



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

AUG 12 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)  
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION  
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
(PROCUREMENT)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(ACQUISITION AND PROCUREMENT)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(CONTRACTING)  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: The 2016 Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award – Call for Nominations

This is the call for nominations for the “Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award” to honor current and former contracting leaders, and to encourage and promote the leadership qualities they exemplified. The award recognizes leaders from all levels within the DoD acquisition and contracting community who have trained, mentored, and demonstrated passion for their profession. Attached are the instructions and criteria for award nominations. The awardee will be recognized at a Senior Leader Meeting in January 2017 at the Pentagon. Also attached is the current gallery of acquisition and contracting legends.

I encourage each of you to identify and nominate a single deserving employee for the 2016 Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award. Please send your nominations for the award by September 15, 2016, to [osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil). Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Canales at 703-695-8571.

Claire M. Grady  
Director, Defense Procurement  
and Acquisition Policy

Attachments:  
As stated

## The Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award

**1. ELIGIBILITY:** Military members or Government civilian employees within the DoD acquisition/contracting community at any grade level who have demonstrated the traits as detailed below throughout their acquisition career.

**2. BACKGROUND:** Contracting Legends inspire us to be our best every day, in every situation. To honor them, we created a gallery of those Legends who have left us, as well as award those who inspire us to walk in their footsteps.

It began with the Sharon R. Parish “People Always” Leadership Award, and after three award cycles, DoD lost Mr. Barney Klehman. Rather than create a separate award to honor Barney, the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP), in consultation with the Senior Procurement Executives (SPEs), decided to create the annual Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award.

**3. AWARD:** The Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award recognizes leaders at all levels in the DoD acquisition/contracting community that have developed, motivated and inspired others through formal and informal initiatives. The nominee who is selected for this honor will be recognized at a winter Senior Leader Meeting.

The six categories below summarize the traits exemplified by Acquisition and Contracting Legends. Nominations will identify how the individual excelled in these areas and should explain the nominee’s accomplishments.

a. Mentorship and Dedication to Helping Others

The nominee provides mentorship and coaching, and seeks opportunities to help others grow and improve in their careers.

b. Selfless Service

The nominee places the mission and consideration for others before their own wants and performs services/duties without expecting reward.

c. Creative Thinking

The nominee is creative in their thinking and approach to problem solving. Their efforts support the growth of the profession through the introduction of innovative ideas.

d. Collaboration

The nominee builds teams with a spirit of community and cohesion; involves others in developing plans and goals; and recognizes contributions and gives others visibility and credit. The nominee develops extensive networks across organizations and routinely uses these networks for the benefit of the workforce.

e. Contracting Expertise

The nominee demonstrates expertise in navigating the complexities of contracting.

f. Leadership Qualities

The nominee demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities through his or her willingness to lead on tough issues. He or she excels in leadership roles on multi-disciplined teams.

**4. INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a. The Director, DPAP will solicit nominees from the addressees for this award annually.
- b. Each addressee may nominate one individual annually. Nominations will be no longer than two pages in length and must address the six categories above. Forward nomination packages with a cover memo to [osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil) no later than September 15, 2016.
- c. The Director, DPAP will select the award winner or multiple winners, and will also make selections to be added to the Acquisition and Contracting Legends Gallery.
- d. The winner of the Acquisition and Contracting Legends Award will receive a certificate and award with brass nameplate.

**5. LEGENDS GALLERY**

- a. At any time, each addressee may also nominate a deceased individual to be added to the Acquisition and Contracting Legends Gallery via a memorandum to the Director, DPAP ([osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-atl.mbx.dpap@mail.mil)). The nomination should include a 35-word biography to be included in the Gallery. If selected to the gallery, that deceased individual will have a 35 word write-up as an attachment to the annual call for nominations of the legends award, and on the DPAP website.

## **The Acquisition and Contracting Legends Gallery**

Contracting Legends who were such an inspiration to us all, we all recognize and remember them.

**Ms. Sharon R. Parish:** Sharon was an inspirational leader throughout her 40-year Government career. Sharon was a “servant leader” who believed in “Mission First, People Always” and a champion of personal interaction and mentoring.

**Mr. Barney Klehman:** Barney was a passionate leader throughout his 41-year Government career, encouraging innovative thinking and commitment to mission success. A devoted mentor for many contracting professionals, Barney believed professional development was a life-long process.

**Mr. Richard J. Cooney:** Rich was an exceptional contracting leader and mentor throughout his 17-year Federal Government career. He was a true “trailblazer” in the DoD acquisition/contracting community and displayed unquestionable integrity and commitment to the mission.

**Ms. Noreen Cassaro:** Noreen was a consummate leader throughout her 37-year career who viewed people as DCMA’s greatest asset. She dedicated herself to mentoring and led by helping others, particularly through her involvement with the DCMA Learning-Center.

**Mr. Charles T. Darnell:** “Chuck” was a caring leader throughout his 30-year Government career, distinguishing himself on two deployments to Iraq. As an ACO he ensured our nation’s warfighter had the very best equipment and aircraft.