



National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Public Meeting - Denver, Colorado

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Schlessman Lobby

#Inspire2Serve

3:00-3:30 pm Opening Remarks

Introduction: *Ms. Janine Davidson*, Commissioner

Welcome: *Mr. George Sparks*, President & CEO, Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Remarks: *Mr. Luis Benitez*, Director of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office

Presentation: *Dr. Joseph Heck*, Chairman of the National Commission

3:30-4:00 pm “Benefits and Barriers of Serving in Colorado”

Moderator: *Mr. Steve Barney*, Commissioner

Panelists:

- *Mr. Fred Eidson*, Executive Director, Colorado Federal Executive Board
- *Ms. Vanessa Moore*, 2017 Recipient of the Colorado Governor’s Service Award and VISTA Leader
- *Mr. Scott Segerstrom*, Executive Director of the Colorado Youth Corps Association

4:00-5:00 pm Public Comments

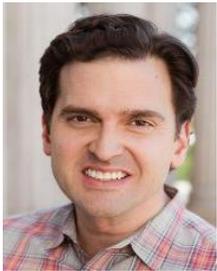
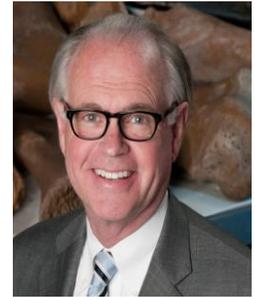
The Commission’s work includes understanding why people serve, why people may choose not to serve, and recommending ways to increase the number of Americans in military, national, and public service. The Commission is actively seeking input from the public and invites you to join the conversation. Share your thoughts at: www.inspire2serve.gov.



SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

George Sparks, *President and CEO of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science*

George Sparks has been the President and CEO of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science since November 2004. Prior to that, he spent 24 years in the electronics measurement business at Hewlett-Packard and Agilent Technologies. Prior to joining Hewlett-Packard, George spent 9 years in the Air Force as a pilot and as an Assistant Professor of Aeronautics at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). He is a Distinguished Graduate of the USAFA with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, and also holds an MS in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT. He is passionate about educational public policy, particularly STEAM, and is a member of multiple organizations and groups that are serving Coloradans.



Luis Benitez, *Director, Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office*

Luis Benitez stepped into his role with the Outdoor Recreation Industry Office when the agency was established in 2015. His early career was spent conducting mountaineering, climbing, and skiing courses for the Outward Bound Professional development program. Through his Endeavor Consulting Company and other organizations, he has led parties of climbers to the summit of some of Earth's most imposing peaks, including Mount Everest and Seven Summits numerous times. He helped create the nonprofit "Trekking For Kids", which focuses on service based expeditions allowing participants to climb and trek while teaching them about local issues. He has also worked closely with Warriors to Summits, a nonprofit focusing on serving returning Veterans by connecting them with the outdoors.

Fred Eidson, *Executive Director, Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB)*

Fred Eidson serves as the Executive Director of the CFEB which coordinates, communicates and collaborates with all federal, state, local and tribal organizations in Colorado to provide timely information and low/no cost training. Prior to his current position, Mr. Eidson was the Regional Administrative Director for the Economic Development Administration within the Department of Commerce. He successfully represented the Department of Commerce after Hurricane Sandy as the Economic Recovery Support Function Coordinator for the state of New York. Some of Mr. Eidson's previous federal experiences include working for the Department of Interior and the Air Force. Fred also spent 12 years on active duty in the Army and was honorably discharged in 1992.



Ms. Vanessa Moore, *2017 Recipient of the Colorado Governor's Service Award and VISTA Leader*

Vanessa Moore enlisted in the Iowa National Guard as a Combat Medic in 2009. Upon completing both basic training and medic training, she spent one year of service in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. After returning from Afghanistan, she attended school and continued to serve in the National Guard for six years until she was honorably discharged in 2015. Vanessa then moved to Alamosa, Colorado and served two years as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with the SECond Mission project of Campus Compact of the Mountain West at Adams State University. As an AmeriCorps VISTA member, she worked to help student veterans ease their transition from military to civilian life and success in college. She received her bachelor's degree from Adams State University, and is currently attending University of Colorado Denver to pursue a Masters in Education.

Scott Segerstrom, *Executive Director, Colorado Youth Corps Association*

Scott Segerstrom is the executive director of the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA), a statewide nonprofit representing 8 accredited conservation corps and their 1,600 annual participants. His role includes representing the corps' best interests with the Colorado General Assembly. CYCA holds the largest AmeriCorps grant in Colorado: a 414-member program focused on conservation and restoration. CYCA also founded the Natural Resources Initiative, which aims to create more pathways to enable all young adults to enter the natural resource field. He previously served two AmeriCorps terms in conservation corps; one helping to build the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado and another leading an all-Navajo chainsaw crew in the Utah Canyonlands. Prior to joining CYCA, he served as a wildland firefighter and ranger in Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming before returning to nonprofit management with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Steamboat.





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 Em, 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 Personnergency 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 Director of the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School 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.

