



The voice of career federal executives since 1980

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SEA Statement on Cancellation of the Presidential Rank Awards

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Bob Corsi, Interim President of the Senior Executives Association (SEA) – the professional association responsible for representing, convening, and cultivating members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and senior career leaders across the federal government – released the following statement regarding the administration’s cancellation of the Presidential Rank Awards:

“The Presidential Rank Awards (PRA) provide the White House with the annual opportunity to recognize the most exceptional members of the federal government’s career leadership cadre. Awardees are recognized for working over an extended period of time to meet and exceed the needs of the American people. Each year, the PRA not only serves as an opportunity to recognize those who go above and beyond to serve the American people, but it also acts as a morale booster for federal employees across government and provides individuals for the rest of the federal workforce to look to for leadership best practices,” Corsi explained.

“The monetary bonus which comes with the Award is a modest incentive for the best career leaders in the federal government, who are often paid less than their private sector counterparts, to remain in public service. For these reasons, the Presidential Rank Awards play a critical role in cultivating skilled federal leaders,” Corsi continued. **“As our nation grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, having skilled, experienced, and motivated career federal leaders is necessary for effectively responding to the national emergency. Leaders in the federal service have worked in atypical conditions for nearly five months to deliver necessary stimulus to protect the American economy, provide insight on healthcare advancements and the virus’s spread, and provide various essential services to the American people when they have needed it most. Now more than ever, we should be recognizing the individuals who have made these heroic efforts possible.”**

“Canceling the Presidential Rank Awards has been framed as a way to avoid celebrating some workers when millions around the country remain unemployed and economically unstable. It is important for the public sector to be sensitive to the issues occurring within the broader economy; however, just as private sector companies will continue to highlight standout employees assisting their company in surviving these troubling times, the federal sector should not shy away from appreciating the employees who have put their reputations on the line to fight the pandemic and contributed to the success of agency missions,” Corsi furthered.

“Additionally, cancelling the Awards furthers the message that our federal workforce is made of faceless bureaucrats. In reality, civil servants are valued members of our community who work dutifully to serve their neighbors and peers and ought to be recognized for excelling in their contributions. It is our hope that these dedicated individuals receive the recognition and reward they have earned through their tireless service to the American public,” Corsi concluded.

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The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career Federal leaders. 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.

For more information, visit www.seniorexecs.org.