

NEWS RELEASE



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Academy of Diplomacy and Under Secretary Shannon Host Awards Luncheon *The Honorable Robert B. Zoellick honored*

Washington, DC - The **American Academy of Diplomacy** and **The Honorable Thomas Shannon**, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, will host its annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the U.S. Department of State. Every year, the American Academy of Diplomacy presents a number of awards highlighting the central role that it believes diplomacy must play in the facilitation of American foreign policy objectives. These awards recognize major contributions to the field of diplomacy and stimulate further interest in and public understanding of the need for excellence in the practice of America's relations with the rest of the world.

The Academy will have the pleasure of presenting the [2016 Walter and Leonore Annenberg Award](#) for Excellence in Diplomacy to **the Honorable Robert B. Zoellick**, who will deliver the keynote speech. "Robert B. Zoellick is a diplomat, economist, and negotiator. As Under Secretary of State, he played a leading role in the negotiations for the unification of Germany and later served as Deputy Secretary of State. As US Trade Representative, he helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization and revived US trade policies. As President of the World Bank, he increased the Bank's capital while broadening its lending to the poorest and confronting the challenge of famine as part of his search for an "inclusive and sustainable globalization," said **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann**, President of the Academy.

The Academy will also present the [2016 Douglas Dillon Book Award](#) to **Dr. Nancy Mitchell**, for her book "*Jimmy Carter in Africa: Race and the Cold War*." The prize is presented annually to the author of the best book released that year on the practice of American diplomacy. The book was published by Stanford University Press and the Woodrow Wilson Center Press. Commenting on the award, the chairman of the Academy's selection committee, **Ambassador Howard B. Schaffer**, called Jimmy Carter in Africa "a splendid, zealously researched study of the impact that President Carter's views of the role of race in domestic American politics had on his administration's efforts to resolve dangerous crises in Rhodesia and East Africa."

Jason Rezaian, from The Washington Post, and **Roy Gutman**, freelance writer, will receive the [2016 Arthur Ross Media Awards](#) for Distinguished Reporting & Analysis of Foreign Affairs. The Academy's Ross Media Awards have been funded by the late Arthur Ross, a philanthropist to the arts, who believed that US foreign policy very much depends on the quality and efforts of the media. The awards are for Americans who have distinguished themselves in the areas of foreign affairs in 2 categories: reporting and commentary.

A [Special mention](#) will be made at the end of the Luncheon to **Mrs. Patricia Taylor**, the wife of the late Canadian Ambassador Kenneth Taylor, in recognition of the great courage that Ambassador Taylor and his wife showed in 1979 during the hostage crisis in Tehran, heading a small group of Canadian diplomats who helped American consular officers hide in their homes for several weeks and then escape Iran, at great risk for their own security.

For more information, please visit [2016 Awards Luncheon](#).

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