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## **Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis & Former Senator Sam Nunn to Receive Peace Through Strength Awards at 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Reagan National Defense Forum**

**SIMI VALLEY, California** — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that former Secretary of Defense James Mattis and former U.S. Senator and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sam Nunn will be honored with the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award at the seventh annual Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) on December 7, 2019.

“Secretary Mattis and Senator Nunn have made remarkable contributions to the defense of our nation,” said Frederick J. Ryan Jr., chairman of the board of trustees of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “Their steadfast dedication to defending freedom has led to a lifetime of commitment to our nation’s security. We look forward to recognizing them at our national defense forum during this crucial time in our country’s history.”

James Mattis served as the 26<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Defense, serving under President Trump from January 20, 2017 to December 31, 2018. During his more than four decades in uniform, Secretary Mattis commanded Marines at all levels, and served as the Commander of the United States Central Command under President Obama from August 2010 to March 2013, as well as the Commander of the United States Joint Forces Command under President Bush from November 2007 to August 2010.

Sam Nunn is an American lawyer and politician who served as the United States Senator from Georgia from November 1972 to January 1997. During that time, he served as the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1987 to 1995. He is currently the co-chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

Presented annually at the Reagan National Defense Forum since 2013, the Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award recognizes those who have applied, with constant purpose, a strategy to strengthen our armed forces, support our military men and women striving around the world, reinforce our nation’s defense systems, and safeguard the lives and interests of the American people.

The Ronald Reagan Peace Through Strength Award is represented by a bronze eagle set upon a black granite base. The eagle symbolizes the strength, courage and wisdom of both Reagan and the country that he loved so dearly. Captured within the eagle’s talon is a piece of the Berlin Wall, a

powerful reminder that, in Reagan’s own words, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”

Mattis and Nunn join previous award recipients former Vice President Dick Cheney; former Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and George Shultz; former Defense Secretaries Ashton Carter, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates ; former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson; U.S. Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.); Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.); General Jack Keane; and former Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.).

The annual Reagan National Defense Forum is North America’s premier gathering for defense and national security experts. Each year, the RNDF brings together hundreds of leaders and key stakeholders in the defense community — including members of Congress, civilian officials and military leaders from the Defense Department and industry — to address the state of our national defense and threats to our national security.

The 2019 Forum will be held on December 6 and 7 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. This year’s theme will be “Peace Through Strength: Deterring Aggression and Defending Freedom.”

For more information, visit [www.rndf.org](http://www.rndf.org) or follow RNDF on Twitter at @ReaganDefense.

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### **About the Reagan Foundation and Institute**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation’s work in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It also serves as the final resting place of America’s 40th President and his First Lady. [www.reaganfoundation.org](http://www.reaganfoundation.org)

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