

RICHARD LUGAR

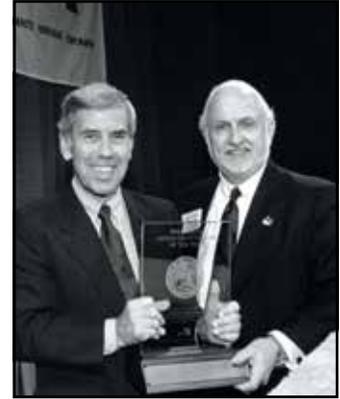
Government Leader of the Year

By Tom Schuman

Editor's Note: Here's how a "Leader of the Year" article normally works: The writer tells the story of the honoree, focusing on why the person is being recognized. Included is a sampling of quotes from others describing the winner's impact. Without diminishing the accomplishments of any honorees, past or present, the 2013 Government Leader of the Year (who also earned the Chamber's inaugural honor in 1990) is no typical award winner.

Richard Lugar's story and accomplishments are so well-known that he is one of the recipients of this year's Presidential Medal of Freedom. The nation's highest civilian honor is presented to those who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States. He is being honored at the White House this month.

State, national and global leaders have outlined Lugar's contributions throughout his nearly 50 years of public service. But a 50-minute interview with Lugar is too priceless not to share as many of his comments as possible. Enjoy the Richard Lugar story – in his own words.



Richard Lugar accepts the 1990 Government Leader of the Year award from Chamber chairman Lee Cross.

BizVoice®: What sparked your interest in politics?

Richard Lugar: "It began with my dad letting me (then eight years old) sit up with him until 3 a.m. as Wendell Willkie was nominated in 1940 as the Republican candidate for president. This led me to be intensely interested in political conventions long before they appeared on television. Subsequently, I began to think conceivably that I might be walking across the stage at one of them and that happened in Miami Beach (in 1972) when I was a keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention.

"I was also sparked by visits to the home of Homer Capehart (Indiana senator from 1945-1963). My dad was in the livestock commission business, and he and his father handled Homer Capehart's livestock on his farm. And Charles Brownson, congressman from Indianapolis (in the 1950s), lived right around the corner from us, so he came into our lives.

"I was very active at Denison (University in Granville, Ohio), elected co-president of the student body with Charlene Smeltzer. We were really thrown together by campus politics and have now had 57 wonderful years together. I had opportunities when I was at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship to be president of the student body. Then in the Navy, as an intelligence briefer for Admiral Arleigh Burke, I came into contact with many people in public life. It was quite a new introduction at the national level."

Following naval service and his father passing away, Lugar returned home to help save the family businesses. Thomas L. Green and Company was a food machinery manufacturing operation that his grandfather had founded. There was also the 604-acre family farm in Decatur Township that he still manages.

"In the course of that, people on the west side came to the office and said, 'Lugar, you've got to run for the school board.' This led to an improbable race (in 1964) for the school board at a time when I didn't know where the board met, apart from much of what they did. Then there was the nomination for mayor of Indianapolis at a time when no Republican had been elected for 20 years or so, and some felt none would be in the near future. These were all important steps to getting involved in public life."

BV: Why is the University of Indianapolis so important to the city? (Lugar's involvement with the school dates back to 1976)

RL: "The University of Indianapolis story is one where it is always the focal point of southside development. UIndy can become the focal point for business growth, social services, lots of other



things that can make the southside neighborhood larger than the 4,000 people on campus. I think I can be helpful. I was impressed from the beginning with Gene Sease (then president of the school), who asked me to come down when I had completed my second term as mayor (term limited at that point), and I wanted to run for U.S. Senate in 1976.

“Gene, sensing that situation, said, ‘Why don’t you come down and become an adjunct professor (at what was then Indiana Central). You can come teach your classes in the morning and then campaign in the afternoon. That is essentially what I did throughout 1976 until the election in November. It offered great opportunities to not only work with students in the classroom, but they had an opportunity to see politics up close. I would often take a helicopter from the athletic fields to go off and campaign around the state.

“Gene Sease was a wonderful friend and also a great mentor to academic life and all the opportunities that were there.”

Upon starting his Senate career, Lugar began the Symposium for Tomorrow’s Leaders, bringing students from high schools throughout the state to UIndy for an all-day seminar. The program is now in its 37th year.

“These students now are frequently in leadership positions around Indiana and around the country, and they harken back to those experiences. Once again, it shows the outreach of UIndy.”

BV: Bipartisanship, once celebrated, seems to be a political casualty. How have things changed in Congress?

RL: “For about a quarter of a century of time that I served in the Senate, we had a general rule that we needed to pass a budget, usually by the Easter holiday. Then we proceeded to outline 13 appropriations bills, to do that hopefully by Labor Day but certainly by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. We took that seriously. Twelve committees, as well as authorizing

committees such as appropriations, passed legislation that outlined programs. That meant there ultimately had to be cooperation between the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee. That was not easy; it required many people talking to each other all the time. In due course, most of the authorizing legislation began to fall by the wayside because it became more and more strenuous just to pass the spending bills.

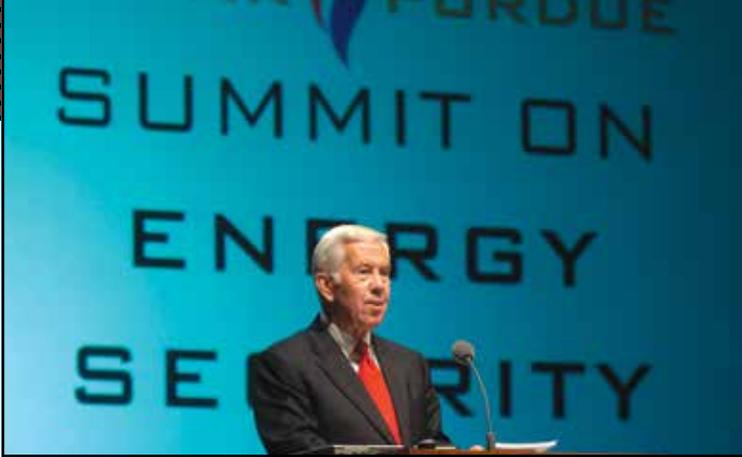
“As chairman of the Ag Committee, I was able to pass the Freedom to Farm bill, a huge change in American agriculture, wiping out all of the quotas of the New Deal days, which limited my dad from planting on our own farm the corn or wheat or soybeans, whatever his choices were as opposed to those mandated by limits of the government. That required enormous bipartisan support.

“Apart from the drama of the Nunn-Lugar threat reduction business, that required support every year – the appropriations bills, the spending bills, getting the money to go into Russia, then the Soviet Union, to take down the missiles, to take down the warheads, destroy the chemical weapons. I had to work very closely with Joe Biden for many years and eventually John Kerry and Chuck Hagel. I took for granted the fact that we were going to have to deliberate, and we were determined to have success in all these situations.

“The current predicament is there are many members, and they are certainly very sincere about this – and many constituents who voted for them are very sincere – who take the position that the United States, with over \$14 trillion in debt, various entitlement programs that have no particular future unless there are large reforms, they take the view first of all that they are for ‘limited government’; much less government not just at the federal level, but the state and local level, and much less spending. They take the view that it’s my way or the highway; essentially, if you do not agree with this curtailment of government spending and government action, then they’re not prepared to vote for any program.



At work in D.C. with (from left) presidents Reagan and Bush as well as heading the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Bringing energy to campus: Delivering a keynote speech at Purdue (left) and with Ball State President Jo Ann Gora at a groundbreaking for the university's geothermal project.

“This leads almost inevitably now, year by year – since there is no budget and very few appropriations bills – to continuing resolutions, which means you come up to Sept. 30 and ‘we’ll do the same spending we did last year.’ More and more people are rebelling against that idea. Some members take a position that limited government may mean literally the end to various branches of government – ag, social services, transportation – you just shut them down because we can’t afford them.

“If you have that extreme point of view, however merited it may be, it’s almost a theological view of the saving of the country and you feel you are doing that, then this does not lead to much compromise of any sort, bipartisan or otherwise. Within the Republican Party in the House of Representatives, it is often reported that John Boehner simply if he has not lost

control, certainly does not have very much control in very large areas. There are a block of Republicans, fairly newly elected, that simply believe they are on a different mission than doing business in a conventional Republican way.”

BV: Are you more concerned based on the reasons you cited or confident that leadership will emerge?

RL: “I have an innate confidence that we will find solutions, that probably there will be different people coming into government. I think also that there will be more optimism in due course in the country as a whole. There is a disillusionment of many Americans, many older Americans, who simply do not find a great deal of hope for the future. They think that the best days of America may have come and gone. There’s anger out there;

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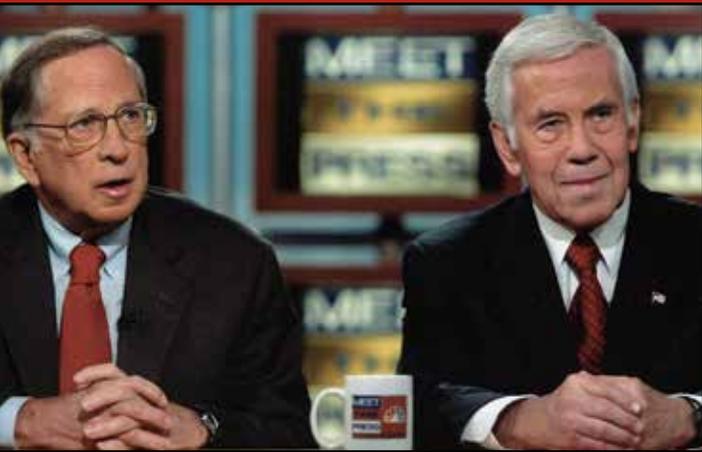
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Lugar makes one of his many television appearances with longtime nuclear arms reduction partner Sam Nunn (D-Georgia).

as people in public life visit with their constituents, they find people who want to express their anger with the totality of government. The approval rating for Congress has sunk down to 10% or maybe even high single digits.

“Many people are responding in polls that they would prefer to have cockroaches in their home than a member of Congress. When there is this degree of anger, antipathy, contempt in the public as a whole, it does result sometime in the election of unusual people to the offices. My hope is that there is going to be more optimism. We are in a degree of economic recovery, even if not as strong as all of us wish it was, that compared to other countries ... we are still the strongest and are recognized that way. The dollar is still the best currency; this is where the Chinese want to put their reserves.

“The terrible trauma that people find with the domestic economy and their own plight leads them to feel that our role in the rest of the world may be interesting, but probably should be a good bit more limited. I spent a great deal of time working on those problems, which I felt were vital to the future of our country – my constituents did not always agree. We have a much more constricted role of Congress presently in foreign policy, and I think this is regrettable. I don’t think the checks and balances work as well when there is that constraint.”

BV: In 2006, when we talked, much of the focus was on energy security. What do you see as key developments since that time?

RL: “What’s most remarkable is the shale oil findings. This has led already to production of oil, and possibly natural gas, in such dimensions that our dependence on the rest of the world has declined by about a third since 2006. And every indicator is that it will decline a great deal more if we continue those developments. That was not seen at the time, that we would be able to produce our way through the dilemma.

“At the same time, we have also as a country become much more conservative in the use of energy. We have found along the way various other alternative sources, renewables, that led to a lot more American innovation and ingenuity. This is still politically charged; the battle over the Keystone XL pipeline seems to go on and on and on. Many people take the point of view that climate change requires that all fossil fuels be curtailed. I’m optimistic – balance of payments are

Lugar returns to the University of Indianapolis in October. Former Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut (left) and Indianapolis Colts Vice President of Operations Pete Ward join in the applause, while a roundtable discussion on Syria (right) also included former Indiana Congressman Lee Hamilton (left) as moderator.





A long-time advocate of physical fitness, Lugar joins in an Army run.

down, production in the United States up and our foreign policy has changed because of much less dependence upon the Middle East and other areas that are hostile to us.”

BV: Can you name a few people along the way who you enjoyed a special bond with?

RL: “Sam Nunn, a partner from the beginning, was one of the most improbable foreign policy stories. We were sent by Ronald Reagan to Geneva in a bipartisan congressional delegation (to begin discussions on nuclear disarmament). The two of us noted no progress then, but continued to stay in touch with Russians, who finally came to us.

“We met in 1991 around a table in Sam’s office and they basically said, ‘The Soviet Union is falling apart; we’re broke. We don’t have troops to provide security around the installations of the nuclear weapons that are aimed at you folks; and you’ve spent trillions of dollars trying to think about how you’re going to defend yourself against all this.’ We said, ‘What do you need?’ They said, ‘We need money, a lot of it. We need technicians that can provide security and then begin to take down the weapons systems.’

Lugar’s Legacy

Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar: “I personally believe that Sen. Lugar has had one of the most impactful and distinguished careers of any member of the United States Senate. I don’t say that lightly because I know this country has been blessed with tremendous leaders. He has been a great ambassador for the state of Indiana, and is someone who has been looked upon for his advice and knowledge and counsel by all the presidents who have served during his time in the Senate.”

President Obama on Lugar’s efforts to secure and destroy weapons of mass destruction after the collapse of the Soviet Union: “Your legacy will endure in a safer and more secure world, and a safer and more secure America. And we pray that this nation produces more leaders with your sense of decency and civility and integrity.”

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas): “As an officer in the U.S. Navy, mayor of Indianapolis and a U.S. senator for the last 36 years, Richard Lugar has served with honor and devoted his distinguished career to public service. All Americans owe him a debt of gratitude.”

“It was a totally counterintuitive argument after 40 years of so-called mutually assured destruction foreign policy. Sam worked with me to accumulate the majorities that made possible legislation that, in fact, appropriated a lot of American money, American money that was used to disarm the Soviet Union, then Russia. It was a very improbable course of history. I’m indebted to him for that relationship, that partnership.”

Lugar noted a number of other colleagues he partnered with on legislation, including Joe Biden, John Kerry and Pat Leahy.

“There were people extremely important to me in the early stages. Jim Morris has been a constant friend and ally at each stage of my career. I rely upon him. Marty Morris is going to take a position at Duke teaching political science. He spent 25 years as chief of staff or campaign chair. Way back in the beginning, Keith Bulen was a critical person in the Republican nomination to be mayor and my work with the National League of Cities. Keith was a very good mentor and liaison with people at the national and local levels.”

BV: Did I hear you say that you still have the table that you sat around in Sen. Nunn’s office in your meeting with the Russians?

RL: “When Sam left the Senate, I asked the people to roll the table down the hallway literally to the Hart building where my office was. I purchased the table from the Senate, and we brought it over to the office here in the Lugar Center. So as I talk to you this morning, I’m looking at that table.”

BV: When you have the opportunity, what are some of your favorite things to do back in Indiana?

RL: “My first joy is to go out to the farm. In the last 20 to 25 years, I’ve worked with my son, Bob. We started planting black walnut and other hardwood trees in rows on our farm. We have 180 acres in hardwood trees. I enjoy working with Bob on the pruning of the trees or cutting out of invasive species as they call it, as well as working with the Purdue forestry school; they’ve set up some plots in which they’re doing experimental work on how to improve different forest products. (Lugar’s father was an agriculture major at Purdue). It’s a wonderful family tradition because of the beauty of the farm and the chance to work out there with Bob.”

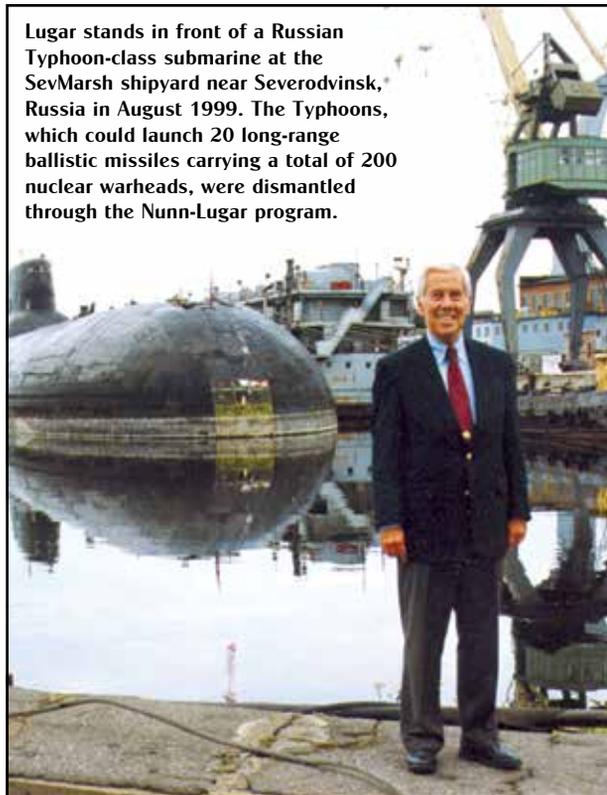
Lugar also cites attending sporting events, and reunions with friends and family.

BV: In addition to classroom duties (at the University of Indianapolis, Indiana University and Georgetown), and hosting UIndy interns in Washington through the Lugar Center, Lugar is keeping busy with various other initiatives. What are your priorities at this stage?

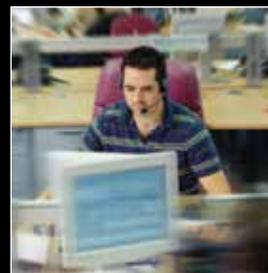
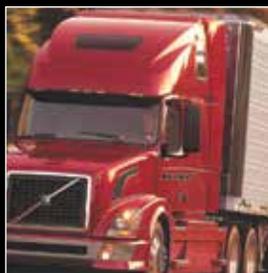
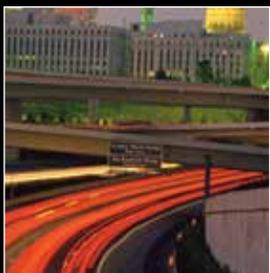
RL: “The German Marshall Fund has asked me to head up the Lugar Diplomacy Center. I have a breakfast almost every month with 15 to 20 ambassadors. It’s to inform ambassadors how they can be more

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Lugar stands in front of a Russian Typhoon-class submarine at the SevMarsh shipyard near Severodvinsk, Russia in August 1999. The Typhoons, which could launch 20 long-range ballistic missiles carrying a total of 200 nuclear warheads, were dismantled through the Nunn-Lugar program.



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Lugar

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effective working with members of Congress and the administration and how the United States can be more effective in getting our message into those countries.

“I’m doing speaking around the country on university campuses. There were two extensive trips – keynote speaker and leader of a large conference in South Korea shortly after the nuclear threats from North Korea. I was also in Baku, Azerbaijan heading up a program and working with the president there on how important that area can be to the United States.”

BV: What do you want Hoosiers to say about Richard Lugar?

RL: “I attempted to answer that the other day when word came about the Medal of Freedom. I appreciated the wonderful loving but creative guidance of my parents Marvin and Bertha, and my brother Tom and sister Anne and how supportive they have been. I mention that because that has been a key factor along with the loving support of my wife, Char. We have continued to be supportive of each other through all the public life ups and downs and the raising of four wonderful sons, who I have enormous pride in and have great achievements of their own. These have been critical factors in my ability to serve. My family has wanted to be teammates in this and I’ve included them.”