



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

A Message from the Chairman

Where the United States Needs to Go From Here

By Leon E. Panetta

When the 46th president of the United States is inaugurated on January 20 he will face a myriad of challenges: the rising number of COVID-19 cases, deep economic difficulties, racial injustice and climate change.

President-elect Biden will inherit a deeply divided country separated in many ways, including politics, race, region and cultural orientation. He has the opportunity to usher in a new era of healing and hope. But to unify this nation, he needs to govern and end the gridlock that has become such a prominent and painful feature of American political life.

Our new president will represent the entire nation, and he must reach out to all Americans, nearly half of whom voted against him. He and those who oppose him, specifically in Congress, must realize that we need to come together. Compromise is not a dirty word. It is how we get things done, and it is essential for the nation to prosper.

Consider that three of President Reagan's five nominations to the Supreme Court – Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy – were approved by the Senate without a single nay vote being cast. Or that President Clinton's appointment of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court was approved by the Senate 96-3 and his nomination of Stephen Breyer 87-9. But no Supreme Court nominee

has reached even 70 votes in more than 15 years.

Members of both parties in the past joined to pass landmark civil rights legislation, widescale tax reforms, fiscal compromises and a balanced federal budget. This is a legacy worth reclaiming. Achievements of such magnitude are not only possible, they are necessary.

Our democracy, the world's longest standing, is never to be taken for granted. It is a living entity that needs to be nurtured and protected. It requires that we all stay vigilant and engaged. This election drew more voters than any in American history. We have to stay this involved. The 2021 presidential inauguration will be our democracy's 59th quadrennial inauguration.

One takeaway from this election that Americans of all shades of the political spectrum can agree on is that we are not apathetic about voting. In the presidential election that just concluded a higher percentage of eligible Americans voted than in



Leon Panetta:
"Our democracy and the American People are resilient."

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Inside:

- *Lecture Series* continues during pandemic
- AT&T presents Panetta Institute with \$200,000 grant
- *Leadership Seminar* features nationally prominent speakers
- Reflections of Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta

Continued on Page 2

“WE REMAIN CERTAIN THAT THE AMERICAN DREAM WILL SURVIVE – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE AND ALL OF US MUST SHARE AND BEAR THAT RESPONSIBILITY.”

—Secretary Panetta

Where the United States Needs to Go From Here

Continued from Page 1

any presidential contest since 1900. That is a testimony to our faith in the electoral process and the simple message voiced by political parties and pundits alike: Vote.

When the final ballots are totaled, more than 155 million people will have voted. President-elect Biden will garner the most by a winning

candidate, President Trump the most by a runner-up.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in an address in Marietta, Ohio, on July 8, 1938: “Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and Senators and Congressmen and Government officials but the voters of this country.”

Lecture Series Continues During the Pandemic

The theme of the twenty-third year of the Leon Panetta Lecture Series was **Decision 2020: A Republic If We Can Keep It**. “The Founders designed our republic, but it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that it is preserved. That is the duty we faced in the 2020 election.” said Secretary Panetta.

The Institute held all four scheduled programs of its annual lecture series. The first session was held in the Monterey Conference Center on February 24 preceded by an afternoon student program that was attended by 502 students from 24 participating high schools, colleges and military installations. Given the pandemic and for health and safety reasons, the Institute transitioned the format and hosted the remaining three lectures through live webinar presentations to

all ticket purchasers. Each of these lectures drew a webinar audience of approximately 525 viewers.

The first lecture was entitled **Impeachment and the Election** and focused on how to protect our republic from the dysfunction in Washington. The second lecture was **The Future of American Leadership in a Dangerous World** which focused on the flashpoints in the world threatening our national security and America’s role as the leader of the free world. **An Economy on Borrowed Money**, the third lecture, addressed the rising U.S. debt and the impact of COVID-19 on the country’s economy. Last, the speakers discussed the impact of climate change in **A Planet on Borrowed Time**.

Our invited experts are highlighted below.



Speakers (left to right): Brett Baier, chief political anchor, Fox News; David Gregory, CNN commentator; Mara Liasson, national correspondent, National Public Radio; John Kerry, Secretary of State (2013-2017); General James Mattis, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.); Todd Buchholz, White House Director of Economic Policy (1989-1992); Maya MacGuineas, President, Bipartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget; Rosa Gumataotao Rios, Treasurer of the United States (2009-2016); Jerry Brown, governor, California (1975-1983, 2011-2019); Rahm Emanuel, White House chief of staff (2009-2010), and Christine Todd Whitman, governor, New Jersey (1994-2001).

Panetta Institute Receives \$200,000 Grant from AT&T

The Panetta Institute was recently honored by being selected for a \$200,000 grant by AT&T for the Institute's *Congressional Internship Program*, one of the nation's foremost and respected programs for students from the California State University system and now in its 22nd year. A majority of the students selected for the semester-long program are low-income, first-generation college students and from minority communities.

Explaining why the Institute was selected, Bettye Saxon of AT&T External Affairs, said: "The Panetta Institute for Public Policy believes that public servants must come from all communities and reflect the people they serve and this is the guiding principle behind their *Congressional Internship Program*. This program was selected because AT&T recognizes that strong internship programs can change long-term career outcomes for college students and is supporting their work as part of the company's philanthropic focus on social

and economic equality in underserved communities."

"This internship program is about inspiring youth and providing opportunities for students who otherwise may not have the chance to experience working on Capitol Hill to build a career in public service," said Institute CEO Sylvia Panetta. "With AT&T's generous contribution, the Institute can continue to offer students of diverse backgrounds the opportunities within our *Congressional Internship Program*."

This program begins with a two-week academic course for the interns followed by a three-month internship in Washington, D.C., working in assigned offices of members of the California Congressional delegation. The Institute covers all the costs of the program, including housing, air travel, meals and expenses. Each intern earns 20 units of upper division academic credit, the cost of which is also borne by the Institute. To date, 525 students have participated in this program.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING SURE THAT THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS COME FROM DIVERSE COMMUNITIES."

—Secretary Panetta

Leadership Seminar Invites Nationally Prominent Speakers

Firmly believing that leaders are made not born, Secretary Panetta, with the guidance of a distinguished group of officials and visiting scholars established in 1999 the *Education in Leadership for Public Service Seminar*. Now in its twenty-first year, the Panetta Institute hosted this annual California State University accredited four-unit course from June 15 to June 19. Due to the pandemic, this year's *Leadership Seminar* was presented through video conferencing.

The program's unique curriculum offers elected student body officers from the California State University system and participating private

schools an unparalleled opportunity to learn from a diverse network of influential leaders and professionals. The students are led through an exploration of leadership principles and practices to help them address today's challenges.

Joining Secretary Panetta were the following distinguished speakers:

Jeremy Bash, chief of staff to Secretary Panetta at the Central Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense; Historian and Professor **Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.**; California

Continued on Page 4





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Leadership Seminar Draws National Speakers

Continued from Page 3

Supreme Court Associate Justice **Ming W. Chin**; Oracle Vice President and General Counsel **Dorian Daley**; former NFL Player and Arizona State Head Football Coach **Herm Edwards**; Presidential Advisor and CNN Analyst **David Gergen**; U.S. Representative **Joshua Gottheimer** (D-NJ); Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President **Maya**

MacGuineas; Admiral **Bill McRaven**, U.S. Navy (Ret.); **Janet Napolitano**, President of University of California; U.S. Representative **Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA); U.S. Representative **Thomas Reed** (R-NY); former U.S. Assistant Secretary on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D.**; Southern Company Vice President **Chris Womack**; and Honorary Consul of Mexico **Blanca Estela Zarazúa, J.D.**

Reflections of Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta

In spite of the formidable difficulties and unforeseen circumstances that we have faced this year, the COVID-19 pandemic, raging wildfires, and a recession impacting on jobs and business, the work of the Institute continued. Our programs moved forward serving our students and our community because of the support of our loyal board, supporters and staff.

We also believe that in light of the challenges our community is facing, it is important to recognize those who dedicate their lives to helping others. As a trained health care provider, I extend my deep appreciation to our nation's first responders who demonstrate their courage and bravery daily by providing safety for all of us. Also, Leon and I offer our heartfelt thanks to those who volunteer in programs to serve the most vulnerable among us. And after a record

turnout of voters, we are thankful for those who volunteer to help in our election process.

In this year's election more Americans than ever before dedicated themselves to sustain the backbone of our democracy, our election process, and voted. Voting itself isn't just about casting a ballot for a preferred candidate. It is an expression of faith in our system of governance. It is saying that despite the cynicism and negativity that may surround us, *We the People* want to step up and make our system better.

The mission of our Institute is to promote public service to our country. Thanks to all of you, our loyal supporters, we are able to carry on. Protecting our democracy and each other is a responsibility we all have if the promise of America is to be fulfilled.