



the voice of career federal executives since 1980

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October 30, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to effective, efficient and productive leadership in the federal government and to representing the interests of career federal executives, including those in the Senior Executive Service and in equivalent positions. Earlier this year the Administration announced Presidential Rank Awards (PRA) for federal Senior Executives and Professionals would not be granted in 2013 due to budgetary constraints and that it would consider alternative, meaningful forms of recognition to acknowledge excellence. Although SEA is on record as favoring continuation of the traditional PRA program for this year, we recognize the Administration's legitimate concerns for both budget and optics during these difficult times of sequester and financial sacrifice by all federal employees and the nation.

During and following the federal government shutdown you wrote to federal employees with appreciation for the important work they do for our country and stated they never should have been treated in such an ungrateful manner. We applaud and strongly agree with your sentiments and, in that spirit, ask that you further demonstrate your support by moving forward with alternate PRA recognition for deserving career executives. At a time when the public's trust and confidence in government is shaken, it is imperative that stories of how federal employees successfully serve the American people are shared and embraced. Moreover, the accomplishments of Presidential Rank awardees save the government and American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars. In support of alternative recognition, SEA pledges its full cooperation in recommending that the Administration take the following steps:

- Host a meeting with the President for the awardees, including a photo opportunity.
- Provide all alternate recognition awardees with a certificate or letter signed by the President
- Permit OPM to publicize the names of the award winners and allow agencies to publicly recognize awardees and hold appropriate internal ceremonies
- Confirm that the traditional Presidential Rank Awards program will be resumed upon the end of sequestration and assure that receipt of this year's non-monetary awards will not preclude recipients from consideration for a monetary Presidential Rank Award upon full resumption of that program.

To support this process, SEA's Professional Development League will host a banquet for the awardees at the Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms (as it has done each year since 1986 for Presidential Distinguished Rank Award winners) and would be honored to welcome you at this event where you can personally recognize them (in addition to or in lieu of the separate meeting recommended above). SEA would also be pleased to contribute to public recognition activities deemed appropriate by OPM.

Implementing these recommendations would make clear you understand the importance of career executives to meeting the Administration's program and policy agenda and that you value the corps' significant contributions to cost effectively managing the Executive Branch in these challenging times of fiscal austerity. It would also maintain over thirty consecutive years of official Presidential appreciation of the exceptional accomplishments of the talented men and women worthy of Rank Award recognition.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Again, we stand ready to help in any way possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Bonosaro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Bonosaro
President

cc: The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Elaine Kaplan, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management

