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FORD'S THEATRE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES PHEBE N. NOVAKOVIC AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN

Washington, D.C.—Ford's Theatre Society Director Paul R. Tetreault announced that Phebe N. Novakovic, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of General Dynamics, has been elected Chairman of the nonprofit's Board of Trustees. Novakovic assumed the role following the March 15, 2018, Board of Trustees meeting.

Novakovic was previously elected Vice Chair in June 2015 after joining the board in June 2014. She is the first woman to serve as chairman of Ford's Theatre Society and assumes the role as the Society celebrates 50 years since its founding and the reopening of the historic site as a working theatre.

Novakovic succeeds Eric A. Spiegel, outgoing chairman, a board member since 2006. Spiegel will continue to serve as Chairman Emeritus and as a member of the Executive Committee.

"During Eric's six-year tenure, the Society streamlined its ticketing system, redeveloped its website and created new digital resources that bring Lincoln's legacy to life for 21st-century learners of all ages. We also presented a sold-out pre-Broadway run of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Come From Away*, and marked the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's death with a memorable three-day event, special exhibition and more attended by tens of thousands of people on site and more than a million participants online," said **Ford's Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault**. "We look forward to continuing the momentum we have built in this time with Phebe's guidance in the years ahead."

"As both a historic site and a vibrant theatre, Ford's Theatre occupies a unique place among American cultural organizations—one that draws upon Lincoln's legacy and the transformative power of theatre to awaken visitors to Lincoln's ideals of empathy and understanding the beauty of our democracy," said **Phebe N. Novakovic**. "I look forward to serving in this new role and continuing to help guide and support the strategic vision of the Ford's Theatre Society in the years ahead."

“I am excited to work with Phebe as she takes over leadership of this national institution,” said **Chairman Emeritus Eric A. Spiegel**. “Ford’s Theatre is in a strong strategic and financial position today, and I know that Phebe’s dedication and passion for Ford’s will continue to drive the organization to the next level.”

“I knew Phebe before she joined the Ford’s Theatre Board, and she has always proven to be a strong advocate for this organization and what we stand for. Her guidance and strategic thinking have been vital, and I know her wealth of experience and knowledge will allow us to further expand the reach of our theatrical productions, museum exhibits and engaging education initiatives. I am delighted that Phebe has agreed to take on the role of chairman at this critical time, and I look forward to a strong partnership with her,” said **Ford’s Theatre Director Paul R. Tetreault**.

Novakovic became chairman and chief executive officer of General Dynamics in 2013. She previously was executive vice president for the company’s Marine Systems group, and senior vice president for Planning and Development. Before joining General Dynamics, Novakovic served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1997 to 2001. Novakovic also worked for the Office of Management and Budget, where she served in a number of capacities, culminating in her selection as Deputy Associate Director for National Security. Novakovic received her Master of Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and her BA from Smith College.

Ford’s Theatre Society

Since reopening in 1968, more than a hundred years after President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, Ford’s Theatre has celebrated Lincoln’s legacy and explored the American experience through theatre and education. Under the leadership of Director Paul R. Tetreault, Ford’s Theatre has been recognized for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River* to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford’s Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. For its accomplishments, the organization was honored in 2008 with the National Medal of Arts. For more information, visit www.fords.org.

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