2017 Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit

On December 7th, 2017, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., the Senior Executives Association (SEA) hosted the Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit, at which the 2016-2017 recipients of the Presidential Rank Awards -- the highest award for civilian federal employees -- were honored.

The week before the event, SEA released the names of the 2017 Presidential Rank Award winners.

The professional association for senior federal executives on Wednesday announced the winners of the prestigious Presidential Rank Awards, who will earn bonuses and be honored along with their 2016 counterparts at an all-day Dec. 7 leadership summit at Washington’s Mayflower Hotel.

After months of preparation, getting setup on the morning of the event.
The Senior Executive Association's Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit has begun #Prasummit proud gold sponsor

10:34 AM · Dec 7, 2017 · Washington, DC

See Management Concepts's other Tweets
A U.S. Air Force color guard was on hand to kick things off.
@bvaldezsea on the PRASummit winners: “These recipients have proven themselves to be exemplars of public service excellence and have demonstrated a consistent and lasting dedication to the service and leadership ideals of the federal government’s career civil service.”

twitter.com/GovExec/status…

3:55 PM - Dec 7, 2017
After opening remarks from SEA President Bill Valdez, the packed room heard from Linda McMahon, Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
Administrator McMahon’s remarks were highlighted by Government Executive:

**Disaster Responses Brought Out Federal Agencies’ Best, Leaders Say**

When she was first tapped to lead the Small Business Administration, Linda McMahon knew nothing of the key role that her agency plays in disaster responses, she told a crowd of senior executive award winners on Thursday.

SBA Administrator Linda McMahon and SEA President Bill Valdez.
Following the morning keynote session, attendees participated in the first breakaway sessions of the day, most of which were standing room only. The Arbinger Institute held a training session on how leaders can avoid the pitfalls of self-deception.

‘Mindset drives behaviors which produce your current results’ - The Arbinger Institute @Arbinger #PRAsummit
11:05 AM - Dec 7, 2017

See Amir Capriles's other Tweets
At the Management Concepts panel, attendees learned about the relationship of the ECQs to SES development, success, and turnover.

Meanwhile, the “State of Career Federal Leadership” panel delved into the first-ever government-wide leadership survey of senior career leaders, focusing on three key areas that will drive agency transformation: leadership pipeline, improved executive readiness, and transformational leadership.
The panelists in Track B heard about ways to develop leaders responsive to emergent 21st Century challenges and who will be responsible for effectively managing the Federal government during a time of exponential change. Moderated by Brookfield Global Relocation Services.
After the first breakout sessions, attendees stopped by sponsor tables to learn about topics ranging from open season and health insurance options to long-term care and management training opportunities.
The crowd begins to file in for the mid-day lunch and keynote, the largest gathering of the day, with most of the 520+ event registrants participating.
The crowd heard first from DHS Deputy Secretary Elaine C. Duke.
Senior executives from across the federal government pack the ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel.
Next up was a keynote address from NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot, Jr, who talked about the importance of putting people first when leading teams.

Tim Bowden
@tbowden1976

The mission matters, but leaders must have a passion for their people via @NASA's Robert Lightfoot, Jr. #PeopleFirst #PRAsummit

1:35 PM - Dec 7, 2017

See Tim Bowden's other Tweets
The Presidential Rank Awards, ready to be distributed to the Meritorious Rank recipients during the lunchtime awards ceremony.
Congratulations to @USDOT’s Keith Washington and the many other Meritorious Rank Award Winners! #PRASummit
@CommerceGov @USDA @ENERGY @DHSgov @HHSGov @TheJusticeDept @NASA @USDOL @StateDept @usairforce @USArmy @USNavy @USTreasury @DeptVetAffairs

2:43 PM - Dec 7, 2017

❤️ 1  ⚡ See GW CEPL’s other Tweets
We're between sessions at today's #prasummit honoring Presidential Rank Award recipients. Looking forward to another great round of sessions before our evening reception with a
keynote from newly sworn-in @USNavy Under Secretary Thomas Modly.
4:30 PM - Dec 7, 2017

Another round of breakout sessions, with Dan Chenok of the IBM Center for the Business of Government moderating a panel on the recommendations released by the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking.

And the Center for Organizational Excellence hosting a discussion with PRA winners regarding how they envisioned and implemented significant reform initiatives, providing lessons for other government leaders.
Bob Tobias of the Key Executive Leadership Programs at American University gives a talk on how and why to develop a leadership philosophy.
Patrick O’Carroll of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association oversaw a discussion taking a closer look at the role of government watchdogs in identifying opportunities for addressing agency efficiency and
effectiveness, and the return on investment for battling waste, fraud and abuse.

Event attendees were offered multiple opportunities throughout the day to participate in small-group flash-mentoring sessions led by other PRA winners and senior agency leaders.
Final panel of the day: "Promoting Innovation and Risk" with knowledgeable insights from @USAID, @USTreasury, @NASA, and @usnistgov leaders about promoting agency #innovation with #risk in mind. #PRASummit

4:58 PM - Dec 7, 2017

See GW CEPL's other Tweets
SEA's Cyber Community of Change covers the implications of failing to properly plan for security issues associated with technology solutions.

While representatives from Deloitte hosted a facilitated educational seminar on inclusive leadership.
The final networking break of the day, heading into the dinner and evening reception, at which the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award winners will be recognized.
At #PRASummit. Very proud of Director @LENBEP from @USMoneyfactory for an outstanding presentation at the "Promoting Innovation and Risk" panel.

7:42 PM - Dec 7, 2017

3  See Dr. Sierra-Sastre's other Tweets
SEA President Bill Valdez chats with Sarkis Tatigian, a 95-year-old active federal employee who has worked for the U.S. Navy for 75 years, the longest federal tenure in American history, according to available records.
“I was retirement eligible in October 1973,” said Tatigian. “But when you don’t have something to wake up for, that’s when you start to decline. And, if you love what you do and derive a sense of personal worthiness, it’s not really work.”
Newly sworn-in Under Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modly, led the crowd in recognizing the incomparable public service career of Mr. Tatigian.
Fittingly, Mr. Tatigian -- who is also the last remaining World War II veteran working in the federal government -- was recognized for his service on Pearl Harbor Day.

Sarkis Tatigian receives a standing ovation.
Accepting his Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Senior Executives Association from Under Secretary Modly and SEA President Bill Valdez.
In accepting the honor, Mr. Tatigian noted that he attributes his longevity to NOT being a member of the Senior Executive Service, in contrast to many of those gathered in the audience.
Says The Washington Post of the event: "During these crazy times in Washington, it’s refreshing to take a good news break.

"Recent headlines in this space told depressing and infuriating tales of sexual abuse, poor government service and leadership vacuums.

"But not today.

"This column is about the remarkable accomplishments of federal senior executives, the highest-ranking members of the government’s civil service."

Following the event, Federal Computer Weekly (FCW) ponders the future of the Senior Executive Service:

And Federal News Radio’s Nicole Ogrysko highlights the event’s focus on inspiring a new generation of federal leaders:
For newest class of distinguished executives, focus is on inspiring next
generation of leaders

Even the winners of one of the highest honors in the federal civil service have more
to learn. And while navigating hurricane season, tackling cybercrime or easing
veterans homelessness may seem like immense challenges, those projects aren’t
nearly as complicated as recruiting, retaining and inspiring the next generation of the Senior Executive
Service.

The morning after the summit, Tom Temin, host of Federal Drive on Federal News Radio, recaps the evening prior:

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across many top genres, from sports, comedy, celebrity culture, entertainment to
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With a final thank you to our event sponsors for making it possible to honor such shining examples of public
service done right. We hope to see you at next year’s event!