

PILLARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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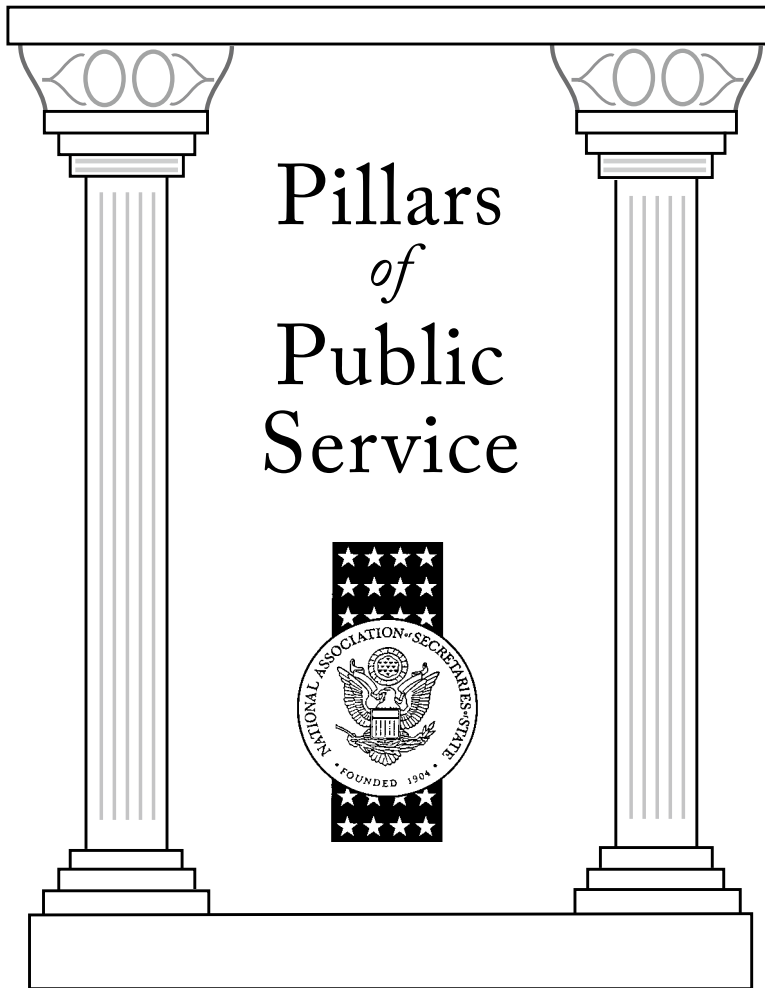
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One Hundred Years of the
National Association of
Secretaries of State

1904–2004*

Bill Gardner

Editor and Contributing Writer

** Some sections of this book were updated in 2017
to provide the most accurate information.*

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THAD EURE

A TRIBUTE

We, the members of the National Association of Secretaries of State, wish to express our deep appreciation, gratitude and thanks to the Honorable Thad Eure for his diligent, constant and noteworthy contributions in service and deed to his home state of North Carolina and to this country. No one has better earned the gratitude and esteem of our fellow Secretaries. The tremendous contributions that Thad Eure has made toward the improvement of public service are truly an inspiration for his colleagues, who applaud him. He serves as an example of the finest qualities of dedicated service. The members of the National Association of Secretaries of State acknowledge the dedication, helpfulness and concern of Thad Eure who has set a new standard for government leadership and fostered the incentive for more noble living.

We, the members of the National Association of Secretaries of State, do hereby recognize the Honorable Thad Eure's tremendous service and dedication to our organization for fifty-two years. We acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation for Secretary Eure's extraordinary conduct and leadership as President and "Dean." Further, we embrace and congratulate Mr. Eure for his continuous involvement as a public servant for sixty-four years. Thad Eure has served his state, nation and NASS with honor and dignity, and has always reflected credit on himself, his family and his office.

1989

INTRODUCTION

WHEN ONE PONDERs the scope of world events during the past 100 years (1904–2004), one can better understand the stage upon which our NASS predecessors built our association. Throughout the decades commonly referred to as the American Century we saw our country emerge from severe tests of war and economic challenges to lead the world with our free democratic and economic institutions.

Through it all, the health of our nation's democracy (voting and elections) and its economy (corporate registration and professional regulation) were constant topics of discussion at the annual conferences. Both of these broad topics touch the functional purpose of our offices, and NASS members were always willing to share ideas and best practices to help nurture the health of our free society without regard to politics or partisanship.

So much has changed in these 100 years, as this book will demonstrate. But the original reason NASS was formed has not. We have a lot to learn from each other and sharing of information with one another helps us all move forward together. NASS, for all these years, has made that possible.

Since 1987, the Missouri State Archives has served as the official repository for NASS's records. This unique circumstance has led to the association twice requesting the Missouri Secretary of State—Roy Blunt in 1988, and then Bekki Cook in 1995—to have the State Archives staff write a history of NASS—the second version by Christyn Elley Edwards, served as an update and topically expanded history of the organization. Kenneth H. Winn, Missouri State Archivist, said in a recent letter upon the publication of this book, “Our personal identity arises from our private memories, while our identity as a people—or an organization—comes from our collective memory. It is an honor to offer NASS a part of that memory as part of its long service to the nation.”

This book was a collaborative effort. Without the help of countless state officials and the NASS staff, who helped gather old pictures and add historical information, this book would not have been as informative. Three former presidents—Allen Beermann, Mike Cooney and Ralph Munro—and corporate affiliates Allen Davies and Dana McKinnon, who sent along such helpful ideas, need to be singled out. Special recognition is due former NASS President Dan Gwadosky, who proposed this publication during his presidency in 2002, and current NASS President Mary Kiffmeyer, who continued to support the endeavor. I want to thank Assistant Secretary of State Karen Ladd for the extraordinary effort in compiling and keeping track of the voluminous information which arrived by e-mail, snail mail, fax and telephone to become part of this book.

This Centennial publication honors the public service of all members of the National Association of Secretaries of State and preserves the rich tradition and values of our association as we begin our second 100 years.

Bill Gardner
New Hampshire Secretary of State
June 10, 2004