Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.) received the Goodpaster Award at a luncheon in Washington on May 30 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was honored for his distinguished career in the U.S. Army that he concluded as the 32nd Chief of Staff (and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) and for his leadership of AUSA (Association of the United States Army), of which he has been president since 1998.

Recognizing the company he was selected to keep, Gen. Sullivan remarked, “Goodpaster, Marshall and General Scowcroft…they are three giants….Three general officers who epitomize our profession and rank at the very top.”

Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, USAF (Ret.), former national security advisor to two presidents and recipient of the first Goodpaster Award in 2008, presented the award to Gen. Sullivan along with Marshall Board Chairman John B. Adams, Jr. “That’s what strikes me about the aptness of giving the Goodpaster Award to Gordon Sullivan. Because they are so very, very similar. With Andy Goodpaster there was no big flash about him. He just got the job done,” said Gen. Scowcroft in comparison.

On receiving the recognition, Gen. Sullivan said, “It’s humbling to accept this award. General Goodpaster emulated the life which I think many people aspire to. Service to nation was his life. He epitomized selflessness. He had that indefinable characteristic known as character. Character counts. “Simply stated, General Andrew Goodpaster lived a life characterized by his beloved West Point—duty, honor, country—and I am proud to say I knew him. And I am very honored to receive this award today,” he said.

Master of ceremonies Martha Raddatz, who is the senior foreign affairs correspondent for ABC News, said it was Gen. Gordon Sullivan who helped her understand the Army and the military when she began covering the Pentagon. “When I first started covering the Pentagon in 1993, I had exactly zero experience with the military. Gordon Sullivan helped make me the reporter I am today. He mentored me. He took time with me. He explained things to me. He never criticized if stories did not turn out the way maybe he thought they should turn out as long as they were fair,” she explained.

Gen. Carl Vuono, USA (Ret.), who was Army Chief of Staff when Gen. Sullivan was Vice Chief; Nicholas Chabrja, former CEO of General Dynamics and the current Chair of the AUSA Council of Trustees; and RADM Richard Schneider, USCGR (Ret.), President of Norwich Univ. where Gen. Sullivan
serves as Chairman of the Board, all delivered tributes in praise in General Sullivan’s selection.

“For nearly four decades he served the American people with spirit and courage, and he’s been instrumental in shaping the America’s Army today into the finest fighting force in history...Like Marshall, Sully confronted the challenges of transforming the Army,” said Gen. Vuono.

Nick Chabraja talked about a relationship with Gordon Sullivan through their connections in industry following Gen. Sullivan’s retirement from active duty. “He’s an impassioned visionary. He has provided vision on critical contemporary issues confronting America and the world. It’s been my privilege to see this up close at AUSA and at other places as well,” he said.

In video-recorded remarks, Norwich President Schneider talked about Gordon Sullivan’s humble beginning at Norwich, where he worked his way through school in the 1950s, and the extraordinary leadership and example he provides today as chairman of the board. “You’ve been a remarkable person at Norwich for your entire time....And now you’re giving back and you’re having the same profound impact on students today.”

Two hundred friends and guests attended the event.

The Andrew J. Goodpaster Award honors the life and service of General Andrew J. Goodpaster, a longtime trustee and chairman of the Foundation, a champion of the Marshall legacy, an American hero and an extraordinary public servant. The Andrew J. Goodpaster Award is presented to Americans in a variety of fields who, like General Goodpaster, have exhibited great courage, selfless service, patriotism and leadership in their lives and careers.

For more information and to watch a video or look at photos from the event, go to our web site at www.marshallfoundation.org.

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