



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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National Academy of Public Administration President and CEO Terry Gerton's Remarks at the Arthur S. Flemming Award Ceremony

WASHINGTON, DC –National Academy of Public Administration President and CEO Terry Gerton spoke at the Arthur S. Flemming Award ceremony on May 24th, hosted by The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at The George Washington University. The following are her remarks:

Good Evening.

It's such a privilege to be with you. On behalf of the National Academy of Public Administration, I'd like to thank you all for coming and I'd like to thank our sponsor, Federal Management Systems, for making this evening possible. I firmly believe that events like this, where we recognize and honor amazing government employees and celebrate their remarkable accomplishments and the difference they have made in the lives of people across this country, are an absolutely essential component of making sure we have a future federal workforce that will continue to impact our country for good.

When I was in the Army, we used to say of our work, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure!" Well, the same might be said of a career in public service today! But more than just an adventure, it's an adventure with purpose...and a career with purpose is what so many of us want. Today's young people are looking for work that is both adventurous and purposeful, but they don't often look for that opportunity with the government. Much has been written about what government agencies can do to improve their recruitment and retention of this new generation, but I am encouraged that some form of public service is at the top of their wish list. By showcasing the praiseworthy careers of tonight's awardees, by demonstrating the breadth of opportunities available, and by lifting up the rest of the federal civilian workforce, we send a positive message about our form of government and the opportunities and responsibilities that it presents, and we increase the potential of attracting outstanding individuals to future careers in federal service. We need them—there is so much work yet to be done!

The Academy's vision is a "government that works, and works for all." This year we are celebrating fifty years of working toward that vision. Over those fifty years, our 850 Fellows have given us, through their own lives, stories that inspire and motivate others to

commit to the hard and selfless, but infinitely rewarding, work of public service. The Flemming Awards honor that same commitment to public service, and the roster of awardees over the last sixty years is truly awe-inspiring. Gene Dodaro, tonight's recipient of the Katharine B. Gebbie Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Federal Service is also Fellow of the Academy. And many other Flemming awardees, like Bradley Patterson, our oldest Fellow who's still writing books about the Presidency at the age of 95, Nancy Potok, now the Chief Statistician of the United States, and Chris Mihm, once our youngest Fellow, are also members of the Academy...demonstrating that the outstanding accomplishments that earn recognition here translate into impactful lives of public service recognized by membership in the Academy.

That's why we are so proud to partner with The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration to honor tonight's awardees across the fields of applied science and engineering; basic science; leadership and management; and social science, clinical trials, and translational research. Each of you represents the very best of us—you show us what is possible—and you give us hope for the future. I congratulate you on your achievements and wish you the very best as you continue your service.

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NAPA Fellows who are also Arthur S. Flemming awardees:

1960: Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.
1961: Dwight A. Ink
 Lewis M. Branscomb
1964: Paul A. Volcker
1970: Phillip A. Odeen
1978: Robert M. Gates, Ph.D
1988: Gene L. Dodaro
1990: Nancy F. Potok
1994: J. Christopher Mihm
2002: Zalmi Azmi

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

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