



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Barack H. Obama, 44th President of the United States

With a father from Kenya and a mother from Kansas, President Obama was born in Hawaii on August 4, 1961. He was raised with help from his grandfather, who served in Patton's army, and his grandmother. While at law school, he became the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review. President Obama's years of public service are based around his unwavering belief in the ability to unite people around a politics of purpose. In the Illinois State Senate, he passed the first major ethics reform in 25 years, cut taxes for working families, and expanded health care for children and their parents. As a United States Senator, he reached across the aisle to pass groundbreaking lobbying reform, lock up the world's most dangerous weapons, and bring transparency to government by putting federal spending online.

Ray LaHood, Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

With a 36-year career in public service, Secretary LaHood has extensive experience on major national policy issues, among them transportation and infrastructure. He served as the Department of Transportation Secretary from 2009 to 2013. Secretary LaHood served from 1995 to 2009 in the U.S. House of Representatives on behalf of the 18th District of Illinois. Currently, he is Senior Policy Advisor at DLA Piper.

Michael McCoy, Acting Director, National VA Chaplain Center

Chaplain Michael L. McCoy serves on the faculty of the National VA Chaplain Training School in Hampton, Virginia. He is the past National President of the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America; the Executive Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Black Chaplains Association; and national coordinator for the NCC Veterans Community Outreach Initiative (VCOI).

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

Sally Jewell was sworn in as the 51st Secretary of the Interior on April 12, 2013. The department serves as steward for approximately 20 percent of the nation's lands, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands. Prior to her confirmation, she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Recreation Equipment, Inc. (REI). An avid outdoorswoman, Jewell was trained as a petroleum engineer.

Robert McDonald, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Secretary Robert McDonald, the retired Chairman, President and CEO of Procter & Gamble, became the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs in July. A graduate of West Point, he was a captain in the 82nd Airborne Division before leaving the Army to join P&G. His commitment to veterans is deeply personal. His father served in the Army Air Corps just after World War II and his wife's father was a POW, shot down over Europe during World War II.

Robert "Bob" Vogel, Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

Superintendent Robert Vogel, a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service, oversees a staff of more than 300 and 25 million visitors annually. He manages the day-to-day operations of America's iconic memorials as well as the entire length of the National Mall from 1st Street west to the Potomac River.

Formed in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the sole objective of the **Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, Inc. (DVLMF)** was to raise the private funds needed to design, build and permanently maintain the nation's first memorial dedicated to living and deceased disabled veterans -- the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial**. www.AVDLM.org