

**Introductory Remarks, CNP President Tim Roemer**  
**-Excerpted, As Prepared for Delivery-**  
**2009 Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Awards**

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Good evening, and welcome everyone to the Center for National Policy's 2009 Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Awards. As I look around the room, I see a number of familiar faces, good friends and supporters of the Center – we are so glad you could make it this evening, and we truly thank you so much for all that you do to make our work possible. Without you, we would not be able to advance the bipartisan national security work that we do at CNP, and because of your help, we are able to do it better than ever. For those of you who are just becoming familiar with CNP, we are so glad to have you here, and look forward to having you involved with the Center.

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2009 has been a great year for CNP so far, and we could not have picked two finer public servants to honor than Senator Dianne Feinstein and General James Mattis with this year's Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Award. Each day CNP strives to foster bipartisan dialogue, discussion and solutions to the most challenging national security issues facing this nation—a task which Senator Feinstein and General Mattis wake up every day confronting as well.

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We work on national security issues in the spirit of the man for whom this award is named, the late Ed Muskie, who served the United States in the Navy, as governor of Maine, as a Senator and as Secretary of State. He chaired the CNP Board following his retirement from government service. This award is given to those who place service above all else, who put a premium on pragmatism, to getting things done. Last year we honored then-Senator Joseph Biden and General Brent Scowcroft.

This year, we follow in that line by honoring these two distinguished individuals. Senator Feinstein is the Chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee—one of the most important committees in the Congress. She is the first female to hold that position. Her steady hand is guiding this country through some of the most important issues that we face—interrogations, intelligence sharing, human intelligence collection, and all while trying to protect the civil liberties that Americans hold so dear. Senator Feinstein has been in the Senate since 1992, and has earned a reputation as one of the most hard-working, dedicated and effective legislators in Congress.

General James Mattis is the Commander of the United States Joint Forces Command as well at Supreme Allied Commander Transformation for NATO. General Mattis has served his country for over 37 years and across many battlefields, from Operations Desert Shield Desert Storm, to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition to his reputation as a fearsome opponent on the battlefield, General Mattis is known also for his penetrating intellect. The consummate scholar-warrior, the General is said never to ride into battle without having a copy of Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations* on hand. With an uncanny grasp of warfare and its history, I couldn't think of a more appropriate person to head up Joint Forces Command's efforts to look into its future. In an era of multiple, complex threats, we are fortunate to have both the brainpower and firepower of officers like General Mattis...