



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

Panetta Institute Adds Two National Leaders to Jefferson-Lincoln Awards Recipient List

Hundreds of Panetta Institute supporters gathered on Veterans Day at The Inn at Spanish Bay to honor two United States senators, adding them to the long list of public servants and journalists honored over the years for their commitment to compromise and bipartisanship.

Billed as An Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service, this year's event bestowed the *Jefferson-Lincoln Awards* to Ohio Senator **Rob Portman** (R) and Rhode Island Senator **Jack Reed** (D).

Institute chairman Leon Panetta praised the honorees, saying, "We pay tribute to those leaders who are committed to the principles that have historically made our country an inspirational example of the democratic process at its best."

Senator Portman has served in both chambers of Congress and held two Cabinet positions. Secretary Panetta said, "In each of these posts, he has always worked to put the needs of his constituents and the country above party politics."

As for Senator Reed, Secretary Panetta said, "He has a proven record of working on a bipartisan basis to help solve problems and achieve results."

The Panetta Institute established the annual *Jefferson-Lincoln Award* eighteen years ago to recognize elected and appointed officials

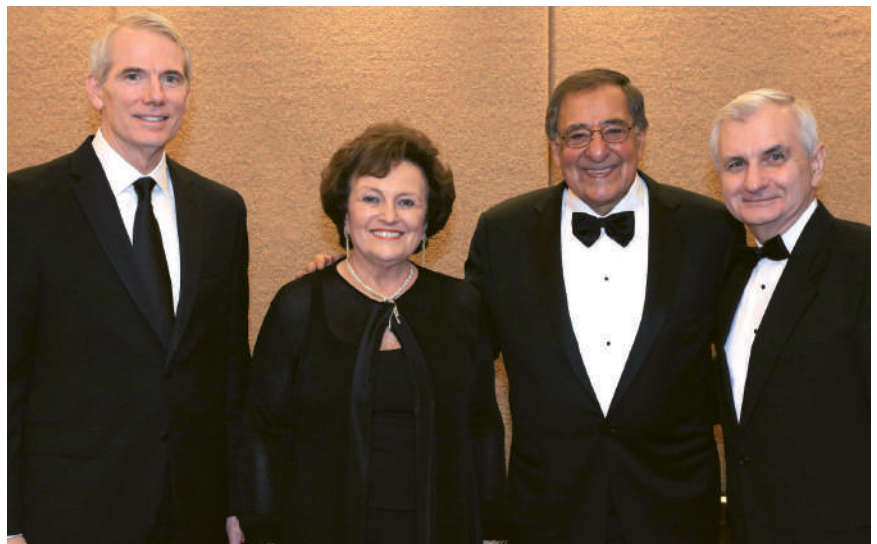
who have shown an exceptional commitment to public service and a bipartisan approach to difficult issues. More than fifty individuals have been recognized since the first program in 2000.

Panetta Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta paid special tribute to several past honorees, including Senators **John McCain**, **Lisa Murkowski**, **Dianne Feinstein** and **Susan Collins** and journalists **Wolf Blitzer**, **David Brooks** and **Judy Woodruff**. She said, "Tonight's honorees join this impressive list of other recipients who continue to uphold the ideals of the *Jefferson-Lincoln Awards* in their work on behalf of our democracy."

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Secretary and Mrs. Panetta along with honorees Senator Rob Portman (left) and Senator Jack Reed.

National Service Program Urged in New Report

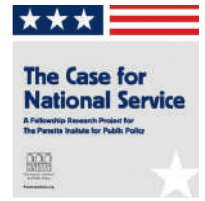
A new report commissioned by the Panetta Institute shows that a national service program could provide benefits to young people and to the country as well.

The study examines a wide range of national service programs such as AmeriCorps, VISTA, the Peace Corps, Job Corps and City Year, calling them highly cost-effective in providing needed services while giving participants a work experience that can benefit them for the rest of their lives.

A broad-based national service system, the report finds, would provide those who serve a

sense of duty and purpose as well as a shared experience with others.

Secretary Panetta said, “The report shows that it is important that all young people are given the opportunity to serve in some capacity. That fact is that the national service structure is basically already in place, but for each position filled, a dozen individuals are turned away because of inadequate funding and support.”



A Message from the Chairman

Working to Restore Trust in Our Democracy

By **Leon E. Panetta**

We all recognize that these are challenging times for our democracy.

In my fifty years of public service, I have seen Washington at its best and Washington at its worst. The good news is that I have seen our democracy work well, with Republicans and Democrats acting together to resolve issues and find consensus. Unfortunately, that's not the case currently: I have never seen Washington as partisan and as dysfunctional as it is today.

Congress is unwilling to cooperate in developing bipartisan solutions to the serious issues facing the American people. Instead of leadership, we have crisis. The price is a loss of trust, between the parties and between the people and those we elect to office. Anger and frustration drove the election results of 2016. The challenge is not which party can divide and conquer, but which party can unify and govern the country.



Many Americans today recognize the problems with our democracy. The hope is that things can change from the top down. But the reality is that things will only change from the bottom up. We need to start with a new generation of leaders dedicated to public service.

That is the mission of the Panetta Institute. We strongly believe in the strength and resilience of the American people and of our system of government.

That's why our mission at the Panetta Institute is to inspire young people to lives of public service, to restore public trust in our democratic institutions. Our programs focus on helping citizens become more informed by honoring leaders with true integrity, by presenting programs that inform rather than incite, and by inspiring and preparing young people for lives devoted to making our democracy work for all of us.

Your help with this effort is more important than ever.



Panetta Interns Get In-Depth Look at Congress

The Panetta Institute's nationally renowned Congressional Internship Program once again in 2017 introduced students from twenty three California State University campuses and three private schools to an up-close look at how Congress works during an eleven-week internship in Washington, D.C.

This year's challenge for the Institute was to inspire and educate interns in an atmosphere of increased skepticism of national leadership by young people on today's campuses.

As Secretary Panetta points out, "Our 2017 national poll of college students found that today's college students take the most pessimistic view of the direction of the country in the history of the survey. Three out of five students say the country is on the wrong track."

However, after an in-depth education starting with a two-week orientation and training course at the Institute's Monterey Bay headquarters and eleven weeks of service on Capitol Hill, interns discovered that they can indeed be part of the national political process.



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

"Our goal is to demonstrate that the students themselves can change their perception of our democracy," says Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta.

Panetta interns, unlike those in other college and university programs, are aided by not only their two-week orientation program at the Institute, but also by weekly meetings once they are in Washington with a variety of the nation's top policy thinkers and decision makers.

"STUDENTS THEMSELVES CAN CHANGE THEIR PERCEPTION OF OUR DEMOCRACY."

— Sylvia Panetta

Policy Research Fellows Take a Deep Look at Bipartisan Governance

The *Policy Research Fellows Program* at The Panetta Institute for Public Policy took on the challenge this fall of what it would take to propose and enact real-life bipartisan legislation. With the help of Panetta Institute professors, four students from Santa Clara University School of Law worked through the complexities of how policy is implemented.

"The Fall 2017 class of policy research fellows excelled in their understanding of why compromise is vital to a successful democracy," commented Sonia Banks, an institute professor.

The Fellows, who receive three units of academic credit and three units of experiential credit at Santa Clara University School of Law, work under the direction of Institute faculty: attorney Sonia Banks, the program's lead professor teaches public policy making and analysis; professor Richard Kezirian, Ph.D., teaches graduate political history classes; former California Assemblyman Fred Keeley teaches the practical application and implementation of policy; and local attorney Bill Daniels teaches policy advocacy.





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Monterey County Reads Continues to Help Those Who Need it Most

Monterey County Reads, the Panetta Institute’s longest running program, continues to flourish as it enters its twenty-first year.

The reading assistance program for area children in grades one through three has become a major force throughout Monterey County: it has touched the lives of approximately 17,000 children since its inception in 1997. The program is aimed at those students who are in danger of falling behind because they struggle with the printed word.

Monterey County Reads has benefitted from more than 3,400 volunteers, not to mention the many teachers who have been involved in the program. This year, first-grade teacher Nicole Aboujaoude became perhaps the first person to see the program from two sides – as the onetime volunteer while a student at California State University Monterey Bay and now as teacher at Foothill Elementary School in Monterey.

“I remember how great it was as a volunteer to see the children improve and get on the cusp of reading at grade level,” said Ms. Aboujaoude. “Now, as a teacher I see that in a short time they make it all the way to grade level. It’s exciting to see; Monterey County Reads is helping the ones who need it most.”



Monterey County Reads has helped thousands of children learn the joy of reading.

Certainly the most heartwarming moments for children in the program comes at the end of each semester when the Institute distributes storybooks to the participants, some of whom are receiving a book of their own for the very first time. The sheer number of storybooks distributed demonstrates the breadth of this program: approximately 17,000 books have been distributed to children over the years.

Monterey County Reads recruits its volunteers from area businesses, colleges, military installations, faith groups and community organizations. Individuals and organizations who want to get involved are encouraged to contact the Panetta Institute.

