

Retired Ambassadors Get Building Badges



To express her appreciation for their “unwavering support of the Department of State,” Director General Linda Thomas-Greenfield provided building-access badges to approximately six retired non-career U.S. ambassadors who are members of the Council of American Ambassadors. More than 50 members of the council have received, or are in the process of gaining, the badges, which allow them to enter the Harry S Truman (HST) Building by presenting their badge to a guard. At the badge-presentation event in December, the DG told recipients that without their help “it would be difficult for us to continue to accomplish our objectives.”

Director General Linda Thomas-Greenfield congratulates Ambassador G. Philip Hughes, senior vice president of the Council of American Ambassadors, for receiving his building-access badge.

Photo by Ed Warner

Department Ranked Third in Federal Employee Survey

The Department of State has again been ranked as one of the top 10 of the 19 largest federal agencies, according to an employee survey conducted by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service. The Department ranked third overall and third in effective leadership, strategic management and support for diversity.

The 2012 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey was based on the responses of more than 687,000 federal workers. Its rankings, which include 292 federal agencies and subcomponents, help hold agency leaders accountable for the health of their organizations, Partnership for Public Service said. The complete rankings and analyses are available online at bestplacestowork.org.

SOTA Talent Show Delights

The State of the Arts Cultural Series and the Foreign Affairs Recreation Association in November presented their seventh annual Talent Show and a concert by Rafael Javodov playing electric violin.

The talent show continued its tradition of opening with singer Barbara Pollard. Other singers included Ben Perry, Cynthia Andrews, Jackki Newton and the Recovering Angels. Other performers were Eun Young Summe, piano; John Nave, trombone; and Inna Pletukhina, piano. Angela Moore entertained the crowd with stand-up comedy, Mandisa Henry showed her modeling and acting talent, and Stephen Black provided his interpretation of a contemporary performer.

Rafael Javodov, who studied at the Moscow Conservatory and has performed with many orchestras and chamber ensembles and in solo recitals, played pop, jazz infusion and ethnic folk tunes.

