



PANETTA INSTITUTE

# update

## Leon Panetta Returns to Panetta Institute; Work Continues in Inspiring Young People

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**T**he Panetta Institute for Public Policy welcomed home Leon E. Panetta in February, when he stepped down from the position of secretary of defense and returned to the institute he co-founded with his wife, **Sylvia M. Panetta**, in 1997.

Secretary Panetta served in the Obama administration as director of the CIA and as defense secretary from 2009 until 2013. “We felt a vacuum when he left,” recalled Mrs. Panetta, “but thanks to the Panetta Institute’s wise and generous board of directors and our outstanding staff, we continued to flourish. We developed more sharply focused programs and broadened the range of speakers for our events.”

“Now that he’s back,” Mrs. Panetta added, “his additional experience in international affairs deepens the Institute’s knowledge and helps us develop even stronger programs.”

Secretary Panetta was honored in March with a reception at the California State University, Monterey Bay campus, with more than 500 residents of the greater Monterey Bay on hand.

Recalling his fifty years of public service, Secretary Panetta told the audience: “This has been a great ride. But I also want people never to forget one thing. Washington is where I worked. But this is my home.”

Secretary Panetta spoke of his years in Washington and his many opportunities to

serve, as congressman, White House chief of staff and ultimately CIA director and secretary of defense.

“I’ve always felt,” he said, “that the fundamental purpose of everything I’ve done is not the title; it’s not the name on the door and it isn’t the honor you receive being on the job. The fundamental purpose of those jobs – and for that matter, every job in Washington – is to ensure that we give our children a better life. That’s the American Dream.”

Regarding his return to the Institute, Secretary Panetta said: “The purpose of the Panetta Institute is to inspire young people to serve this country. My commitment, my hope and my faith is that ultimately we will have those leaders who are willing to make the tough decisions and take the risks that helped to produce the strongest country in the world.”



### Inside:

- Lecture Series Focuses on ‘Gridlock or Action?’
- Reading Program Reaches More Students
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**Secretary Leon Panetta is back at the Institute he and his wife Sylvia founded in 1997. The Institute is now home to a collection of artifacts from his service in Washington, D.C. (See Back Page.)**



This year's Panetta Institute Lecture speakers: **Tom Ridge**, **Doris Meissner**, **Howard Berman**, **Simón Salinas**, **James Carville**, **William Kristol**, **Sarah Brady**, **Asa Hutchinson**, **James Johnson**, **Ehud Barak**, **Joe Lieberman** and **Richard Lugar**.



## Lecture Series Examines Political Gridlock

**W**ith the return of Secretary **Leon E. Panetta** as moderator, the Panetta Institute's annual lecture series focused this spring on partisanship in the nation's capital, asking the question "2013 – Gridlock or Action?"

"Our nation cannot afford to have our leaders continue to be distracted from their responsibility to govern," Institute co-chair **Sylvia M. Panetta** told a capacity audience at the Monterey Conference Center.

At our first event on April 8, four speakers discussed "Immigration: Compromise or Conflict?" **Tom Ridge**, former head of the Department of Homeland Security; **Doris Meissner**, former commissioner for the United States Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services; **Howard Berman**, former United States representative and author of immigration legislation; and **Simón Salinas**, Monterey County supervisor and son of farmworkers, agreed that immigration reform is long overdue.

The speakers pointed out that reform might be difficult to achieve in the heavily partisan atmosphere of Washington, but said that the time has come for compromise.

An examination of political gamesmanship took center stage on May 6, when **James Carville**, presidential advisor and political consultant, and **William Kristol**, panelist for FOX News Sunday and founder and editor of The Weekly Standard, took on the issue of "The Budget Blame Game." Both speakers acknowledged the extreme partisanship in both houses of Congress, and said that the chance of a "grand bargain" on the budget is unlikely.

Another political divide was on stage on May 27 when three speakers in the midst of the

debate over gun control discussed the Second Amendment and its limits. **Asa Hutchinson**, former United States representative and former task force director for the National Rifle Association, spoke of the "cultural difference when it comes to firearms in this country."

**Sarah Brady**, chair of the Brady Campaign and the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, recalled the shooting of her husband, James, and that of President Reagan in an assassination attempt in 1981. She said that arming oneself is no protection against mentally deranged shooters: "My husband and President Reagan were surrounded by the most highly qualified and trained people with more guns on them than you'll ever see, and it did absolutely no good."

The third speaker, Baltimore County Police Chief **James Johnson**, cited bleak statistics about the number of homicides, suicides and accidental shootings, and concluded: "The simple act of a universal background check will make you, your children and your neighbors safer."

At our final event on June 9, former Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud Barak** and former Senators **Joe Lieberman** and **Richard Lugar** discussed the persistent political and social instability across the Middle East, from Libya to Pakistan.

The speakers offered a grim view of the chances for peace in the volatile region, but they agreed that the United States must continue its presence there.

In addition to addressing series subscribers, our speakers met separately during the school year in afternoon sessions with students from area high schools, colleges and military installations.

## Monterey County Reads Continues to Expand

**T**he Panetta Institute's longest running program, Monterey County Reads, marked its sixteenth year by reaching further into Monterey County schools.

In the recently concluded school year, nearly 180 volunteers donated their time at 35 sites in 10 school districts across the county.

These volunteers were honored on May 16 at a special ceremony at California State University, Monterey Bay. Celebrated writer **Francisco Jiménez**, author of several books in English and Spanish and a professor of literature at Santa Clara University, was the keynote speaker.

"You have prepared the students for continuing their education, which is absolutely necessary for a strong and essential democracy," he said.

Among those honored were four recipients of the *Golden Threads Award* – an honor for serving as a volunteer for five years.

In thanking the volunteers, Institute co-chair and CEO **Sylvia M. Panetta** reminded them of the difference they make in children's lives. "Reading is the key to success," she said. "Reading is the key to the American Dream."

Institute Chairman **Leon E. Panetta** also was on hand, telling volunteers: "Dreams just stay dreams unless you're willing to do the work to make the dreams come true."

Volunteers were unanimous in their praise of the program. "I am amazed how big an impact one can have on another human being by just working with them an hour or two a week, and it proves to me that any child can overcome any obstacle when given



**Sylvia Panetta presents volunteer Margie Martin with a Golden Threads Award for her five years of service.**

an opportunity and the appropriate resource," said LCDR **Erik LaSalle**, a volunteer from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Monterey County Reads is one of two Institute programs singled out this year for the Excellence in Education Award by the Monterey County School Boards Association. (The Leon Panetta Lecture Series Afternoon Student Program was the second.)

Among the districts added to the program this year was Greenfield Elementary, where **Superintendent Trevor McDonald** describes the program as "high impact – not only for the students but for the volunteers and even on to the entire city of Greenfield. It has had a ripple effect; we've seen parents get excited about the program and then their neighbors want to get involved."

Since 1997, more than 2,500 community volunteers have served for more than 105,000 hours at area schools.

### Panetta Institute by the Numbers

**698** – Number of students attending the award-winning Leon Panetta Lecture Series Student Afternoon Program in 2013.

**68** – Graduates from the Institute's Master of Public Policy Program.

**12,000** – Books distributed to children during the sixteen-year history of Monterey County Reads.

**2,500** – Monterey County Reads volunteers since 1997.

**105,000** – Reading volunteer hours at area schools in that time.

**49** – Law school students who have completed a semester of service in the Institute's Policy Research Fellows Program.

**387** – Students from campuses around the state who have attended the Institute's weeklong Leadership Seminar.

**318** – Students who have participated in the Institute's Congressional Internship Program and served as Congressional interns.





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## Secretary Panetta's Career Documented in Display

**T**he Panetta Institute is now home to a dramatic repository of photographs, documents and other artifacts relating to Panetta Institute cofounder Leon E. Panetta and his service in the Obama administration as head of the Central Intelligence Agency and as secretary of defense.

The collection includes images of Secretary Panetta with leaders from around the world, as well as awards and honors connected to his many achievements in the pursuit of peace and security for the United States and its allies.

There are photos and artifacts from the compound of terrorist Osama bin Laden, who was brought down under Secretary Panetta's leadership at the CIA. There are also pictures of the Secretary's travels across the globe, meeting with leaders from Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, China and other countries. Framed resolutions from both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate document the bringing to justice of bin Laden, as do a host of awards, certificates and tributes from the men and women of the CIA and from America's armed forces.

Secretary Panetta's role in the Obama administration is well documented, with a variety of candid and ceremonial pictures, as well as a hand-written note from the President offering congratulations for his service at the CIA.



**Secretary Leon Panetta with his dog Bravo after a reception for Monterey County Reads.**

Also on display is a three-foot long sword with a gold inlaid handle, presented to Secretary Panetta by Dimitris Avramopoulos, Greece's Minister of Defense. Nearby is a three-foot long gavel, presented by the men and women of the CIA General Counsel's Office.

On the lighter side are pictures of Secretary Panetta's prized golden retriever, Bravo, and a signed photo of the Secretary at a pickup basketball game at the CIA, with the handwritten sentiment: "This year the agency – Next year the Final Four."

These recent photographs and artifacts are additions to a host of items already collected at the Panetta Institute documenting Secretary Panetta's entire career in public service. Awards and photographs document his years serving in the Clinton Administration as Budget Director and Chief of Staff, as well as his years representing the Central Coast in Congress.

Much of the earlier material is stored in the *Leon E. Panetta Archive* here at the Institute.

### Our Mission

The Panetta Institute continues to change and grow, but our mission remains the same: inspiring people to lives of public service and helping them develop the skills they'll need to meet the challenges of the future. Please help us with a tax-deductible contribution.