CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

National Association of Secretaries of State
2012 Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award

HISTORY

The Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award, established in 1992, seeks to honor individuals who have demonstrated uncommon courage and exceptional character in pursuit of the common good. The award is named in honor of its first recipient, former United State Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who jeopardized her reputation and career by speaking out against and successfully challenging the "red baiting" tactics of Senator Joseph P. McCarthy in the 1950s.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual, other than Secretaries of State or Lieutenant Governors currently holding office, may be nominated for this award. Nominations for the 2012 Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award must be submitted ***no later than Friday, May 11, 2012***.

NASS encourages the nomination of living Americans (posthumous awards may be considered in deserving cases) who have demonstrated specific acts of courage, rather than those who might be recognized for career achievements. Emphasis should be placed on contemporary acts of courage, rather than examples from the distant past.

SELECTION PROCESS

If more than three nominations are submitted, the NASS Standing Committee on Awards, with the assistance of the NASS Executive Board, will recommend three nominees for consideration by the NASS membership.

A final ballot will be distributed to each NASS member, who will have the option of voting for a recipient or selecting "nominations do not meet criteria." According to NASS policy, an award recipient will only be named if more than 50 percent of the NASS membership casts a ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF AWARD

The recipient of the 2012 Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award will be announced during the summer conference on July 14-17 at the Caribe Hilton in Puerto Rico. The presentation of the award will take place during the 2013 NASS Winter Conference in Washington, DC.

For more information, including a list of past award recipients, please visit www.nass.org. Choose the "Awards" menu option that is listed in the "About NASS" section.