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Former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Retired General Jack Keane to Receive Peace Through Strength Awards at 6th Annual Reagan National Defense Forum

SIMI VALLEY, California — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and retired United States Army Gen. Jack Keane will be honored with the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award at the sixth annual Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) on Dec. 1.

“Secretary Johnson and General Keane have contributed greatly to the defense of our nation,” said Frederick J. Ryan Jr., chairman of the board of trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “Throughout their careers, these men have served the people of the United States in both military and civilian roles, guiding us through turbulent times with courage and wisdom. We look forward to recognizing their contributions to our nation’s defense at the Reagan National Defense Forum.”

Johnson was the fourth U.S. secretary of homeland security, serving under President Obama from 2013 to 2017. He previously served as general counsel of the Department of Defense and the Department of the Air Force under Presidents Obama and Clinton. Johnson currently works as a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, a New York-based law firm, where he first began work in 1984.

Keane, a four-star general, completed over 37 years of public service in December 2003, culminating in his appointment as acting Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army. He is a career infantry paratrooper, a combat veteran of Vietnam, decorated for valor, who spent much of his military life in operational commands where he commanded the famed 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the legendary 18th Airborne Corps. After retiring from the Army, he helped develop the “surge” strategy in the Iraq war and now serves as chairman of the board for the Institute for the Study of War and is executive chairman of AM General.

Presented annually at the Reagan National Defense Forum since 2013, the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award recognizes those who have applied, with constant purpose, a strategy to strengthen our armed forces, support our military men and women striving around the world, reinforce our nation’s defense systems, and safeguard the lives and interests of the American people.

The Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award is represented by a bronze eagle set upon a black granite base. The eagle symbolizes the strength, courage and wisdom of both Reagan and the country that he loved so dearly. Captured within the eagle's talon is a piece of the Berlin Wall, a powerful reminder that, in Reagan's own words, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Johnson and Keane join previous award recipients former Vice President Dick Cheney; former Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and George Shultz; U.S. Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.); Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.); former Defense Secretaries Ashton Carter, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates; and former Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.).

The annual Reagan National Defense Forum is North America's premier gathering for defense and national security experts. Each year, the RNDF brings together hundreds of leaders and key stakeholders in the defense community — including members of Congress, civilian officials and military leaders from the Defense Department and industry — to address the state of our national defense and threats to our national security.

The 2018 Forum will be held on November 30 and December 1 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

For more information, visit www.rndf.org or follow RNDF on Twitter at @ReaganDefense.

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About the Reagan Foundation and Institute

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation's work in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President and his First Lady. www.reaganfoundation.org

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