



214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
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December 14, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Friends of ICAS,

It is my regret that I cannot be with you all for this evening's ICAS Annual Liberty Celebration Dinner.

The Institute for Corean-American Studies has been dedicated to enhanced cooperation and to preserving peace and prosperity throughout the Pacific region. Its distinguished panel of academic and policy fellows has brought broad knowledge to the organization and to all who are influenced by its works. I have also appreciated the fine work of ICAS over many years.

As many of you know, the ICAS Liberty Award has been given to a diverse group of freedom fighters including academics, military leaders, and government officials. They, and so many others, are all leaders in their own fields. I was humbled and honored to be the recipient of the ICAS Liberty Award last year.

I am particularly glad that this year's ICAS Liberty Award recipient is Admiral Dennis Blair, a man who has dedicated his life to ensuring the freedom and prosperity of our great nation. During his 34-year career in the U.S. Navy and time as Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Blair established his profound commitment to U.S. national security in Asia, receiving numerous decorations from governments in the region.

Since leaving public service in 2010, Admiral Dennis Blair has furthered his work on Asian issues as a strategic thinker as well as a keen observer on critical matters between the United States and Asia, particularly through pragmatic people to people public diplomacy. It is not surprising to see that his vital experience and practical knowledge have enabled him to be a valuable member of the board of several organizations, including the National Bureau of Asian Research and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

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I am also proud to call Admiral Dennis Blair a good friend of The Heritage Foundation. Indeed, back in August, 2014, he and my colleagues at the Asian Studies Center of the Foundation had a much-needed and timely public event on the critical importance of trilateral U.S.-South Korea-Japan relations, along with, none other than, our mutual good friend, South Korean Ambassador Ahn Ho-young, who is also with you all for this special gathering tonight.

Admiral Blair unabashedly shares our mission of creating an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish. It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Admiral Blair on his receipt of the ICAS Liberty Award for 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Feulner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "F".

Edwin J. Feulner, Ph.D.
Founder, Chairman, Asian Studies Center
and Chung-Ju-yung Fellow