

September 19, 2023

ARMSTRONG, BEATTY, KRISHNAMOORTHY & SMITH HONORED WITH 2023 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

WASHINGTON, DC — With trust in government at an all-time low, The Ripon Society and Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange honored four leaders in Congress — two Republicans and two Democrats — for their efforts to rebuild that trust and make government work better on behalf of the American people.

The leaders were U.S. Representatives Kelly Armstrong (R/ND-AL), Joyce Beatty (D/OH-3), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D/IL-8), and Adrian Smith (R/NE-3). The four were presented with the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award, an honor that is given annually in the spirit of America’s 26th President and is intended to recognize leaders who embody some of the same qualities and characteristics that Theodore Roosevelt displayed throughout his life and career.

This year’s awards dinner was held this past Saturday evening in the town of Keystone, South Dakota, and was followed by a visit to the lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore, less than four miles away.

“It is fitting that we are meeting here this year,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President & CEO of The Ripon Society and Franklin Center in remarks to kick-off the event. “You see, 100 years ago — in 1923 — the Secretary of the South Dakota State Historical Society gave a speech in which he first proposed the construction of ‘a colossal monument ... carved in the granite of the Black Hills.’

“Work began on the monument four years later, in October 1927. And over the next 14 years — with construction interrupted because of the Great Depression — the towering figures in granite began to take shape. Washington was dedicated first, in 1930. Jefferson was dedicated next, in 1936. Lincoln was dedicated one year later, in 1937. And TR — Theodore Roosevelt — was dedicated in 1939. The final drilling took place two years later. And on October 31, 1941, the monument to four of America’s greatest leaders was complete.

“As President Bush said when he marked the 50th anniversary of Mount Rushmore’s completion at a ceremony here in 1991: ‘Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt all surmounted old barriers and opened up new frontiers. They broadened our nation and

they strengthened its foundations. They chiseled into our national soul a yearning for freedom, democracy, equality, and justice, a conviction that all people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’

“Clearly, a lot has changed in our nation over the years. But one thing that hasn’t changed is the importance of bold, honest leadership, and the need for great men — and great women — in government. It is in that spirit of leadership and service that we meet here tonight at Mount Rushmore. And it is in that spirit that we present the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Awards.”

According to Conzelman, the award was established with one premise in mind — namely, that there is a lot of good, thoughtful work being done on Capitol Hill and in Washington that people do not regularly hear about. To that end, the Roosevelt Leadership Award honors those leaders:

-Who have a sense of duty and service driven by a love of country.

-Who possess a desire to do what is in the best interests of the American people — regardless of party, and regardless of who gets the credit; and,

-Who embody the qualities that Theodore Roosevelt spoke of when he said: “The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena, who strive valiantly; who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spend themselves in a

worthy cause; who at best know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

“The four leaders we honor tonight embody these qualities and more,” Conzelman remarked. “Between them, they have over 60 years of service at every level of government. Individually, they have made their mark in many important ways. On behalf of the membership of The Ripon Society and Franklin Center, it is an honor to recognize them for their leadership, their service, and their commitment to bold thinking and new ideas over the course of their careers.”



2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award Honorees Raja Krishnamoorthi, Joyce Beatty, Adrian Smith, and Kelly Armstrong attend the evening lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore on Saturday, September 16th.

Conzelman noted that this is the eighth year the Roosevelt Leadership Awards have been presented. Last year's awards dinner was held in Austin and featured visits to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum and the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. In 2021, the dinner was held in Charlottesville and included visits to Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello, and the home where James and Dolley Madison lived at Montpelier. The 2019 awards celebration was held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, while the 2018 awards were presented at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda.

The 2017 celebration was held in New York and included visits to Theodore Roosevelt's historic home at Sagamore Hill and Franklin Roosevelt's estate and museum in Hyde Park. In 2016, the awards celebration was held at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, while the inaugural Roosevelt Awards in 2015 were held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, and included a visit to Rancho del Cielo, President Reagan's historic ranch

atop the Santa Ynez Mountain range northwest of Santa Barbara.

The Ripon Society is a public policy organization that was founded in 1962 and takes its name from the town where the Republican Party was born in 1854 – Ripon, Wisconsin. One of the main goals of The Ripon Society is to promote the ideas and principles that have made America great and contributed to the GOP's success. These ideas include keeping our nation secure, keeping taxes low and having a federal government that is smaller, smarter and more accountable to the people.

The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to enhancing global

understanding of important international issues. The Franklin Center brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and their international parliamentary counterparts as well as experts from the Diplomatic corps, foreign officials, senior private sector representatives, scholars, and other public policy experts. Through regular conferences and events where leading international opinion leaders share ideas, the Franklin Center promotes enlightened, balanced, and unbiased international policy discussion on major international issues.

“A lot has changed in our Nation over the years. But one thing that hasn't changed is the importance of bold, honest leadership, and the need for great men – and great women – in government.”

Mount Rushmore stands illuminated at the end of the lighting ceremony on September 16th.



2023 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES



KELLY ARMSTRONG

First elected in 2018, Congressman Armstrong serves as the At-Large Representative for the Rough Rider State.

Being from Dickinson, which is home to the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, Congressman Armstrong has lived a life filled with TR – he grew-up near Theodore Roosevelt National Park; coached the Roughriders American Legion baseball team; served on the Teddy Roosevelt Bully Pulpit Board; and his family won a Rough Rider Award for their community work.

We'll return to TR later, but we're here tonight to recognize Congressman Armstrong, who as Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee has established himself as a leader in energy independence and security, in spurring energy innovation, and on permitting reform.

As co-founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Second Chance Task Force, he's striving to make life easier for ex-offenders by expanding access to expungement and increasing job opportunities.

Congressman Armstrong is now one of the go-to House Republicans when it comes to righting wrongs in our nation's justice system, including correcting the unfair federal sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, reforming civil asset forfeiture, and strengthening the oversight of federal prisons.

He's someone in Congress working to better things which don't grab headlines but will improve the lives of all Americans, like moving the Notary process into the 21st Century. And he's enacted laws to increase access to mental health and addiction treatment.

A true leader who does what is rights, the Congressman was one of 39 Republicans to vote last year in favor of the Respect for Marriage Act, mandating federal recognition for same sex marriages.

For our final Theodore Roosevelt quote of the night, we'll draw from our 26th president's first major public speech. On July 4, 1886 – in Dickinson, North Dakota – TR said:

"Much has been given to us, and so much will surely be expected from us; and we must take heed to use right the gifts entrusted to our care."

For working to further the gifts of our nation, and his hard work on behalf of the people of North Dakota, it is our honor to present the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Kelly Armstrong.



JOYCE BEATTY

Since joining the House in 2013, the gentlelady from Columbus has led in many areas which embody her commitment to marginalized communities and ensuring fairness for all.

As a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, Representative Beatty worked to increase diversity in banking and finance. This includes advocacy for her "Beatty Rule," which would require the Federal Reserve to consider ethnically and gender-diverse candidates for the heads of its 12 regional banks.

Additionally, she passed a law to lift outdated restrictions that prevented those with past criminal records from working in the banking sector.

A champion of education, the Representative promoted financial literacy for all. And teachers still benefit from her permanent extension of the tax deduction for educators who pay for classroom supplies out of their own pockets.

In Congress she's raised awareness of and increased research for two potentially devastating brain injuries – concussions and strokes. The latter of which she is a survivor of – and of which she serves as an inspiration to many.

Other bipartisan work by her resulted in several laws to thwart the horrific crime of human trafficking. Her efforts shut down the websites which enabled sex trafficking, and she passed laws to assist the victims of such awful experiences.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 117th Congress, Representative Beatty led her group to tremendous accomplishments including the creation of the Juneteenth Federal Holiday; finally making lynching a federal crime; and playing a critical role in the Biden Administration passing its bipartisan infrastructure law.

Finally, we'd like to recognize her as the co-founder of the Congressional Civility and Respect Caucus, which brings to mind a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, who once said:

"Courtesy is as much the mark of a gentleman – or gentlelady – as courage. If we respect ourselves, we individually show both qualities; and, in our collective capacity, we should demand of our Representatives that the nation show both."

For her dedication to fairness and righting injustices, and her ongoing efforts to inject more civility into the Arena, it is our honor to recognize Representative Joyce Beatty as a recipient of the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award.

2023 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

The child of immigrants and born in New Delhi, the Congressman came to the U.S. when he was only three months old. Throughout his lifetime and now in his fourth term on Capitol Hill, he's embodied the Theodore Roosevelt quote that, "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."

In Congress, he's established a reputation as a serious legislator, and bipartisan doer by enacting several proposals into law. Early in his House career, the Congressman co-authored a law to expand career and technical education programs.

In the wake of Covid-19, he wrote a law to promote the mental health of some of the major heroes of the pandemic – health care providers. And his work in the House has resulted in the enactment of a law to prevent distracted driving.

He's a leader in Congress on renewable energy, in particular solar energy. And he is leading in promoting innovation in the energy sector – including recently writing an op-ed with fellow honoree Representative Kelly Armstrong on the promise of nuclear fusion.

But Congressman Krishnamoorthi has really made a name for himself on Capitol Hill as a leader in the intelligence arena, and the challenges our country faces with China.

As a senior member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, he's authored multiple laws to better our nation's intelligence community, including advancing its research and innovation in AI, and mandating its assessment of "gray zone activities" such as disinformation campaigns or terrorist financing by our adversaries.

Through his work as Ranking Member on the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party, the Congressman is doing valuable service by exposing the economic and security threats posed by China, and by shining a light on the human rights atrocities of the CCP.

In reflecting upon the wide-ranging undertakings and vast efforts of the Congressman, we're reminded of another quote by Theodore Roosevelt:

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

For his hard work in Congress at work that is, indeed, worth doing, it is our great honor to give the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi.



ADRIAN SMITH

Since coming to Washington in 2007, Representative Smith has developed a reputation on Capitol Hill as a thoughtful policy expert and a workhorse.

And while Representative Smith's low-profile style doesn't generate many "clicks" or Cable News hits, his tireless work representing the interests of his district and advancing good policy for over a decade on the Ways and Means Committee has not gone unnoticed.

Just last year, as the infant formula shortage crises panicked new mothers, Representative Smith enacted a law to suspend tariffs which replenished the shelves with FDA approved baby formula.

A longtime leader in trade, particularly when it comes to the exports from his agriculture-heavy district, he recently rose to become Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee. There he presses the Biden Administration, as he did the Trump and Obama Administrations, to find new markets and pursue free trade agreements, while ensuring past deals are enforced, and spurring them to fight off the protectionist policies of

other countries who seek to hurt U.S. ag exports.

Representative Smith has used his perch on Ways and Means to champion other issues important to his district such as ethanol and extending the biodiesel tax credit. And passing into law a requirement that our Department of Defense continues serving our soldiers meat – like the beef raised by Nebraskan ranchers.

As the longtime co-chair of the Congressional Rural Caucus, Representative Smith has offered bills which tackle the unique challenges facing rural communities, especially in the health care space. As a member of the Health Subcommittee, he's championed health care innovation and authored a provision of the CARES Act to increase the usage of health technology when treating nursing home patients.

When thinking about Congressman Smith's time on Capitol Hill, we're reminded of this quote from Theodore Roosevelt.

"I have never won anything without hard labor, and the exercise of my best judgment, and careful planning, and working long in advance."

For adeptly playing the long game on many policy concerns and toiling away out of the limelight to make things better for Nebraskans and all Americans, it is our great honor to recognize as a recipient of the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Adrian Smith.