



PANETTA INSTITUTE

# update

## Panetta Institute Honors Five National Leaders Who Put Duty to Country Above Partisanship

**F**our days after the close of an election campaign that left the country deeply divided, hundreds of Panetta Institute supporters gathered at The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach to honor five public servants for their determination to reach across party lines and achieve consensus solutions to national problems.

Billed as An Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service, this year's event bestowed the coveted Jefferson-Lincoln Award on Delaware senator **Tom Carper**, Alaska senator **Lisa Murkowski**, California congressman **Sam Farr**, and two longtime national security and law enforcement veterans: former assistant to the President for homeland security and counterterrorism **Fran Townsend** and former FBI director **Robert Mueller**.

Institute chairman **Leon Panetta** praised Carper, a Democrat, as a "results-oriented centrist who puts his party allegiance second in line to the national interest," particularly in his role as ranking member of the Senate's homeland security and government affairs committee.

The former secretary of defense also lauded Murkowski, whose representation of a heavily Republican state, he said, "has not prevented her from looking for opportunities to work out compromises with her colleagues across the aisle and actually get things done."

A sentimental moment for many in attendance at the November 12 dinner was the honoring of local congressman Sam Farr, who is retiring from the House after twenty-four years. Institute CEO and co-chair **Sylvia Panetta** noted that the legislator has built a record of accomplishment for his district and the country based partly on his habit of treating political opponents with kindness and respect.

Secretary Panetta pointed out that Fran Townsend has a long record of service in both Democratic and Republican administrations, including a series of positions in the Clinton justice department and a four-year stint as

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### Inside:

- Secretary Panetta Calls for Restoring Trust
- Congressional Intern Experience Leads to Public Service
- Reading Program in Its 20th Year of Successes

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Secretary and Mrs. Panetta present the Jefferson-Lincoln Award to U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, who has served the area in Congress for twenty-four years.

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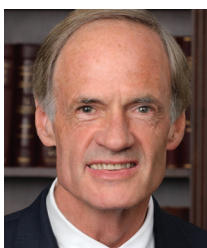
## Officials Honored for Bipartisan Public Service

homeland security advisor to President George W. Bush. She has been invited to speak several times at Institute events, he said, “because you can count on Fran to address issues substantively, with the country’s best interest in mind.”

The Institute’s chairman also had high praise for the integrity and dedication of Robert Mueller, with whom he worked closely during his years as CIA director and secretary of defense. “Whenever I talked to Bob,” Panetta

said, “I knew I was getting his absolute best judgment, with no political agenda.”

The Panetta Institute established the annual Jefferson-Lincoln award seventeen years ago to recognize elected and appointed officials who have shown an exceptional devotion to public service and a bipartisan approach to difficult issues, and in some years the honor has also been bestowed on political journalists who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to unbiased, fact-based reporting.



This year’s Jefferson-Lincoln Award honorees: Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA), former presidential homeland security advisor Fran Townsend, and former FBI director Robert Mueller.

### A Message from the Chairman

## The Need Now: Restore Trust in Our Democracy

By Leon E. Panetta

**T**his year’s bitterly divisive presidential election campaign shook the faith of many Americans in the democratic process itself, with voter turnout falling to its lowest level in twenty years. But this decline in public trust didn’t start in 2016. We’re seeing the results of decades of hyper-partisanship in Washington, where political grandstanding and legislative gridlock have left a long list of problems unaddressed.



We’ve also seen a troubling trend in some quarters away from responsible news coverage. “Fake news” is not a new thing. Highly

partisan newspapers in the nineteenth century ran bruising campaigns against opposition candidates and office holders, often with little regard for the truth. But the Internet, talk radio and niche cable channels have increased the opportunities for such mischief, with citizens more able to isolate themselves now in separate ideological echo chambers.

Our mission at the Panetta Institute is to restore public trust in our democratic institutions – by helping people become more informed participants in the process of self-government, by honoring and showcasing journalists of true integrity, and by inspiring and preparing young people for lives of public service. Your help with this effort is more important than ever.



## Panetta Interns Get In-Depth Look at Congress

**T**he Panetta Institute's commitment to preparing young people for lives of public service is probably best exemplified by its nationally renowned congressional intern program. The Institute manages this effort for twenty-three California State University campuses and three private schools, and regularly hears rave reviews from participants.

"This program completely changed my life," says **Katie Martin**, a San Diego State graduate whose Panetta internship in 2010 led eventually to service in the White House and to her job today in a major nonprofit organization (see below).

Many of the country's colleges and universities send interns to work on Capitol Hill; however the experience often doesn't go much beyond subbing for the office's receptionist or running errands. Panetta interns get an in-depth education in the legislative process, starting with a two-week orientation course at the Institute's Monterey Bay headquarters, where they interact with members of Congress, congressional staff, political journalists and other Washington veterans.



This fall's class of interns join Secretary Panetta on the U.S. Capitol steps.

This makes it much more likely that their eleven weeks of service to a member of the California congressional delegation will include substantive issue research or assistance to a legislative aide. And, that experience is supplemented with regular meetings outside the office with some of the nation's top policy thinkers and decision makers.

**"THIS PROGRAM  
COMPLETELY CHANGED  
MY LIFE."**

**Katie Martin**  
Former Panetta Intern

## Internship Launches a Public Service Career

**B**y her junior year at San Diego State University, **Katie Martin** had developed an interest in politics and international affairs, but she saw little opportunity to pursue it until she heard about the Panetta Institute's congressional intern program. She applied, was accepted, and soon found herself in the office of California congresswoman **Susan Davis**.

Thanks to the intensive training she received beforehand at the Institute, Martin was able to provide Davis valuable help with issue research and the drafting of legislative correspondence. And, two years later she landed an internship at the White House, in the office of the Vice President.



**Katie Martin serves now at the U.N. Foundation.**

Today Martin serves as a senior associate for global health advocacy at the United Nations Foundation, promoting anti-malaria efforts. "I love my work," she says, "and it all started with the Panetta internship."





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## **Now in Its 20th Year, Monterey County Reads Keeps on Growing and Improving**

**T**he highly successful Monterey County Reads program, the first public initiative to be launched by the Panetta Institute after the organization's founding in 1997, is now in its twentieth year and isn't resting on its laurels.

The reading assistance program for area children in grades 1 through 3 continued its strong record this year for number of volunteers recruited and number of students assisted, notes Institute co-chair and CEO **Sylvia Panetta**, who has kept a close watch on the program from the beginning.

Since its inception, Monterey County Reads has trained and placed nearly twenty-five hundred reading assistants to work one-to-one with about sixteen thousand children who were struggling with the printed word.

The program has also scored significant gains in quality and effectiveness, according to the Institute's chief of staff and programs **Chris Haubert**. In recent years, she says, the effort has hired more professional staff, including recently retired school teachers and administrators whose expertise as assessors of student achievement has been a major help.

As reported last spring, assessment data for the 2014-2015 school year showed students



**MCR volunteers have helped thousands of area children improve their reading skills.**

achieving increases in reading fluency far above the national average for children who don't receive this kind of help. Literacy specialists measure students' reading ability before assistance begins and again upon completion, and the results are analyzed by a researcher at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

Monterey County Reads recruits its volunteers from area colleges, businesses, military installations, faith groups and community organizations, then trains them as reading assistants and places them in participating schools. Additional volunteers and organizations are encouraged to get involved.

