



# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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## **National Academy of Public Administration Honors Public Service Recognition Week with All-star Gala Host Committee, “Stories of Service”**

Former Cabinet Members, Senior Officials, Military Leaders, and Academics to Host June 22  
Celebration at the Library of Congress

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — For Public Service Recognition Week 2026 (May 3–9), the National Academy of Public Administration has announced the formation of an Honorary Host Committee for its ***Celebrating the American Public Servant 250 Gala***, to be held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., June 22, 2026. The event will feature a special “Stories of Service” panel that will highlight stories about the best in government service.

Public Service Recognition Week continues a season of celebration dedicated to honoring the federal, state, and local workforces who keep democracy going every day.

The Honorary Host Committee brings together thirteen distinguished all-stars of public service: former Cabinet secretaries, senior military and intelligence officials, governors, judges, and leading scholars whose collective service embodies the Academy’s mission to advance excellence in public administration as the nation marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

As part of the 250 Gala, the National Academy of Public Administration is also bringing together six of the most prestigious award programs in public service, including the **Service to the Citizen Awards, the Partnership for Public Service's Service to America Medals, the Arthur S. Flemming Awards, the GovExec Hall of Fame, the Leadership Connect Next Generation Leader Spotlight, and the eRepublic Public Official of the Year**, for a first-of-its-kind panel representing public service excellence at all levels of government.

Each award partner has nominated an exemplar honoree to represent their program, and those six public servants will come together for the Gala's signature **"Stories of Service" panel**, sharing defining moments from their careers that speak to the enduring impact of public service.

The Academy’s “Stories of Service” is an important spotlight for public service workers to share what drives their passion for good government. The most recent “Stories of Service” event was held during the Academy’s 2025 National Conference.

This year's "Stories of Service" Honorees and speakers are:

- Service to the Citizen Awards: **Kenneth Corbin**, Chief, Taxpayer Services, Internal Revenue Service.
- Partnership for Public Service Service to America Medals: **David Lebryk**, Former Fiscal Assistant Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Treasury.
- Arthur S. Flemming Awards: **Dr. William Phillips**, Katharine Blodgett Gebbie Fellow and 1997 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics.
- GovExec Hall of Fame: **William Walker**, Retired U.S. Army Major General and Former Sergeant-at-Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Leadership Connect Next Generation Leader Spotlight: **Kaity Wolfe**, former Director of Oversight, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.
- eRepublic Public Official of the Year: **Andrew J. Ginther**, Mayor, Columbus, Ohio.

"Public Service Recognition Week is a reminder that the work of government depends on the people who show up every day," said James-Christian Blockwood, President & CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration. "The Honorary Host Committee and Stories of Service honorees embody that spirit. Each of these leaders has devoted their career to the belief that government, when well-managed and well-cared-for, can rise to meet the nation's greatest challenges. As we honor public servants this week and throughout America's 250th, their presence at this Gala sends a powerful signal about the enduring value of service to our democracy."

The June Gala will serve as the centerpiece of the Academy's *Celebrating the American Public Servant* initiative.

The Gala will build on the momentum of Public Service Recognition Week to make 2026 a landmark year for honoring those who make government work.

Organizations and individuals interested in sponsoring, partnering with, or attending the Gala may visit <http://www.napawash.org/caps> or contact Tony Spearman-Leach, Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, at [tspearman-leach@napawash.org](mailto:tspearman-leach@napawash.org).

## Stories of Service Honorees



### **Kenneth Corbin**

Kenneth Corbin serves as the Chief, Taxpayer Services Division, responsible for the administration of tax laws governing individual wage earners in the United States. He has responsibility for approximately 42,000 employees in almost 363 taxpayer assistance centers, 11 campuses, and 17 remote call sites nationwide who deliver customer service, including telephone and face-to-face assistance, forms and publications development, tax return processing, as well as compliance activities for America's taxpayers.



### **Andrew J. Ginther**

Andrew J. Ginther is serving his third term as the 53rd mayor of Columbus, Ohio, having first been elected in 2015 after nearly a decade on Columbus City Council, including five years as its president. Under his leadership, Columbus has been recognized as "America's Opportunity City," with major accomplishments spanning neighborhood investment, public safety reform, transportation, and economic development.



### **David Lebryk**

David Lebryk served the Treasury Department with distinction for over 35 years under six Administrations and twelve Secretaries of the Treasury. He is widely known and respected for his dedication to public service and ability to lead complex operations and major transformational initiatives, as well as for his character, integrity, and principled leadership.



### **Dr. William Phillips**

Dr. William Phillips is a Katharine Blodgett Gebbie Fellow and physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), where he has worked since 1978. He is best known for receiving the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics, which he shared with Steven Chu and Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, for developing methods to cool and trap atoms using laser light, work that has since become foundational to modern atomic physics and is employed by researchers worldwide across a wide range of applications.



### **Major General William J. Walker (Ret.)**

Major General William J. Walker served as the 38th U.S. House of Representatives Sergeant at Arms, the first African American to hold that historic office. He previously served as the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard and had a distinguished career as a Special Agent and senior intelligence officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration.



### **Kaity Wolfe**

Kaity Wolfe's career reflects deep experience at the intersection of policy, oversight, and legislative strategy. She spent four years on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where she rose to Director of Oversight. In that role, she supervised a high-performing oversight team, directed major congressional investigations, and oversaw the work of subcommittee staff across a wide-ranging portfolio.

## Honorary Host Committee Members



### **Dr. Gail C. Christopher**

Dr. Gail C. Christopher is an award-winning social change agent and author who pioneered the integration of holistic health and racial equity into public sector policy. She served as Senior Advisor and Vice President at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, driving the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation initiative, and currently serves as Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity. She was named one of the 10 Most Influential Women Scholars in Health Promotion by the American Journal of Health Promotion in 2023.



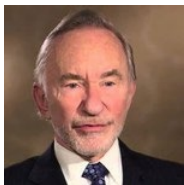
### **Henry Cisneros**

Henry Cisneros served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton and was the first Hispanic mayor of a major American city, serving as Mayor of San Antonio, Texas. He later served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Univision Communications and has been a longtime civic leader in housing policy, urban development, and Latino affairs. He has been an Academy Fellow since 1984.



### **General Michael Hayden (Ret.)**

General Michael Hayden is a retired four-star general who led both the Central Intelligence Agency (2006–2009) and the National Security Agency and served as the nation's first Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, the highest-ranking military intelligence officer in the country. His career at the forefront of counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and intelligence reform spans decades of distinguished service.



### **Joseph Kasputys**

Dr. Joseph E. Kasputys is an entrepreneur and Harvard-trained economist who served in senior government roles, including work on the U.S. response to the Arab oil embargo and the formation of the U.S. Department of Energy. He later founded Global Insight, one of the world's leading economic forecasting firms, and serves on multiple business and nonprofit boards. He is a former U.S. Navy Commander.



### **Derek Kilmer**

Derek Kilmer (former U.S. Rep. WA-6) served in the House of Representatives from 2013 to 2025. A former McKinsey consultant and state legislator, Kilmer has fostered a reputation as a bipartisan problem-solver focused on economic development, veterans' issues, and public service.



### **Jonathan Koppell**

Jonathan Koppell is President of Montclair State University and a former Dean of Arizona State University's Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions. A scholar of governance and accountability, he also held faculty positions at Yale University and is a Distinguished Sustainability Scientist at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. He has been an Academy Fellow since 2012.



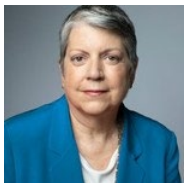
### **John Koskinen**

John Koskinen served as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (2013–2017), overseeing the agency during a period of intense public scrutiny, and chaired the Board of Freddie Mac (2008–2012). He previously served as Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget and as Chair of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. He has spent a 45-year career managing large organizations under conditions of stress and risk.



### **Chief Judge Paul Michel (Ret.)**

Chief Judge Paul R. Michel served for 22 years on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, including as Chief Judge from 2004 to 2010. Appointed to the bench in 1988, he presided over landmark cases in intellectual property, government contracts, and federal administrative law. He served as a public servant for 44 consecutive years before retiring and remains active in legal education and public policy.



### **Janet Napolitano**

Janet Napolitano served as the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security (2009–2013), Governor of Arizona (2003–2009), Attorney General of Arizona, and U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. She later served as President of the University of California system and currently is the Founder and Faculty Director of the Institute for Security and Governance at UC Berkeley. As Secretary, she led the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative and spearheaded major enhancements to the nation's cybersecurity posture.



### **Sean O'Keefe**

Sean O'Keefe served as Administrator of NASA, Secretary of the Navy, Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Defense. He also served as Chancellor of Louisiana State University and CEO of Airbus Group North America. He currently holds the Howard G. and S. Louise Phanstiel Chair in Strategic Management and Leadership at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.



### **Stacy L. Rodgers**

Stacy L. Rodgers is the former County Administrative Officer of Baltimore County, Maryland. She has more than 30 years of public service experience and previously served as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Social Security Administration and Director of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services. She has been an Academy Fellow since 2022.



### **Major General William J. Walker (Ret.)**

Major General William J. Walker served as the 38th U.S. House of Representatives Sergeant at Arms, the first African American to hold that historic office. He previously served as the 23rd Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard and had a distinguished career as a Special Agent and senior intelligence officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration.



### **David Walker**

David Walker served as Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (1998–2008) and was previously Assistant Secretary of Labor. A recognized expert in fiscal policy, government transformation, and human capital, he later founded the Comeback America Initiative and served as President and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

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## **About the National Academy of Public Administration**

Established in 1967 and chartered by Congress, the National Academy of Public Administration is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that helps government leaders solve the nation's most critical management challenges. With more than 1,000 Fellows, including former cabinet officials, governors, mayors, and scholars, the Academy advances excellence in public administration through research, advisory services, and thought leadership.

Learn more at [www.napawash.org](http://www.napawash.org)