



PANETTA INSTITUTE

# update

## Panetta Institute's Congressional Intern Program Includes Face Time with Washington Leaders

Volume 16, No. 2  
Autumn 2014

**N**umerous colleges and universities around the country send students to Washington, DC to serve as congressional interns. But for many of these students, the experience doesn't go much beyond the "grunt work" of running errands and opening mail.

The Panetta Institute takes a dramatically different approach, offering participants in its congressional intern program a real education in the legislative process and direct engagement with some of the country's top policy thinkers and decision makers.

Since 1999, the Institute has managed congressional internships for twenty-six California schools, including all campuses of the CSU system.

The interns first come to the Institute's Monterey Bay headquarters for an intensive orientation course where they interact with members of Congress, congressional staff, political journalists and other veterans of the Washington scene. And during their eleven weeks of service in the offices of the California congressional delegation, they also attend a series of seminars with national leaders.

This fall's contingent of Panetta interns, for example, discussed fiscal issues with former U.S. budget director **Alice Rivlin** and surveyed the current political scene with former U.S. Representative **Bill Lowery**.

They met with former undersecretary of defense for policy **Michèle Flournoy** and got a review of the lawmaking process from House parliamentarian **Thomas Wickham**.

"These internships are a superb opportunity for California students to get an inside look at the workings of Congress and the federal government," says Institute CEO Sylvia Panetta, "and participants repeatedly tell us the experience changed their lives."

Indeed, many program alumni have gone on to jobs as congressional staff or to service in other government offices or nonprofit organizations.

So students of all backgrounds can participate, the Institute covers all program costs, including air travel and housing in Washington, along with a stipend for living expenses.

---

### Inside:

- Institute Honors Lives of Public Service
- Chairman's Memoir Recalls "Worthy Fights"
- Reading Program Makes Big Strides



This year's interns met also with former defense secretary Leon Panetta.



## A Message from the Chairman

### Needed Now: A New Spirit of Bipartisanship

Last month's congressional elections, which gave control of both houses of Congress to the Republicans while the White House remains in Democratic hands, have left many observers wondering whether anything of significance can be accomplished in Washington in the next two years.

Certainly during the past two years, when Congress itself was split between a Democratic Senate and a Republican House of Representatives, there was a failure to achieve critical bipartisan cooperation on a number of major issues: a budget deal, immigration reform, funding for infrastructure, trade, energy and tax reform.

So the fate of such initiatives in the coming Congress depends chiefly on whether leaders at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue can summon the will to put the nation's interest ahead of partisan allegiance.

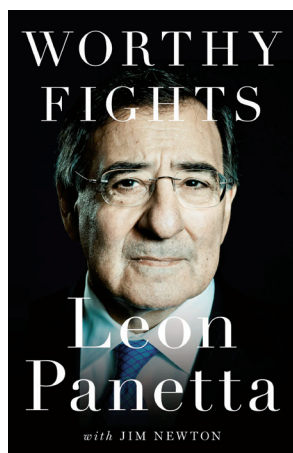
Political parties do serve a legitimate purpose. In a democracy, like-minded people need a means to organize to promote their goals.

But in my experience, nearly every major legislative advance in the past fifty years has been accomplished only because leaders have been willing to reach across the partisan divide at a critical moment.

That happened in the 1960s, when we were able to pass landmark civil rights legislation thanks to Republicans like Senator Everett Dirksen who were willing to work with a Democratic president, Lyndon Johnson.

It happened again with the sweeping tax reforms under President Reagan, which required House Democrats to agree, and with the fiscal compromises in the 1990s between House Republicans and the Clinton administration that resulted in a balanced federal budget and welfare reform.

I'm convinced that real achievements are possible in the coming Congress too, if leaders on both sides simply practice what we preach here at the Panetta Institute: your party principles are important, but country must come first.



### Panetta Memoir Recounts Fifty Years of Service

Institute chairman Leon Panetta's autobiography, *Worthy Fights*, made the national best-seller lists this fall and became one of the most-discussed books of 2014. In it, the former congressman, White House chief of staff, CIA director and secretary of defense describes his childhood in Monterey as the son of Italian immigrants and his progress through five decades of public service.

The book recounts a number of the Secretary's policy achievements, such as protection of the Central Coast from offshore drilling, winning Medicare coverage of hospice care and

brokering the deal that led to a balanced federal budget under President Clinton, and it describes how bipartisan cooperation was essential in each case. It also includes a gripping account of the successful hunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, which Mr. Panetta directed as head of the CIA.

More broadly, however, *Worthy Fights* illustrates the principles of leadership and the values of public service that underpin the Panetta Institute, which Secretary and Mrs. Panetta founded in 1997 to inspire citizens to greater civic involvement.

## Dinner Event Honors Wyden, Rogers and Starr for Putting Patriotism Ahead of Partisanship

Supporters of the Panetta Institute gathered in Pebble Beach on November 8 to salute three national figures for their outstanding public service.

U.S. Senator **Ron Wyden** (D-OR), House intelligence committee chairman **Mike Rogers** (R-MI) and CNN Pentagon correspondent **Barbara Starr** received the Institute's Jefferson-Lincoln Award at a dinner gala at the Inn at Spanish Bay.

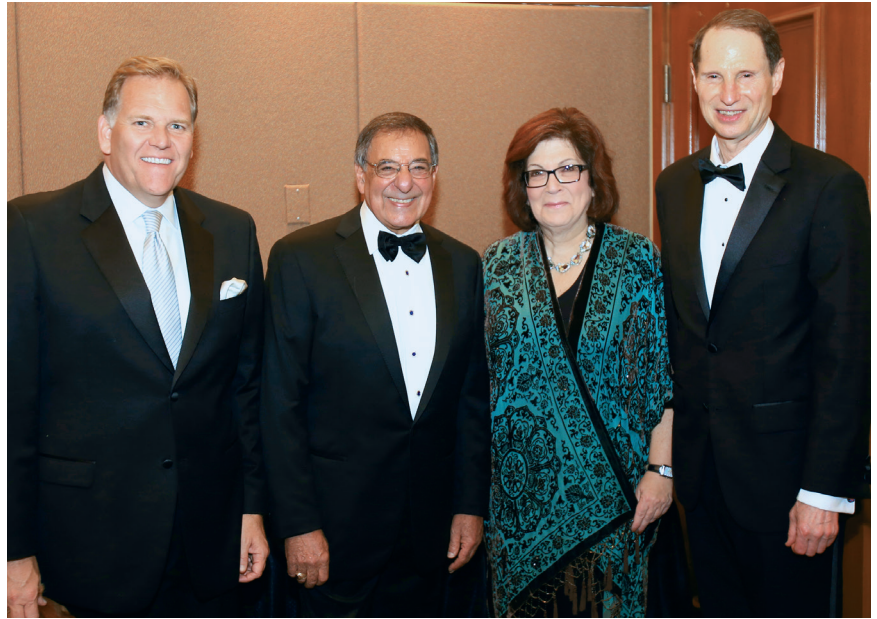
The annual award is bestowed on political leaders who set aside partisanship for the good of the country and on journalists who maintain high standards of objectivity in their coverage and commentary.

Noting dangerous conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and elsewhere, Institute chairman Leon Panetta said, "Those in elected offices owe it to our men and women in uniform to reach across party lines and to lead in the best interest of our nation. Senator Wyden and Representative Rogers understand their role as public servants and have shown time and time again their commitment to country above party."

The former CIA director and secretary of defense also praised CNN's Barbara Starr for "ensuring that Americans are properly informed about our nation's defense."

Senator Wyden recently led major bipartisan efforts in support of tax and healthcare reform, while Congressman Rogers headed bipartisan efforts on intelligence, cyber and defense spending as chairman of the House's select committee on intelligence.

Jefferson-Lincoln honorees are selected by a special committee consisting of former Senator **Nancy Kassebaum Baker** (R-KS) and former Congressman **Lee Hamilton** (D-IN),



Secretary Panetta congratulates dinner honorees Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), CNN correspondent Barbara Starr and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR).

along with Secretary Panetta and Institute co-chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta.

The annual "Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service" serves as the Institute's main fundraiser and features cuisine from some of the area's best chefs.

"We're deeply grateful for all your support," Mrs. Panetta told the gathering, "and for everything you do in your own lives to make this a better country."

**"WE'RE DEEPLY  
GRATEFUL FOR ALL  
YOUR SUPPORT."**

Sylvia Panetta

### We Need Your Help Too

The generous donors at our annual dinner are vital to the Panetta Institute's success, but we also rely on the gifts of hundreds of others who share our vision of public service. Please watch for a mailed solicitation, or donate online at [PanettaInstitute.org](http://PanettaInstitute.org).







The Panetta Institute for Public Policy  
100 Campus Center, Building 86E  
CSU Monterey Bay  
Seaside, CA 93955

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALL AMERICAN  
MAILING

**Donate online at [PanettaInstitute.org](http://PanettaInstitute.org)**



### **Our Mission**

The Panetta Institute helps prepare people for lives of public service and greater civic involvement. Please help us continue our work with your tax deductible donation.

## **Institute Honors Volunteers and School Officials for the Success of Monterey County Reads**

**O**n September 12, the Panetta Institute honored 180 volunteers in the Monterey County Reads program at a recognition ceremony at Monterey Peninsula College's Marina Education Center, while also paying tribute to the 40 elementary schools who welcome reading volunteers into their classrooms and whose teachers and administrators help make the program possible.

The Institute has spearheaded the reading assistance effort for elementary school students since 1997, working with the county's Office of Education, the Monterey County Reading Association and volunteers from a broad range of businesses, churches, colleges, military installations and community organizations who share a commitment to improving children's reading skills.

At the September event, volunteers received certificates of recognition along with special pins, while schools also received a certificate honoring their participation and support.



**Mrs. Panetta honors Patricia Zuniga, a literacy coach at Santa Rita School in Salinas.**

Following a keynote address by Secretary Leon Panetta, Institute co-chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta told the gathering, "Monterey County Reads is a tremendous example of the power of partnerships to improve our communities and protect the well being of our children."

The ceremony also featured remarks from a reading volunteer, a school site-coordinator and the Monterey County superintendent of schools, Nancy Kotowski.

Now in its eighteenth year, Monterey County Reads recruits and places volunteers in participating schools throughout the county. The volunteers receive training from literacy specialists, followed by on-site orientations before beginning regular one-to-one reading sessions with specially selected children in the early elementary grades.

Since the program's inception, more than 2,800 volunteers have read with 14,000 children for nearly 112,000 hours.

