

Chuck Hagel Elected to National PBS Board of Directors

LINCOLN, Neb. (Nov. 5, 2009) -- Former Nebraska United States Senator Chuck Hagel has been elected to a three-year term on the national PBS Board of Directors.

Hagel was one of six individuals nationwide recently named as General Directors to the PBS Board of Directors. The PBS Board of Directors is responsible for governing and setting policy for PBS and includes both Professional Directors, who are station leaders, and General Directors, who represent the general public. In total, the PBS Board comprises 27 members -- 14 Professional Members; 12 General Directors; and the PBS President. All PBS Board members serve three-year terms, without pay.

“Chuck Hagel’s background, credentials and experience, not to mention his reputation and history of public service, will serve public broadcasting very well,” said NET General Manager Rod Bates, who nominated Hagel.

“PBS is proud to welcome Senator Chuck Hagel to its Board of Directors,” said PBS President and CEO Paula A. Kerger. “Senator Hagel will bring a unique perspective to the Board, thanks to his service in Congress and the military, but also thanks to his work in the private sector, including his experience in broadcasting. As a native Nebraskan, Senator Hagel knows firsthand the important role local public broadcasters like NET Television play in the lives of the citizens they serve.”

“All of us on the Nominating Committee were thrilled when Senator Hagel responded positively to our request that he join the PBS Board,” said Mary Bitterman, nominating committee chair. “His longstanding support of public broadcasting, his deep understanding of domestic and international policy and prospects, his financial acumen and his upbringing in the great state of Nebraska combine to make him an exceptional leader and a great asset to PBS and its member stations across the country. We all look forward greatly to working with him.”

Hagel is a Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. as well as the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was recently announced as Co-Chair of President Barack Obama’s Intelligence Advisory Board. He is the author of the recently published “America: Our Next Chapter,” a straight forward examination of the current state of our nation that provides substantial proposals for the challenges of the 21st century.

Senator Hagel is Chair of the Atlantic Council and a Member of the Secretary’s Defense Policy Board. He also serves on the Advisory Boards of Deutsche Bank Americas; Corsair Capital; Pfizer’s Emerging Markets and Developed Economies Boards; M.I.C. Industries; National Interest Security Company (NISC); is a Director of Wolfensohn and Company and the Zurich Holding Company of America; and is a Senior Advisor to McCarthy Capital Corporation.

NET Television, Nebraska’s statewide public television network, is a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET's Web site (netNebraska.org/television).

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NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format