Former Congressman Pete McCloskey selected for 2014 Building Bridges Award

Korean War veteran and former U.S. Congressman Paul Norton “Pete” McCloskey, Jr., will receive PCI’s 2014 Building Bridges Award on February 27, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Los Angeles.

Mr. McCloskey voluntarily served in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1947, the U.S. Marine Corps from 1950 to 1952, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1952 to 1960, and the Ready Reserve from 1960 to 1967. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1974, having attained the rank of Colonel. His heroism in combat is legendary and he is known within the Marines as “the Beowulf of the Fifth Marines.”

He was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star decorations for heroism in combat and two Purple Hearts as a Marine during the Korean War. He then volunteered for the Vietnam War before eventually turning against it.

After graduating from Stanford University Law School in 1953, he practiced law and served as a Deputy District Attorney in Alameda County, California. Mr. McCloskey also served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1967 to 1983. He was elected to the House of Representatives in a special election in 1967, and was re-elected seven times, representing the San Francisco Peninsula area, including Silicon Valley.

This year Mr. McCloskey has become interested in returning to North Korea to pay tribute to the fallen from all countries who fought in the war. He is a warrior truly wanting to make peace. He urges that President Obama move toward an opening to North Korea similar to Nixon’s opening to China in 1972. Mr. McCloskey had this to say during his remarks at the Dedication of the site of the Korea War Memorial at the San Francisco Presidio, July 27, 2013:

“It was the privilege of many here today, now in our 80s, to fight in Korea over 62 years ago. I, for one, would feel privileged to visit Pyongyang and shake hands with some of the North Koreans who fought so bravely against us in their own country...The Memorial to be built here in this beautiful spot next to our own National Cemetery will perhaps remind us of the hope that the Korean people, both North and South, will someday enjoy the unity, friendship and peace that the American people have been privileged to finally achieve, 150 years after the terrible battle between Americans of the North and South at Gettysburg 150 years ago this month. More than most, we Americans owe it to the Korean people on both sides to try to see that there is never again a war that would devastate the Korean Peninsula, easily as beautiful as California. President Obama’s actions in Pyongyang, like President Nixon’s actions in Beijing 42 years ago, might well stop such a war and begin genuine and lasting progress toward a meaningful peace and regional security. Let us who fought in Korea over 60 years ago, have that same hope, and that Korea, like the United States, will someday again be one country, not two.”

In agreeing to accept the 2014 Building Bridges Award, Mr. McCloskey had this to say: “The only bridge I would like to see built in my lifetime would be one where the people of North and South Korea can again be reunited as one people in peace.”

SAVE THE DATE!

Former Congressman Pete McCloskey will be honored at the 2014 PCI Annual Award Dinner

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2014
Venue: Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, Century City
Reception 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
Reflections on History and Destiny: “The Saving of Kim Dae-jung”

Chairman Donald Gregg participated in a symposium held on March 4, 2013, in Kim Dae-jung Presidential library in Seoul, South Korea.

The symposium was conducted in the spirit of “truth and reconciliation” regarding the unvarnished truth of Kim Dae-jung’s near-death experiences, in 1973 and 1980, the role of the Ford, Carter and Reagan administration, and the broader significance of both.

Held as a one-day event, the first session explored the 1973 kidnapping based on first-hand accounts by Japanese and Americans in Japan who helped get Kim Dae-jung released, as well as a former KCIA agent who actually planned Kim’s capture. The second session explored the death sentence and sudden release of Kim in 1980, in which a former US government official, DJ aide, and South Korean officials told their sides of the story. In both sessions, Chairman Gregg was called to make a commentary.

Lastly, those gathered for the seminar, who played important roles in contemporary Korean history, shared their reflections on today’s pressing dilemma of a nuclear North Korea — an issue of critical importance to US-South Korea relations, and to the things Kim Dae-jung cared most deeply about. Of the North’s third nuclear test, Chairman Gregg said that it is a “very fluid situation and what we need to do is avoid falling into demonization of North Korea.” He added, “I don’t think Kim Jung Un has any intention of ever threatening us, both Washington and Seoul,” he just wants to be taken seriously.

Chairman Gregg also made a comment about South Korea’s new President Park Geun-hye’s “trust-building process” policy with the North: “my advice to her is just a reminder of her saying to me in 2002, ‘We must look to the future as we hope, not to the past, for the better.’”

“Engaging North Korea — The Role of Trust”: KPAC Panel

Chairman Gregg was invited to the Korean Peninsula Affairs Center (KPAC) panel in Syracuse on April 26th. The conference was focused on building a relationship with North Korea based on trust that may ultimately be the truest guarantor of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, a strategic, steady commitment to engagement with North Korea by the United States and South Korea.

Chairman Donald Gregg was a moderator, and two speakers were Katharina Zellweger and George Vitale.

Below are Chairman Gregg’s remarks regarding the event:

I thoroughly enjoyed acting as moderator at the highly successful KPAC panel at Syracuse on April 26th. We were all pleased with the size of the audience, over 40 students and faculty, and by their eagerness to participate. Their questions were very stimulating, and we were so pleased to have Catherine Bertini, formerly head of the United Nations World Food Program, attend, with several of her students.

The two main speakers were superb, bringing with them the flavor of their unique experiences, and stressing the centrality of trust in everything they did. Kathi Zellweger made the key point that political and socio-economic changes coming from within a country are sustainable, while those that result from external pressures are not. George Vitale stressed the talents and friendliness of the North Korean Taekwon-do teams he had led around the world, and how the team members yearned for more foreign friends and contacts.

This was by far the most successful KPAC event I have attended, and it is a tribute to the tireless efforts of KPAC head Professor Stu Thorson, and PCI’s Senior Fellow, Fred Carriere.
Colonel Cindy Jebb, head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point, invited Chairman Gregg to speak at West Point on April 10, 2013. The last time he had spoken at West Point was in the mid to late 1980s, when he was working at the White House. Then, he found the academy to be “under the dark shadow of Vietnam.” Things have changed greatly since then. The Department of Social Sciences now offers 65 courses, in philosophy, cultural anthropology, economics, history, political science, intelligence and policy, and many other related fields. The motto of the department is “humani nihil alienum,” meaning “nothing in the human condition is alien to us.”

Chairman Gregg spoke to 25 senior cadets, from three different classes. His speech was focused on “speaking truth to power,” the terrible consequences of torture and “when to break the rules.” He told his story of breaking the rules as a CIA officer when he protested torture by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, when he had been told not to. His protest resulted in the firing of the KCIA director, and his replacement by a man who specifically forbade further torture by his agency.

In his report of this visit, Chairman Gregg had this to say: “At a time when many Americans are disappointed in Congress, skeptical about integrity, or lack thereof, along Wall Street, and appalled by the influence of the gun lobby, it is good to be able to think of a key institution like West Point, which through its constant efforts to stay attuned to the world as it is, produces such magnificent young leaders. Humani Nihil Alienum!”

PCI Hosted Dinner to Honor Amb. Lee Tae-Sik

PCI sponsored a dinner at the White Eagle Ranch in honor of Ambassador Lee Tae-Sik on June 6, 2013. Twenty members from PCI, CAPP, and RAND joined this memorable dinner.

Prior to the dinner, Center for Asia Pacific Policy (CAPP) held its advisory board meeting at RAND’s Santa Monica headquarters. RAND President, Michael Rich attended, and CAPP director, Mike Lostumbo led the two-day session. The board heard from a variety of RAND researchers on a wide range of topics.

Rita Karam presented research on the implementation of school-based management in Indonesia’s education system. Rob Lempert spoke about effective flood mitigation strategies in Ho Chi Minh City, and Olesya Tkacheva spoke about Internet freedom projects.

A panel featuring senior fellow, Amb. Richard Solomon, CAPP board member, Spencer Kim, and Amb. Lee Tae-Sik focused on recent events in North Korea and a second panel, moderated by Charles Ries, featuring Aimee Curtright and David Ortiz discussed the mechanics of shale gas extraction and the implications for U.S. energy trade as well as water contamination concerns.
The 16th International Air & Space Power Conference in Seoul

“The US Congress, Defense Budget Cut, and Implications for Asia-Pacific”

PCI board members Dr. Jim Thomson and Dr. Chung-in Moon attended Yonsei University’s 16th international Air & Space Power Conference. This year’s theme was “Korea’s Air & Space Power and the Road Untaken: Enhancing Deterrence, Inventing Growth Engine and Developing Air and Space Power.”

It had 18 panelists and discussants altogether at South Korea’s Constitution Hall of the National Assembly in Seoul, Korea on September 7, 2013. About 450 attendees from the aerospace industries, the Republic of Korea Air Force, executives, legislators, the security community and academia gathered for a half-day event.

Dr. Jim Thomson made a lead presentation entitled “The Sequester: Consequences, Effects on Pivot and Cause”, followed by Dr. Chung-in Moon, who talked about the origins of South Korea’s defense industry in the 1970s and its implications to air power now.

Yonsei University’s Air & Space Power program was established in cooperation with the RAND Corporation and PCI 16 years ago to promote the importance of air power in South Korea’s security community.

PCI Board Member Tom Plate’s New Book on Asia’s Rise

The volume, to be published in October, is titled In the Middle of the Future: Tom Plate on Asia, a comprehensive collection – with extensive contemporary commentary – of 100 columns that have been published in world newspapers since 1995, when Plate’s column on Asia first began appearing in the Los Angeles Times.

The ‘top 100’ anthology seeks to present a perspective on the rise of Asia and its evolving relationship with the U.S. through a benchmark approach of columns that highlighted major historical events, from the handover of Hong Kong to China, to the Asian Financial Crisis, and to the rise of China itself. The book’s subtitle is: “Contemporary history through a newspaper column: Benchmarks on the road to the 21st century.”

The book is rich with retrospectives on Korea, especially the late Kim Dae Jung, whom Plate interviewed in the blue House on two occasions; and on Ban Ki-moon, the former South Korean foreign minister who became UN secretary general and is the subject of Plate’s controversial “Conversations with Ban Ki-moon.”

This will be the sixth Tom Plate book published by Marshall Cavendish since 2007 and all of them climbed onto bestseller lists in Southeast Asia, especially the critically acclaimed “Giants of Asia” series. The first “Giant” was “Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew,” now in its fourth printing and the winner in the 2011 English nonfiction category of the “People’s Choice Award” in Southeast Asia.

Career journalist Tom Plate, who is Loyola Marymount University’s Distinguished Scholar of Asian and Pacific Studies, and founder of ‘the New Asia Media’ (asiamedia.lmu.edu), will be a featured speaker in early November at the Singapore Writer’s Festival (seehttp://www.singaporewritersfestival.com/). SWF, founded in 1986, describes itself as “one of the Asia’s premier literary events.... “ Plate is one of the first American nonfiction writers to be honored by the festival.
Headed toward a summit
A hard-won opportunity for President Park has arrived and just because there are risks, she mustn’t turn away.

By Moon Chung-in

Until recently, President Park Geun-hye’s so-called “trustpolitik” - a strategy of building trust between the two Koreas to attain the common goal of peace and security in the region - drew more skepticism than encouragement. Many were unsure if her government was sincere about whether the strategy would have any effect on normalizing inter-Korean relations. Last Thursday, Pyongyang accepted Seoul’s repeated call for dialogue and proposed official talks on pending issues through its official mouthpiece, the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea. Seoul quickly responded and the two gladly agreed over the weekend to hold their first high-level talks in six years.

It was an abrupt yet fortunate change of atmosphere on the Korean Peninsula, which has been heavy with war-like tensions for months. The foreign media, which sent news alerts from Seoul as if war were imminent, now reports a possible breakthrough in the countries’ deadlock. After living with such alarming headlines for months, many Koreans will be letting out a sigh of relief. The weekend summit between Presidents Barack Obama of the United States and Xi Jinping of China also may have played a part. The fact that representatives of the two Koreas will be sitting across a table to talk is a hopeful sign.

President Park should be praised for her part in the development. Her consistent emphasis on “principles and trust” paid off. She refused any behind-the-scenes endeavors, but publicly proposed formal government-level dialogue. She also has demonstrated her sincerity. The people who organized the meeting between her and North Korea’s then-leader Kim Jong-il in 2002 are now orchestrating North Korean policy. Her impressive visit to Pyongyang and meeting with the elder Kim may have drawn a favorable response from current young leader Kim Jong-un, who is determined to follow his father’s legacy. North Koreans also proposed ceremonies to commemorate the July 4 North-South Joint Statement in 1972. A cool attitude and pressure from Beijing may also have contributed to Pyongyang’s conciliatory gesture.

But the real work begins from now and the path will be bumpy. First, the government must deal with die-hard conservatives at home. Some of them oppose the July 4, 1972 North-South Joint Statement to pursue reunification on the principles of sovereignty and a grand coalition of Korean people. They believe North Korea regards tourism to Mount Kumgang, the Kaesong industrial complex and reunions of separated families as money-making ventures. They may not be happy with renewed dialogue between the two Koreas. The same goes for the hawkish group in North Korea. The North Korean military will want to keep up the tensions and hostile mood to buttress its power.

The mood in Washington is also not that favorable. Susan Rice, who was behind resolution and sanctions against North Korea while serving as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has been picked by Obama to serve as his new national security adviser. The conservative Rice may demand stronger actions against the nuclear-armed North Korea. Can a dramatic turning point in inter-Korean talks be possible under such hawkish eyes in Washington? More fundamentally, the two Koreas are poles apart on key issues. North Korea wants to pursue economic prosperity while maintaining nuclear weapons. But President Park warned that North Korea cannot pursue its nuclear weapons program and economic prosperity at the same time, nor can it succeed even if it tries. That recipe will only lead to isolation and self-destruction, she predicted.

When times are tough, it’s best to fall back on old, wise ideas such as: Solve the easy problem first and difficult ones later. The two Koreas could provide a dramatic breakthrough in inter-Korean relations and mutual trust-building by making some progress in the impasse over the Kaesong and Mount Kumgang ventures and reunions of separated families. Then they could move onto the next stage. The delegates coming to Seoul this time won’t likely have the authority to speak and decide on the big framework issues of denuclearization and a lasting peace structure on the peninsula.

The upcoming high-level talks, therefore, should set the agenda for a summit meeting. Only the leaders of the two states can discuss resolution of the nuclear issue. If a summit meeting is held in the early stage of a presidential term, Seoul could take a stronger initiative in finding a solution to the nuclear conundrum and peace mechanism. Park has already proposed aid for North Korea’s economic recovery, normalization of ties with the U.S., and regime security. The two leaders can discuss detailed actions.

To establish and build mutual trust, the two Koreas should discuss nuclear as well as overall development in bilateral relations. Resumption of Pyongyang-Washington talks and six-party negotiations are also necessary. South Korea must build its own internal consensus on its North Korean policy. Park, who won a majority vote from her conservative base, has more leverage than her predecessors to win support from the country’s conservative population.

A hard-won opportunity has arrived. Just because there are risks, we must not turn away. We expect Park to demonstrate her unique will and leadership to pave the way for the success of her trustpolitik vision.

PCI Board member Chung-in Moon is a politics professor at Yonsei University.
Highlights:

- Project Bridge 2012-2013 called for applications in early-September, resulting in a total of 161 applicants from New York and Los Angeles area. A review committee chose 16 of the most promising candidates, weighing their leadership capacity, commitment to the program, personal motivation, and goals for participating in the program.

- The pre-study tour workshop program started with an exploration of the reasons for the Sa-I-Gu. Students were introduced to a variety of themes to learn about Korea as a case study in the context of intercultural awareness.

- Before the Study Tour, the Youth Ambassadors (YAs) participated in a “Coast-to-Coast” program to engage with their peer YAs on the other coast before they meet in Korea. Through e-mails and social networking channels, they introduced themselves to their coast partners before they met in Korea.

- After the Study Tour, the Youth Ambassadors met several times to reflect on the program’s significance in their lives and their personal growth during the program. Based on the discussions at the meetings, they prepared their community presentations.

Study Tour: Project Bridge culminates in a ten-day study tour of Korea, where Youth Ambassadors explore Korea’s cultural, political, and economic centers, accompanied by four chaperones and two coordinators. The purpose of the tour is to enable the students to see Korea and meet Koreans in their own societal context. The trip also enables the students to explore the spectrum of cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity, as Korea remains one of the most ethnically homogeneous of the world’s nations. Thus, the tour enhances the intercultural objectives of the program as a whole. Furthermore, by bringing two groups of participants from disparate areas of the U.S. together during the tour, Project Bridge extends the exploration of the meaning of diversity — both within America and compared with a nation different from their own. During the study tour to Korea, Project Bridge students visit many places in Korea of historical and social significance, stay with a host family for one night, and engage in open dialogue with Korean students. Some of the sites they visit include the National Assembly, the Demilitarized Zone, Jeollabuk-do and Gyeongju City.

Project Bridge 2012-2013 Graduation

Project Bridge 2012-2013 was a great success! After the study tour, the Youth Ambassadors met several times more to reflect on the program’s significance in their lives and their personal growth during the program. They prepared for their community presentations for the graduation. They invited their family members to share their experiences and lessons learned about Korea through Project Bridge program. This year’s graduation took place on May 29th in New York and June 15th in Los Angeles.

Below are the 2012-2013 youth ambassadors’ final reflections on what they accomplished while part of Project Bridge.

Zaynab AbdulQadir

“Through my experience with Project Bridge have I learned that my acknowledging of being ignorant to much in the world has been able to show me all I have yet to learn. Now it seems that most of my plans for the future have changed as I hope to con-
(continued from page 6)

tinue to be an ambassador throughout the remainder of high school and well into the rest of my life.”

Daniel Domínguez:
“Participating in Project Bridge has allowed me to be more open to trying new things. It has helped me develop a sense of wanting to know what is going on in the world, and think of solutions that I can do to change problems, even if they are small actions.”

Christopher Ramirez:
“Project Bridge has changed my life. This is not an overstatement. This program, I feel, has helped mend my outlook on the world and has brought about a change with my attitude.”

Sofi Sargsyan:
“Project Bridge has been an eye-opening experience for me. Being part of Project Bridge gave me the opportunity to think outside of the “American bubble.” The trip helped me obtain a better understanding of Korea and the various issues concerning race.”

Austin Situ:
“The goal of the Project Bridge program is to bridge cultural fissures and foster the understanding of different traditions. By having the honor to be a part of this program, the knowledge I have gained has infinitely exceeded my expectations.”

Fidel Vivas:
“Project Bridge has truly been a unique experience. It has opened my eyes to a new direction and allowed me to become more aware of places closer to home. It has allowed me to establish connections with people that, I hope, can last a lifetime. Most importantly, it has given me the chance to grow personally and contributed to my future goals.”

Regina Wu:
“Project Bridge has allowed for me to develop a deeper understanding about myself and of the world. I now seek to inspire cultural awareness and increase tolerance.”

Project Bridge 2012-2013 Coordinator & Group Leaders

Denice Gonzalez
“ I’ve had a long journey with Project Bridge. It started at the age of 16 when I too was a youth ambassador. Now, 10 years later, I’ve had the pleasure of serving as a group leader for two years and as a coordinator as well.

I am grateful for this program and I hope that future generations could also come back and serve as group leaders. Last but not least, I am grateful because I found my future husband Mr. Paul Lee Kim while serving as a leader. Thank you Project Bridge!”

Paul Kim
“Project Bridge has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I have been a Group Leader for the past three years and enjoyed every moment ranging from our serious conversations with the Youth Ambassadors about professionalism to our crazy fun filled pictures in Korea.

Project Bridge has opened up new doors in my life, including finding my smart and beautiful soon to be wife, Denice Gonzalez.”

Andrea Bortnik
“A decade ago when Project Bridge celebrated its 10th anniversary, I was among one of the Youth Ambassadors who attended weekly seminars in LA, participated in a weekend retreat with Mr. Kim, and embarked on a marvelous, eye opening journey to Korea. As a beneficiary of this program, I gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Korean people, culture and history. This year, I had the privilege to mentor and cultivate the next generation Youth Ambassadors into multicultural global leaders who appreciate and promote cultural and racial diversity. Thank you Project Bridge for this opportunity!”

(LA Youth Ambassadors at graduation, WER, June 15, 2013)
PCI welcomes applications from prospective Youth Ambassadors and Group Leaders for the 2013-2014 Project Bridge Program!

Project Bridge is currently accepting applications for the 2013-2014 Youth Ambassador Programs. Eight students and two group leaders from the Los Angeles area will be selected to be part of this amazing opportunity.

The application deadline is October 25, 2013

For details visit the PCI website: 
http://www.pacificcenturyinst.org/programs_projectbridge.html

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