

2019 Keynote Speakers



Congressman Joe Courtney

U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District of Connecticut

Congressman Joe Courtney was elected in 2006 to represent the Second Congressional District of Connecticut in the House of Representatives. He serves on the Armed Services, and Education and Labor Committees.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Courtney is the Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee. According to a review by House Historians Office, Courtney is the first known member from Connecticut to lead a naval oversight panel in the House of Representatives since 1873, when Stephen W. Kellogg of Waterbury served as Chair of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy

Department in the 42nd Congress (1871-1873). Prior to that, Samuel Ingham, a two-term Congressman with connections to Hebron, Jewett City (Griswold) and Essex, served as chair of the Committee on Navy Affairs in the 25th Congress (1837-1839).

In addition, along with Rep. Rob Wittman of Virginia, he co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, he serves on the Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions subcommittee, as well as the Higher Education and Workforce Training subcommittee.

As a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, Congressman Courtney has worked to strengthen our nation's defense by leading the call for increased submarine production. When Courtney arrived in Congress, Electric Boat was facing significant workforce reductions, and, for the first time in 50 years, was not actively designing the next generation of submarine. Because of funding secured by Courtney through his committee work, the men and women of Electric Boat have been building two submarines per year since 2011. In addition, Courtney has secured critical resources for new design and engineering work on the replacement for the OHIO-class submarine, which has added thousands of jobs in southeastern Connecticut. This design and engineering work prompted Electric Boat to expand into the former Pfizer building in New London to accommodate its growing workforce.

Additionally, Congressman Courtney secured over \$100 million federal funding outside the President's budget for SUBASE New London. This investment will ensure that New England's largest military installation will have an enduring mission for years to come. In recognition of his work, Courtney was awarded "The Distinguished Public Service Award" from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, the highest civilian honor the Navy confers.

Since his swearing-in, Congressman Courtney has distinguished himself as a tireless advocate for both our nation's veterans and our men and women in uniform. He successfully fought to expand the Montgomery GI Bill for post-9/11 veterans and their families, and led the fight to extend TRICARE benefits to dependents under age 26. Congressman Courtney also fought and won support for an 18-unit supportive housing facility for homeless and at-risk veterans in Jewett City. He also partnered with Senator John McCain to introduce the Post-9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act to help members of the military transition into the teaching profession. In recognition of his efforts on behalf of veterans, Congressman Courtney has been awarded the Connecticut National Guard's highest honor, the Meritorious Service Award. He has also earned recognition from veterans organizations, including the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, which named him Legislator of the Year in 2009.

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Frederick J. (Jay) Stefany

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Ships); Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition

Mr. Frederick J. (Jay) Stefany began serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs in April 2018. In this role, he is responsible for executive oversight of all naval shipbuilding programs, major ship conversions, and the modernization and disposal of inservice ships. He is also responsible for executive oversight of cost, schedule and performance of surface ship, submarine, and Marine Corps combat systems, electronic

warfare systems, shipboard radars, and Navy missile defense programs.

Previously Mr. Stefany served as Executive Director, Amphibious, Auxiliary and Sealift Office, Program Executive Office, Ships. He provided executive leadership to 200 personnel and oversaw one of the broadest acquisition portfolios in the Navy, including more than \$30 billion in complex shipbuilding procurements. His responsibilities spanned four major program offices: LPD 17 Program (PMS 317), Amphibious Warfare Program (PMS 377), Strategic and Theater Sealift Program (PMS 385), and the Auxiliary Ships / Small Boats and Crafts Program (PMS 325). Additionally he oversaw several active major programs, to include LHA 6, LPD 17, EPF, ESB, T-AKE, T-AO(X), and Heavy Icebreaker ship classes, as well as ship-to-shore connectors, landing craft, research ships, and service craft boats.

Mr. Stefany entered the Senior Executive Service in March 2012, and has been in civil service for more than 27 years. He has served in a variety of key leadership positions throughout his career, including Program Manager and Deputy Program Manager for the LPD 17 Class Amphibious Transport Dock ship program (2004-2012). During his tenure, the first six ships of the San Antonio Class were delivered; and construction started on four additional hulls. He also assumed responsibilities for management of the initial concept work on a replacement for the Navy's Command & Control Ships and later, the replacement for the LSD 41 and 49 class ships.

Previous assignments include Director of Naval and Commercial Construction (2002-2004), responsible for oversight of the Navy's portfolio of Amphibious, Auxiliary and Special Mission ships and craft for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RD&A); Assistant Program Manager in PMS 377 for LCAC (2000-2002) and for Amphibious Ship Combat / C4I Systems (1998-2000); and Project Engineer for both the LHD 5-7 (1992-1998) and LHD 1-4 (1987-1991) ship acquisition programs as PMS 377 delivered LHD 1-6 and LSD 52 to the Fleet.

Mr. Stefany received his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. in 1985, and his master of science in management from the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Fla. (National Capital Campus) in 1998. He is also a 1996 graduate of the Defense Systems Management College, Advanced Program Management Course. During his distinguished federal service career, Mr. Stefany has received the Navy Civilian Meritorious Service Award and two Navy Civilian Superior Service Awards.