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## 24TH ANNUAL SEA BANQUET HELD TO HONOR PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVES AT DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOMS

### *Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke Delivered Keynote Address*

Washington, D.C. – Recipients of the nation’s highest civil service awards, the Presidential Ranks of Distinguished Executive and Distinguished Professional, were honored by the Senior Executives Association (SEA) at the group’s 24<sup>th</sup> annual black tie Distinguished Rank Awards Banquet April 23. A review of the accomplishments detailed in their award nominations reveals they have saved the federal government over \$93.6 billion.

SEA’s banquet, held in association with Government Executives Magazine, took place at the Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms. The reception began at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards program at 7:30. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke delivered the keynote address.

Dignitaries who attended to honor the award winners include Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Dale E. Klein, and Director of the Office of Personnel Management John Berry.

Recipients of the award include a Federal executive who shared the Nobel prize for physics in 2006 and another for whom a glacier in Antarctica is named as a result of her discovery of the cause of the ozone hole.

Only one percent of the Senior Executive Service is eligible to receive the rank of Distinguished Executive; one percent of those in Senior Level and ST (Scientific and Professional) positions may receive the rank of Distinguished Senior Professional.

**The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career federal executives. Founded in 1980, SEA’s goals are: to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of the federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career federal executives; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions. The SEA Professional Development League (PDL) is a nonprofit educational organization committed to advancing the professionalism of career federal executives through the sponsorship of training, recognition, and research activities.**