Foundation convenes experts on climate change and national security in Seattle

The Jackson Foundation in partnership with the Center for Climate and Security held a roundtable discussion recently to address existing and future national security risks from climate change and to inform policy responses to climate risks. Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA) opened the discussion by predicting, “As you see changes in climate, you will have greater threats in the world.” He cautioned that, “We are making progress . . . but this is not a top priority of the White House or Congress. We need to make it a priority.” He maintained, “Global cooperation has never been more important but it is reaching a dangerous point. We have to work together; we need a global response.”

Members of the military, both active and retired, spoke on various aspects of the effects of changing climate, what is needed moving forward, and lessons learned. Major General Bret Daugherty, the Adjutant General of the Washington National Guard, highlighted the importance of developing relationships before disaster strikes so that the response can be handled efficiently. He explained that “due to climate change, the frequency and severity of disasters is expected to increase.” He drew attention to the funding challenge that federal funding is decreasing with the expectation that state funding will fill the gap. Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, U.S. Navy (retired), emphasized that community engagement is the key to developing standards and taking action. She said, “There is a real and credible sea level rise threat that is manifesting itself today. She warned that historical data is not a good predictor for planning and said, “Whatever our future is – it will be very different from the past.”

King County Executive Dow Constantine stressed that the most significant challenge is partnership. He and other local officials spoke about the need for counties, cities, tribes and military bases to collaborate on their responses. They encouraged officials working on climate impacts to build a sense of shared community and responsibility to harness limited resources.

The Jackson Foundation is pleased to have played a role in convening this discussion, which provided a glimpse into the complexities of countering the multi-layered aspects of climate change.
In Memory of Dorothy Stimpson

The extended Jackson family here at the Foundation mourns the loss of long-time board member and friend, Dorothy (Dottie) Stimpson. Dottie worked on Senator Jackson’s 1972 presidential campaign. She and her beloved late husband, Ed, led a full and vibrant life devoted to public service. Dottie’s life was marked by her enthusiasm, dedication to the public good, political smarts, and generosity, both in spirit and in her support of causes close to her heart. She was active and engaged in every community in which she lived, from Washington, DC, to Montreal, Boise, and finally in Seattle. Dottie had a lively and unmistakable presence and charm. She spoke her mind but never failed to be warm and supportive to others. Her intelligent and probing questions added greatly over the years to our work at the Jackson Foundation. We salute Dottie for a life well-lived, and know that she will be missed by her family and countless friends.

Leadership Fellows Program

As a part of the Jackson Leadership Fellows Program, each Fellow undertakes a personal project during their fellowship year. The project allows the Fellows to integrate their learning from the program into a specific venture to share with other Fellows and the wider community. The Fellows’ projects may take a variety of forms, including holding public events and private convenings, or researching and writing papers.

For his project, 2017 Fellow Hans Zeiger wrote an article exploring how Senator Jackson was successful in building personal relationships with colleagues and constituents alike throughout his political career. Using quotes and articles from those who worked closely with Jackson and journalists who covered him, Hans, who is himself a Washington State Senator, uncovered some of the secrets to Jackson’s remarkable achievements and perhaps why he has engendered such loyalty to this day. We are highlighting the article on our website and will distribute it widely throughout our community. Kudos to Hans for producing a readable, useful document. Find it on our website at hmjackson.org.