovation, she opened a narrow weaving production facility in Lenoir, NC in 2021, manufacturing military-spec webbing and tape.

Amy was appointed by former President Biden to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations (ACTPN) under former U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai. She serves on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) and is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Advanced Textiles Association (ATA).

Dedicated to the advancement of textile education, Amy is a board member of the North Carolina Textile Foundation for the Wilson College of Textiles at NC State University and participates in its mentoring program. She established the MMI Textiles and Amy Bircher Bruyn Textile Pioneer Student Enrichment Fund to support students pursuing careers in the textile industry.

Amy remains engaged with West Virginia University (WVU), where she earned her B.S. in Textiles and Clothing in 1993. She pledged \$200,000 to establish the Amy A. Bircher Textile Laboratory at WVU and actively supports industry education through scholarships to the Davis College at WVU.

Her leadership has earned multiple accolades, including the Case Western Reserve Weatherhead 100 Award (four consecutive years) and twice recognized as a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

**Tuesday, April 14 – 7:30 PM**  
**Dinner Program**

### Keynote Address

#### **Representative Pat Harrigan**

U.S. Representative, District 10  
North Carolina

Congressman Pat Harrigan brings a lifetime of service, leadership, and innovation to the U.S. House of Representatives. A combat-decorated Green Beret and a successful entrepreneur, Congressman Harrigan has dedicated his career to tackling challenges—on the battlefield, in business, and now in Congress.



After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in Nuclear Engineering, Congressman Harrigan was commissioned as an Infantry officer and was stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He deployed to Afghanistan as a young Platoon Leader, commanding a remote combat outpost in the heart of the Arghandab Valley. At just 23 years old, Congressman Harrigan managed over 350 personnel and \$100 million in infrastructure and equipment, gaining invaluable experience in high-pressure leadership.

Recognizing the need for even greater expertise in unconventional warfare, Congressman Harrigan volunteered for and earned the Green Beret. As a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces, he returned to Afghanistan to lead operations in increasingly complex and volatile environments. For his service, he was awarded two Bronze Stars in recognition of his leadership and effectiveness in combat. These experiences shaped his understanding of the critical connection between accountability, mission success, and guiding teams under pressure.

While serving in the military, Congressman Harrigan and his wife Rocky launched a small firearms business out of their home. Rooted in North Carolinian values of hard work and ingenuity, the company grew rapidly. What began in their living room quickly scaled into a thriving enterprise, producing American-made defense products that support national security. Today, the company operates out of a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Western North Carolina, creating jobs and fostering innovation for the region.

The fall of Afghanistan marked a turning point for Congressman Harrigan. Watching the consequences of failed leadership unfold, he knew he had to act. Motivated by his dedication to his country and a desire to restore strength and accountability to Washington, Congressman Harrigan stepped forward to serve in Congress.

Now, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Harrigan applies the same principles that guided him in the Army and in business: bold leadership, unshakable integrity, and a commitment to delivering results. Congressman Harrigan and his wife Rocky have been married for 13 years and are the proud parents of two daughters, Reagan and McKinley. As North Carolina's voice in Congress, Pat is dedicated to serving the hardworking families and communities of the Tenth District. In every role—whether leading soldiers, growing a business, or serving his constituents—Congressman Harrigan remains dedicated to building a stronger, more secure America.

**Wednesday, April 15 – 8:55 AM**  
**Members Only Session**

**Made in America Update**

## **Michael Stumo**

Associate Director, Economic Policy and the Made in America Office

Michael Stumo most recently served as the longtime CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, the leading national organization representing exclusively domestic producers and workers across many industries and sectors of the U.S. economy. He is a leading policy expert on trade, tax, manufacturing, industrial policy, currency, and agricultural issues, and has worked closely with a wide range of policymakers, legislators, regulators, and advocacy organizations to advance strategic trade, tax, and growth policies for the benefit of U.S. domestic producers and workers. He previously served as General Counsel for the Organization for Competitive Markets, focusing on agriculture and antitrust issues. Prior to that, he was a lawyer and litigator at Brignole, Bush and Lewis in Hartford, CT, and Domina Law in Omaha, NE.



### Elizabeth Drake

International Trade Attorney and Partner  
Schagrin Associates



Elizabeth J. Drake is an international trade attorney and partner at Schagrin Associates in Washington, D.C. She has experience in a broad array of international trade law matters, including antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings, section 301 petitions, China-specific safeguards, unilateral trade preference programs, international and bilateral trade agreements, agricultural and environmental trade policy, and international labor standards. Ms. Drake has represented clients in proceedings before the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. She has also advised clients on trade policy and legislative matters, as well as dispute settlement proceedings before the World Trade Organization. Ms. Drake has testified and written on a variety of issues in international trade, including China's industrial policies, WTO rules and disputes, and Buy America laws. She has been recognized by Best Lawyers, Chambers USA, and Super Lawyers.

Prior to joining Schagrin Associates in 2017, Ms. Drake practiced trade remedy law for twelve years and served for six years as an international policy analyst at the AFL-CIO. Ms. Drake received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley.

### Chris Siepmann

Executive Director  
Office of the Commissioner, Trade Relations  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Chris Siepmann is the Executive Director of the Office of Trade Relations (OTR) at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In this role, he serves as the primary liaison between CBP and the international trade community. He also leads the staff and operations of OTR and is a senior advisor to CBP's leadership on trade policy matters.

Chris previously counseled manufacturers, importers and investors on geopolitical risks and emerging tariff and trade policy challenges as an independent consultant. Before that, he served as Director for Trade Enforcement at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). At USTR, Chris advised USTR's leadership and staff on a broad range of trade enforcement priorities, including the China Section 301 duties and China's purchases pursuant to the U.S.-China "Phase One" deal. He also expanded USTR's monitoring and enforcement capabilities, led teams investigating discriminatory foreign trade practices, and helped defend U.S. interests against adversarial actions taken by other countries at the World Trade Organization.

Prior to his time at USTR, Chris led investigations into unfair foreign dumping and subsidy practices at the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mary Washington and resides in Washington, DC.

AI Update

**Joe Parrish**

Chief Creative Officer  
The Variable



Joe Parrish is a “what-if-we-tried-this guy” who has started, scaled, and sold companies across advertising, consumer products, and CPG. He now helps businesses stop failing at AI.

He co-founded The Variable, a creative agency that won AdAge Small Agency of the Year four times and made Fast Company's Best Workplaces for Innovators list three times. He also launched 5mississippi, a toy company where he invented and patented Hookum, and Sunshine Beverage, an energy drink company he later sold.

Today, Joe runs upupdndn, an AI consulting company that helps companies make AI work the way they always hoped it would.

Whether he's speaking at SXSW or in a boardroom, Joe explains AI (its problems and its potential) in a way that's relatable and actionable. No hype, no jargon, just real-world implications.

Joe is a Wake Forest graduate, an instrument-rated pilot, and a former musician who still believes that great ideas are the whole point. He's based in Winston-Salem, NC.

USMCA Panel

**Rafael Zaga Saba**

President  
CANAINTEX



Rafael Zaga Saba holds a degree in Business Administration from Universidad Iberoamericana, where he graduated with Honorable Mention. He currently serves as Chairman of the Mexican Chamber of the Textile Industry (CANAINTEX), an organization dedicated to advancing the international competitiveness of the fiber, textile, and apparel supply chain while fostering sustainable and inclusive growth in the sector.

Since 2003, Mr. Zaga Saba has also served as General Director of ZAGIS S.A. de C.V., a Mexican cotton spinning company established in 1956. Under his leadership, ZAGIS has become a leader in producing a wide variety of circular knit fabrics and is recognized for its strong commitment to environmental sustainability. The company operates exclusively on 100% renewable and recycled energy sources.

On the international stage, Mr. Zaga Saba has been an active collaborator with the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) for over a decade.

His national involvement includes serving as President of the Customs Commission of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers of the United Mexican States (CONCAMIN) from 2021 to March 2023. Within CANAINTEEX, Mr. Zaga Saba has held several leadership roles, including: Member of the Executive Council and Member of the Executive Board.

His extensive experience reflects a deep commitment to both innovation and sustainability in the textile industry at national and international levels.

## Jeff Ayoub

President, Board of Directors  
CTIA



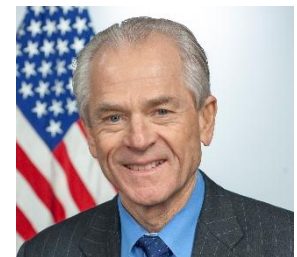
Jeff has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Textile Industry Association (CTIA) since 2022. He was asked to join the CTIA based on a successful career in specialty textiles. Jeff completed his undergrad at Western University and his MBA at Vermont State University. He started in the industry working for United Knitting. He went on to form QMD Medical in 1996, QEL Dominicana in 2002, KHI in 2005 and took over the Calko Group in 2010. Some milestones since then include the merger of Calko, QEL and GMK (2014) and the asset purchases of Tencate's knitting division (2019) and the Textile Manufacturing Company (2020). Recent projects include the creation of Alpex USA and accepting the role of Chairman of the Board of the CTIA. After 35 years, Jeff continues to take a hands-on approach in all he does and is still passionate about the industry.

## Administration Update

## Dr. Peter Navarro

Senior Counselor to the President

Peter Navarro holds a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University and is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Public Policy at the University of California–Irvine, where he taught for over two decades.



He served as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy in President Trump's first administration and now returns as Senior Counselor.

He is the author of numerous books, including his China trilogy: *The Coming China Wars* (2006), *Death By China* (2011), and *Crouching Tiger* (2015).

In the White House, he advises President Trump on policies to spur economic growth, reduce trade deficits, and strengthen America's defense industrial base. During the first Trump administration, he advanced reforms in foreign military sales, arms transfer policies, and unmanned aerial systems. In the current administration, he has been central in restructuring the global trade system through the strategic use of tariffs.

He produced the three volumes of *The Navarro Report* in his personal capacity to shed light on potentially illegal activity that may have occurred during the 2020 Presidential Election.

## Trade Update

### **Ambassador Rick Switzer**

Deputy United States Trade Representative

Ambassador Rick Switzer is the Deputy United States Trade Representative. Prior to his appointment as Deputy USTR, he was the founder and principal of ProjX Technology Consulting. During Rick's 20 year career as a member of the Foreign Service he served as the State Department visiting professor at the National Intelligence University teaching graduate courses on China's economy and innovation system, as a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Council, and a Senior State Department Advisor to the Department of Defense working with the Air Force and the Army.



Other highlights include serving as the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Counselor at Embassy Beijing, the largest science section in the world. While on sabbatical from State, he also spent a year as a Senior Fellow at the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP), a non-profit founded by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt. Before his government service, Rick co-founded a wireless technology start-up and also conducted innovation policy research at the University of California.