

BERA, BOST, CASE, MURPHY & PANETTA HONORED WITH 2025 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

WASHINGTON, DC — With partisanship at an all-time high and trust in government at an all-time low, The Ripon Society and Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange honored five leaders in Congress for their efforts to bridge the political divide and find common ground on some of the most pressing challenges facing America.

The leaders were U.S. Representatives Ami Bera (CA-6), Mike Bost (IL-12), Ed Case (HI-1), Greg Murphy (NC-3) and Jimmy Panetta (CA-19). The five were presented with the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award, an honor that is given annually and is intended to recognize leaders who embody some of the same qualities and characteristics that Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt displayed throughout their lives and careers.

This year's awards celebration was held over Veterans Day weekend in Honolulu, Hawaii. Like previous awards celebrations, this year's event was held near and featured a visit to historically significant sites and locations – in this case, the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri at Pearl Harbor.

“With 2025 being the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we thought it was fitting to hold this year's event at the place where the conflict not only started for America, but where it came to an end,” stated Ripon Society and Franklin Center President & CEO Jim Conzelman in remarks to open the awards dinner on board the USS Missouri.

“This morning, of course, we visited the Memorial to the USS Arizona, and learned more about the horrific attack on December 7, 1941, and the nearly 2,500 Americans who lost their lives on that day. As for this evening, we are gathered at the place the war officially came to an end eight decades ago. On September 2, 1945, the Japanese surrendered to the allied powers in a signing ceremony held here on this deck.

“Presiding over the ceremony was the Supreme Allied Commander of the Pacific Theater, General Douglas MacArthur. If you're unfamiliar with him, MacArthur was a towering figure, and one of the most influential military leaders of the 20th century. And yet in his remarks to open

the surrender ceremony, he did not speak as a conquering victor. Instead, he spoke as a farsighted leader who hoped the world would learn a lesson from the war and live in peace in the years ahead.

“It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind,” MacArthur said, “that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past – a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice.”

“A Japanese diplomat who was onboard the Missouri at the time and witnessed the speech said that – and I quote – ‘MacArthur's words sailed on wings’ and that ‘this narrow quarterdeck of the ship was now transformed into an altar of peace.’

“A lot has changed over the past eight decades. The world is healthier, wealthier, and more connected than ever before. In some respects, it is also now a more dangerous place, as well. But the one thing that has not changed is the need for farsighted leaders who are able to see past the emotions of the day and govern in a way that meets the needs of the people they represent.

“It is in that spirit of leadership, vision, and service that we have asked you here tonight. And it is in that spirit that we present the 2025 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



The USS Missouri and the USS Arizona Memorial, as seen over Veterans Day weekend 2025.

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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 five leaders we are honoring here onboard the USS Missouri embody these qualities and more,” Conzelman stated. “Between them, they have devoted over 90 years of their lives to serving the American people. Individually, they have made their mark in many important ways.”

Conzelman noted that this is the tenth year the Roosevelt Leadership Awards have been presented. Last year’s awards dinner was held in Key West, Florida, and featured a visit to the Truman Little White House where America’s 33rd President spent so much time, while the 2023 awards celebration was held in Rapid City, South Dakota, and featured a visit to Mount Rushmore. The year before, the awards celebration 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 Dolly 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.



2025 Roosevelt Award Honorees Mike Bost, Ami Bera, Ed Case, Jimmy Panetta and Greg Murphy on board the USS Missouri on November 9th.



2025 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES

AMI BERA



In the late 1950s two of the first emigrants from the state of Gujarat left the west coast of India for the west coast of America – California, to be exact. The proud son of these immigrants and of Gujarat, Representative Ami Bera has led a life that's engaged with his community and the world, and one that's focused on making things better for the next generation. While a biology major in college, it was an internship on Capitol Hill with home state Senator Alan Cranston that opened his eyes up to the possibility of improving lives through public policy. Upon telling his father he'd taken an interest in government and was planning to change his major to political science his father replied, "Do what you want, but first become a doctor." Ami put himself through medical school and had a twenty-year career as an internist before embarking on that political journey in which he won his seat in the House in 2012. Since coming to Capitol Hill, Dr. Bera's medical background has proven invaluable as he works to improve our nation's health care systems and has made him a trusted voice on both sides of the aisle. For multiple years he's led a bipartisan effort to fix Medicare reimbursements for physicians. Now the longest-serving Indian American in Congressional history, as Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee's East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, he is one of the House's leading voices on strengthening American partnerships with democratic allies in the region, and especially his ancestral home. He's done so by enacting legislation to improve U.S. engagement with countries in the Pacific, and to better our relations and understanding of our friends in Taiwan. Ten years ago, he was instrumental in bringing India's prime minister to address a Joint Session of Congress. Building on these key interests, and his work on the Intelligence Committee, he's been an advocate for strengthening U.S. leadership in global health security, including by enacting a law to give the CDC the tools needed to identify new viral threats through genetic surveillance and sequencing. In recognition of the noble life led by this first-generation American and of his service to others and our country, it is our honor to present the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Ami Bera.

MIKE BOST



Mike Bost can trace his ancestry back to the settling of Southern Illinois in the early-1800s. Except for his military service, Mike has lived in Murphysboro his entire life. It's there that during the Great Depression his grandfather founded the trucking company that Mike grew up around. That's where, at age nine, Mike drove his first tractor-trailer across the lot. After high school, Mike enlisted in the Marine Corps. Honorably discharged as a corporal, he returned to his hometown to again work for his family's trucking business, and later as a firefighter. He also owned and operated a beauty salon with his wife Tracy, his high school sweetheart. In 1984, after listening to a frustrated Mike complain about local issues, Tracy told him, "go get involved or shut up." So, Mike did, and he won a write-in election for a seat on his county board. Today, after over forty years of public service at all levels of government – local, state and now federal – we're not entirely sure this is what Tracy had in mind. She once clarified, "I just meant get involved locally fixing little things like holes in the alley."

Since coming to Congress in 2015 to represent all of Southern Illinois, Mike has enacted a remarkable fifteen bills into law, including a law to improve trade enforcement. Drawing on his life experience, he's championed legislation to expand safe parking for truckers, secured millions of federal dollars to improve infrastructure in his district, and fought to cut red tape for small businesses and family farms. As evident by rising to become Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, the core of Chairman Bost's service in Congress has been around those who served in our military. Mike has worked to pass laws to expand mental health services for veterans, protect their Second Amendment rights, and ensured rural veterans can access care close to home. Drawing on his own personal frustrations with the VA, including being denied compensation three times for an injury sustained during his time in the Marines, Mike has passed into law bipartisan reforms to modernize the VA, increase transparency, and to improve the disability claims process.

In recognition of his lifetime of service to Southern Illinois and to ensuring every American who wore the uniform receives a "square deal," it is our great honor to present the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Mike Bost.

ED CASE



A native of Hawaii, Representative Ed Case has deep roots in the Aloha State: in 1896, his great-grandparents migrated from Kansas to Honolulu. That great-grandfather then served as a circuit judge on Maui, appointed by Republican President Warren G. Harding and reappointed by Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Bipartisanship isn't just a talking point for Congressman Case – it's a family tradition. His global perspective was forged early. After high school, he spent a gap year working as a "jackaroo" – that's Australian for cowboy – on a sheep ranch Down Under. And he once spent six months backpacking through Asia. These experiences shaped a congressman who understands that America's future is tied to the wider world, especially the Indo-Pacific. His commitment to service to our country, the world, and especially his constituents, took root while working as a legislative assistant to Representative and then-Senator Spark Matsunaga. A lawyer by training, his first foray in elected office was as a member of Hawaii's House of Representatives, and as its majority leader, he pushed for necessary changes like civil-service reform. Representative Case has had the unique opportunity to represent both of Hawaii's Congressional districts – from 2002-2007 it was the Second, which stretches an impressive 1,400 miles from the Big Island to the Kure Atoll at the tip of Leeward Hawaiian Islands.

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ED CASE (CONT'D)

Since 2019, he's represented the more compact First District, which covers about one third of Oahu and is about 30 times smaller than the other district. It's also where we are right now. This comprehensive view of Hawaii has made him an indispensable voice on his state's strategic role in American defense. He does this as only the second Member from Hawaii, and the first in almost three decades, to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. On both its Defense and Homeland Security Subcommittees, he's secured historic investment in Pearl Harbor's Naval Shipyard Dry Dock 5 – the Navy's largest investment project – while delivering \$1.2 billion to Hawaii through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 59 specific projects. Representative Case is known for taking the long view. That philosophy drives both his foreign policy and his environmental stewardship. During his first stint in Congress, Representative Case introduced legislation that led to President George W. Bush creating in 2006 the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands refuge, one of the world's largest marine protected areas. Representative Case has been a resolute voice supporting Ukraine, recognizing that American credibility in the Indo-Pacific depends on standing with democracies under assault and that weakness in one theater invites aggression in another. As co-founder of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus and Vice Chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, he builds the bridges – both literal and diplomatic – that connect Hawaii to Washington and America to the Pacific.

In recognition of his strategic vision, pragmatic leadership, and tireless work building bridges to America's future, it is our great honor to present the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Ed Case.

GREG MURPHY



First elected in a special election in September 2019, Congressman Murphy represents North Carolina's Third District – home to 50,000 active-duty service members and their families. Somehow, despite the hectic schedule as a congressman, he still squeezes in time to be the only practicing physician and surgeon in Congress. But Congressman Murphy didn't jump straight from the operating room to the Cannon House Office Building. He first served in the North Carolina General Assembly, where authored the state's landmark opioid legislation, the STOP ACT, and led the creation of the "Carolina Cares" program to bring Medicaid to the working poor of the Tar Heel State. Since arriving in D.C, Representative Murphy has proven himself an effective legislator, enacting bills into law that expanded mental health services to student veterans and being the leading advocate for the VA to offer Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Veterans with PTSD and TBI.

His legislation extending critical Veterans Affairs authorities was signed into law last Congress and, among other things, ensured VA physicians can practice across state lines and extended education benefits for veterans. He's made it easier for eligible dependents to earn college degrees through the Post-9/11 GI Bill. His service on the Veterans' Affairs Committee has enabled him to champion the 89,000 veterans in his district, and to enact the Camp LeJune Justice Act, which is a long overdue action to help those exposed to toxic water on his district's Marine base for many years. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Dr. Murphy is a leading voice in the fight to preserve Medicare and protect patient access to physicians. And as Co-Chair of the House GOP Doctors Caucus, he coordinates the efforts of physician-legislators in health care debates. He's been an important voice in conservative health care reform, including advocating for price transparency and fair reimbursements for physicians and medical providers, as well as insurance reform. His legislative philosophy reflects both his surgical training and his commitment to results over rhetoric. Like a skilled surgeon, he identifies problems precisely and addresses them directly. Representative Murphy is not one to talk about how things ought to be done – he gets them done.

In recognition of his work to improve the lives of veterans and to improve our nation's health care, it is our great honor to present the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Greg Murphy.

JIMMY PANETTA



The third and youngest son of a political giant, Representative Panetta was raised on the same Carmel Valley, California walnut farm his Italian immigrant grandparents purchased after World War II. Although the son of a congressman, as a teenager his sole focus was on being a star wrestler and the fullback of his Monterey County high school football team. He went on to earn an associate's degree from a local community college, and then bachelor's and law degrees, during which he found a path in life dedicated to service to his community, veterans, and our nation. A career prosecutor, after the attacks of 9/11, he joined the U.S. Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer. And in 2007 – with daughters just one and three years old at home – he volunteered for active duty and a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. After returning home he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service, a medal he shared with his wife, Carrie.

First elected to Congress in 2016 to represent California's picturesque Central Coast, his legislative effectiveness is remarkable. He has personally authored 30 bills that have been signed into law. All of which reflect his support for the beauty, bounty, and military needs of his congressional district. His REPLANT Act, signed as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package, represented the most significant federal reforestation investment in decades. And over the COVID pandemic he authored the bipartisan law that helped struggling restaurants stay afloat. He co-founded the For Country Caucus – Democrats and Republicans who served in uniform. And for the 118th Congress, he had the highest Bridge Pledge score in all of Congress – a score that measured bipartisan collaboration and coalition building. Drawing on his military experience, Representative Panetta is one of Congress's leading advocates for military families. He's improved their housing, ensured they don't go hungry, and fought for homeless veterans. Once, when asked about bipartisanship, Representative Panetta channeled his high school days and reminisced about something Senator John McCain said during one of his final floor speeches. "He said it's OK, for basically three yards and a cloud of dust, as long as we're moving the ball forward." Of this, Jimmy said, "That's it, that's what it's about. I love that."

In recognition of his exceptional legislative achievements, his dedication to bipartisanship, and for always "moving the ball forward," it is our great honor to present the 2025 Roosevelt Leadership Award to the Honorable Jimmy Panetta.