

# THE JACKSON LEGACY IN ACTION

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## Jackson Foundation brings military voices on climate change to South Carolina



LEFT: Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.) with panel.

years ago about the military and the effective messenger role it can play in communicating the importance of the issue, finding solutions, and bringing in a bipartisan audience. We've seen that today. The military has gained credibility through the experience of managing resources and personnel, carrying out the important mission that they do, and strengthening the vital connections to local communities. At the

Rising waters and repeated flooding threaten the military's ability to do its job, protect its members and their families and the surrounding communities, and safeguard buildings from water damage. The Jackson Foundation recently brought national attention to this critical issue by partnering with the Washington, D.C.—based think tank, *The Center for Climate & Security*, to hold a briefing at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, highlighting military base vulnerabilities from sea level rise resulting from climate change. Coastal military bases face serious risks to how they operate, launch missions, and even how they and their families live because of rising waters and repeated flooding. Military sites in South Carolina and across the country must plan for these rapid changes.

The day featured an impressive array of retired military speakers, including Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.), the former Commanding General of Parris Island; and Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, USN (Ret.), former Director of Surface Warfare. Public officials from the region, including the mayors of Beaufort, S.C. and Charleston, added to the discussion of the military's preparedness and challenges it faces.

Jackson Foundation Vice President Susan Wickwire attended the briefing and wrapped up the day with observations. In her closing remarks to the crowd, Susan highlighted three key points. First, on the significance of utilizing the military's voice, she stressed, "The Jackson Foundation had a hypothesis a few

Jackson Foundation, we believe it will be local connections that will move this issue forward. This has resonated and been confirmed here."

Second, she noted the depth of concern expressed by military and public officials alike, explaining that, "This issue matters here. We understand the alarm. In the Pacific Northwest, we share a number of similarities—including military bases that are housed close to water. There are lessons that can benefit us in the PNW and many other places around the country."

Finally, Susan emphasized, "We can clearly see the problems but we want to link those problems to solutions. The military—with the work they do on their bases such as utilizing renewable energy—is a great model for what we need more broadly in the country." She concluded, "We at the Jackson Foundation supported this effort and set it in motion. We hope it will lead to further collaboration and new action."

Frank Femia, chief executive officer of The Council on Strategic Risks and co-founder of *The Center for Climate and Security*, found it encouraging to see what he called "five pillars of a vibrant democracy" represented in the room, including members of the armed forces, journalists, educators, city officials, and nonprofit organizations. He noted, "These kinds of conversations don't happen often enough. We can't thank the Jackson Foundation more for having made this happen."

# Introducing the 2019 Jackson Leadership Fellows



Please join us in welcoming our fourth class of the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program—an initiative at the heart of the Foundation’s work. The Fellows Program provides a small cohort of young professional leaders in the Puget Sound region with training, mentoring, and networking to enhance their skills. The Foundation developed this values-based program around the principles that anchored Senator Jackson, which we believe translate well to a younger generation. In a few short years, the Fellows network—the new class plus alumni—has grown to include 35 young people serving as ambassadors for the Jackson legacy.

The 2019 class is actively engaged in our community through their careers and volunteer service. The Fellows come from interesting, diverse backgrounds and are drawn from local, state, and federal government, as well as the nonprofit, media, and business sectors. We look forward to hearing the new perspectives and views this class will bring. Their tremendous commitment to success—coupled with a desire to give back to the community—has already made them stand out.

Keeping the Fellows connected to the Jackson Foundation and the Jackson legacy is paramount to the program’s strength. The Jackson Leadership Council serves as the more formal means to engage the Alumni Fellows in its work. Recently the Alumni Fellows hosted a welcome dinner for the 2019 class, and the Council has organized several learning opportunities for the alumni this year. The Leadership Council Members are quite active and committed to supporting the Senator’s legacy, the Foundation’s work, and especially the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program.

We know you will be excited to learn more about the new Fellows and how they will contribute to our region—and our nation—in the coming years. Please visit our website to discover more information about these young leaders.

PICTURED ABOVE: 2019 Jackson Leadership Fellows. From left, Mónica Guzmán, Jacob Thorpe, Emily Wittman, Priya Saxena, Lyliaanna Allala, Leah Missik, Marc Berger, Carrie Lee, Kelsey E. Knowles.

Photo courtesy of Carol Vipperman.



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