The Commission’s work includes understanding why people serve, why people may choose not to serve, and recommending ways to increase the number of Americans in military, national, and public service. The Commission is actively seeking input from the public and invites you to join the conversation. Share your thoughts at: www.inspire2serve.gov
Mr. Eduardo Martinez, President of the UPS Foundation and UPS Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Mr. Martinez is responsible for the operation and management of UPS’ global philanthropic, employee engagement, corporate relations, and diversity and inclusion programs. In addition to his corporate responsibilities, he represents UPS on the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Humanitarian Response and serves as UPS Executive Liaison to the Council of Independent Colleges. He is also a member of the Corporate Advisory Board for The National Council of La Raza, Chair of the Points of Light Institute’s Corporate Service Council, Chair of the Corporate Development Council for the World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts, and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association for Volunteer Effort. He is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences “Resilient America” Roundtable and Chair of IAVE’s Global Corporate Volunteer Council. Mr. Martinez is a member of the American Bar Association, Florida Bar, and Hispanic National Bar Association.

Ms Tjada McKenna, Chief Operating Officer of Habitat for Humanity
As Chief Operating Officer, Ms. McKenna leads the operational execution of Habitat for Humanity’s strategic plan to advance its mission, grow capacity and increase global impact. To foster overall growth and development opportunities within the organization, Ms. McKenna is bringing together global programs, operational strategies, and delivery across Habitat’s network of 1,400 U.S. affiliates and more than 70 country programs in Canada; Europe, Middle East and Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Asia-Pacific. Prior to joining Habitat in December, 2015, Ms. McKenna was overseeing the U.S. government’s $3.5 billion global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future, as its deputy coordinator for development and assistant to the administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Food Security. Before her work with the U.S. government, she held management positions at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, McKinsey & Company, American Express, and GE Consumer Finance. McKenna earned a bachelor’s degree in government from Harvard College and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Lieutenant General Laura Richardson, Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Forces Command
LTG Richardson was commissioned as a second lieutenant of aviation upon graduation from Metropolitan State College in Denver. During her 30 year military career, she served in Korea with the 17th Aviation Brigade; Fort Hood on the III Corps staff and in the 6th Cavalry Brigade; Fort Leavenworth as an observer trainer; and at Fort Campbell as an assault helicopter battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer with the 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). LTG Richardson was selected to serve as the military aide to the Vice President at the White House. She returned to Fort Campbell to serve as the Division Deputy G-3 of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and later commanded the 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Following battalion command, she was assigned to the Army G-3/5/7 in the Pentagon; then served as the Garrison Commander of Fort McNair and Fort Myer, and served as the Army’s Liaison Officer to the U.S. Senate. LTG Richardson’s assignments as a general officer include Commanding General of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command; Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications with Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; and most recently at the Pentagon as Chief, Army Legislative Liaison.

Ambassador Francis X. Taylor, President of FXTaylor Associates
Amb. Taylor served as the Under Secretary in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from April 2014 to January 2017. From March 2005 to November 2013, Amb. Taylor served as Vice President and Chief Security Officer for the General Electric (GE) Company. As GE’s first Global Chief Security Officer, he was responsible for developing and managing GE’s global security operations and crisis management processes. Prior to joining GE, Amb. Taylor had a distinguished 35-year career in government service. He served as the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security and Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, where he oversaw the security programs that protect all government employees and structures overseas from terrorist, criminal, or technical attacks. Amb. Taylor also served as the U.S. Ambassador at Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism for the State Department from July 2001 to November 2002. During his 31 years of military service, Mr. Taylor served with distinction in numerous command and staff positions, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. He is currently the President and CEO of FXTaylor Associates, LLC, which specializes in security, crisis management and risk management consulting.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES – MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
Born and raised in Cranston, Rhode Island, Sen. Reed graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1971, and received a master’s degree in public policy and a law degree from Harvard University. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division as an Infantry Platoon Leader, a Company Commander, and a Battalion Staff Officer. He then joined the faculty at West Point, teaching cadets as an Associate Professor within the Department of Social Sciences until 1979. After resigning from active duty as a Captain, he continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves until 1991. While a reservist, Sen. Reed practiced banking and securities law as a private attorney and served three terms in the Rhode Island State Senate. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1991, and has served in the U.S. Senate since 1997. In addition to his work with the Armed Services Committee, he serves on the Committee on Appropriation; the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Representative Jackie Speier, Ranking Member, HASC Military Personnel Subcommittee
Rep. Speier received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the U.C. Davis, and a law degree from U.C. Hastings College of the Law. She served as a legislative aide for Congressman Leo Ryan, and traveled with Ryan on a fact-finding mission in 1978 to Jonestown, where she was shot multiple times. She was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1980, and then served, from 1986 to 1996, in the California State Assembly. She served in the California State Senate from 1998 to 2006, and was the assistant president pro tempore during her last term. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008 to represent California’s 12th (now 14th) Congressional District. She currently serves on the Armed Services Committee, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and is a co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus.
COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

Joseph Heck, Chairman, served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the 3rd District of Nevada from 2011 to 2017. During that time, he was a member of the Armed Services Committee, where he chaired the subcommittee on Military Personnel; the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. From 2004 to 2008, Dr. Heck served in the Nevada State Senate. A graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in health education, he received his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and completed his Emergency Medicine Residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He is a fellow of both the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians and the American College of Emergency Physicians. An active member of the United States Army Reserve, Dr. Heck holds the rank of Brigadier General and is currently assigned as the Deputy Joint Staff Surgeon, Office of the Chairman – The Joint Chiefs of Staff. Dr. Heck also currently serves as President of RedRock Government Relations, where he oversees a team that provides insightful and innovative strategic guidance to help clients achieve their public policy goals.

Mark Gearan, Vice Chair for National and Public Service, is the President-in-Residence of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Special Advisor for Public Service Initiatives at Harvard College. From 1999 to 2017, he served as President of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. In 1995, Mr. Gearan was appointed by the President to serve as the Director of the Peace Corps. Previously, he served in the White House as Assistant to the President, Director of Communications, and Deputy Chief of Staff. Mr. Gearan was an appointee of the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Commission on Political Reform, which focused on developing policy recommendations to encourage greater public service, amongst other things. He was also a former member of the White House Council for Community Solutions, a group of cross-sector leaders appointed to recommend collaborative solutions to increase civic engagement, and has served on numerous boards. He is the co-chair of the National Advisory Board on Public Service at Harvard College. He earned his bachelor’s degree in government cum laude from Harvard University and his law degree from Georgetown University. He is the recipient of 13 honorary degrees.

Debra Wada, Vice Chair for Military Service, was appointed in 2014 to the position of Assistant Secretary of Manpower and Reserve Affairs for the U.S. Army. In that position, she was responsible for all personnel, training, and readiness of the Army. Prior to her appointment, she worked on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee with responsibility for military personnel policy. She also worked for Senator Daniel K. Akaka. Originally from Hawaii, Ms. Wada graduated from Drake University in Iowa with a degree in economics and political science, and also attended the Naval War College.

Edward Allard III served most recently as the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Selective Service System from April 2010 to January 2017, where he chaired improvement projects to ensure effective and efficient Agency operations. He had previously served in the Clinton Administration, as the Director of the Performance Excellence Office in the Energy Department and as an adviser to the Secretary of Defense. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 10 years, resigning as a Captain in 1973. For over 25 years, Mr. Allard was the President and CEO of Allard & Associates, a management consulting firm, which provided management and performance improvement consultations nationally and internationally. He also worked with several nonprofit organizations, including as the President of the Roybal Foundation, which provides scholarships to health care students for work in low-income communities; as Vice President of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; and various positions with the United Way of America. Mr. Allard received a Master of Business Administration from the University of Miami.

Steven Barney served as the General Counsel to the Committee on Armed Services in the U.S. Senate, supporting 26 elected U.S. Senators comprising the full committee and six subcommittees to plan, develop, draft, and assure Congressional passage of the annual National Defense Authorization Act. He was the lead professional staff member responsible for defense personnel programs, including support for the active force of over 1.3 million servicemembers. Mr. Barney also served for over 22 years in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the U.S. Navy, leading military and civilian legal professionals and staff at sea and ashore. During that service, he worked as the Inspector General of the Naval Legal Service Command, was the Fleet Judge Advocate for the U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk and the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Japan. He retired in the grade of Captain in 2013. He received his law degree from Suffolk University Law School and his bachelor’s degree from Saint Michael’s College.
Janine Davidson currently serves as the President of Metropolitan State University of Denver. From 2016 to 2017, Ms. Davidson served as the 32nd Under Secretary of the United States Navy, where she managed all Department of the Navy affairs including Navy and Marine Corps integration, acquisition, finance, personnel, legislative affairs, research and development. In that role, she was responsible for the health and well-being of nearly 900,000 sailors, marines, civilians, and their families. Prior to the Navy, Ms. Davidson served as a senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, where she is a lifetime member. She has taught national security policy and political science at Georgetown University, George Mason University, and Davidson College. She holds a master’s degree and doctorate from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor’s of science degree in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder. She was a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Squadron Officer School and was the first woman to fly the Air Force’s tactical C-130.

Avril Haines is currently a Senior Research Scholar working on Columbia World Projects, which attempts to bring extraordinary scholarship to bear on the most basic fundamental challenges that we are facing today. She is also a fellow at the Human Rights Institute and National Security Law Program at Columbia Law School. Ms. Haines served as Principal Deputy National Security Advisor from 2014 to 2017. Just prior, she was the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and before that she served as the Legal Adviser to the National Security Council. Before joining the NSC, she led the Treaty Office at the Department of State, was the Deputy Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, worked for The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and served as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Prior to obtaining her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Haines founded and ran a successful bookstore café in Baltimore and was active with local community organizations. Ms. Haines received a bachelor’s in physics from the University of Chicago.

Jeanette James is retired from the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services where she served as a Professional Staff Member and Lead Staff on the Military Personnel Subcommittee. During her time on the Committee, she focused on the Defense Health Program and the Military Health System, the integration of women into previously closed military occupational specialties, family programs, sexual assault and sexual harassment, Arlington National Cemetery, and Wounded Warrior programs. Prior to joining the Committee, Ms. James served 31 years in the Army as a Nurse Corps officer, with assignments ranging from clinical nursing to executive leadership. Ms. James is a graduate of several military and health care leadership development programs including the Army Management Staff College, the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives, and the Army War College, where she earned a Master of Strategic Studies. She received a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Syracuse University and a Master in Nursing Administration from New York University.

Alan Khazei is a social entrepreneur who has pioneered ways to empower citizens to make a difference. He is the Founder and CEO of Be The Change, Inc., which has three campaigns: Opportunity Nation, to promote social mobility and expand opportunity; Got Your 6, to empower post 9/11 Veterans to lead a resurgence of community; and Service Year Alliance, to promote a year of national service as a civic rite of passage. Mr. Khazei is the Co-Founder and former CEO of City Year, which unites young adults, ages 17 to 24, from all backgrounds for an intensive year of full-time community service mentoring, tutoring, and educating children. City Year served as the model for the AmeriCorps national service program. Mr. Khazei is also the author of Big Citizenship: How pragmatic idealism can bring out the best in America.

Tom Kilgannon is the President of Freedom Alliance, a charitable organization which honors and supports America’s military personnel and their families and advocates for a strong national defense. Under his leadership, Freedom Alliance grants millions of dollars to hospitalized heroes to help them and their families with unexpected costs during their recovery. Mr. Kilgannon also created the Service to America Award, which pays tribute to individuals “whose efforts reflect a love of country that makes America and her communities a more perfect Union.” He began his career as a Deputy Press Secretary for Pat Buchanan’s 1992 presidential campaign and later worked in the U.S. House of Representatives as a top aide to Congressman Mark Neumann of Wisconsin, a member of the historic freshman class of 1995. Mr. Kilgannon is a graduate of New York University and has appeared on numerous television and radio programs. He has published dozens of opinion columns and is the author of Diplomatic Divorce: Why America Should End Its Love Affair With the United Nations.

Shawn Skelly served as the Director of the Office of the Executive Secretariat at the U.S. Department of Transportation from June 2016 until January 2017. She previously served two and one-half years as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics at the Department of Defense, coordinating the Warfighter Senior Integration Group. In that role, she was responsible for facilitating the Departmental response to the most urgent and unique support requirements of Combatant Commanders, including the Counter ISIL Campaign and operations in Afghanistan. Ms. Skelly served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 20 years as a Naval Flight Officer, retiring with the rank of Commander. Between her military service and 2013, Ms. Skelly spent five years in industry with ITT Exelis. She received a bachelor’s in history from the University of South Carolina and a Master in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Tom Kilgannon