



Draft Remarks upon Receiving the Joseph Kruzel Award for Public Service

Catherine McArdle Kelleher, Senior Fellow, Watson Institute

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I am honored to receive the Joseph Kruzel Award for Public Service from the International Security Studies and Arms Control section of APSA. I know that it has only been given once before, and that it recognizes an aspect of professional activity that is key for so many of the friends and colleagues that are the ISSAC members. Public service has been an important aspect of my career, and I appreciate the award's significance.

I am also pleased to receive an award dedicated to the memory of Joe Kruzel, who was a friend and colleague for almost two decades. We first met when I was on the NSC staff under President Carter and Joe was an aide to Harold Brown and Walter Slocombe in the Department of Defense. We remained in contact, largely through ISA, when he was at Duke and then Ohio State. Finally we worked closely when he and I both served in the creative, informed Perry Office of the Secretary of Defense, he as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Europe and I as the Defense Advisor at NATO. I worked with him to achieve the two goals Bill Perry and Walt Slocombe had set for us all, the establishment of the Partnership for Peace for the former Warsaw Pact states and the ending of the internecine conflict in Bosnia.

I regrettably had the sad duty, as the one assigned weekend duty for the US Mission to NATO, to report his far-too-early death, and that of another friend Nelson Drew and Ambassador Bob Frasure, on that fateful August Saturday in 1995. The impact of the news on the NATO Secretary-General, on the heads and staffs of the various NATO delegations, and the international staffs was sharp and palpable. All knew Joe, knew his energy and his intelligence, and his dedication to a stable peaceful transition in democracy in Bosnia and to democratic military reform throughout the region. The tributes to him from across the Atlantic region were numerous and heartfelt, and continue to this day, as I am reminded when I lecture every January in the Joseph Kruzel auditorium at the Geneva Center for Security Policy.

It will come as no surprise to anyone who knew us both that Joe and I did not always agree. I think that is largely because of the passion both of us had for public policy in general and "getting it right" on specifics. Both of us saw it as an area worthy of our best intellectual effort and whatever operational and tactical skills we possessed. Both of us came to office through a change in administration, but both of us acknowledged our pledge first to support and defend the republic, its values and its interests. This was a commitment that for, at least that time, was the equal of the pledges we made to our academic goals, those of our own research, and those to educate and benefit our students and our academic homes.

It is this concept of public service that Joe embodied, and for which this award is a fitting tribute. It is a concept that has too often in the years been attacked from the side of both politics and of academia. Public service itself is an oxymoron, the sage argues. Which public? Which service? In defense of which dogma? Ivory towers have little practicable to contribute; they are, by definition, best left undisturbed and unengaged. And, at the end of the day, are not loyalty to party and party profit, and the potential for private sector advancement that government office allows after service, the obvious prizes to be gained?

I would argue, and I believe Joe would too, that there is far more at stake than simple gain for party or individual, or cherished ideological principles. Particularly in our field, in contrast to Europe, the United States has a long tradition of engaged academics involved in policy across all levels. The examples of

the dedicated, inspired work of academics within government, whether engaged for the long career term or merely there for a specific period, are legion. The achievements of professionals within the military educational establishment and the analytic teams in the diverse departments are clear even in the most cursory overview of ISSAC membership. Those of the “shorter timers” range from the famous “dollar a year” or “on leave for the duration” men of World War II to those who worked so tirelessly for both stability and democracy in the awful wars of the Yugoslav succession.

It is surely the case that not all these experiences in public services have been positive nor are they all as dramatic as Cincinnatus leaving his plow to restore order and stability in Rome and then returning to his furrow. But most represented unique and valuable service to the nation. Many contributions went unremarked; the great tablets did not necessarily record all the numbers. But most of those who served returned to their more academic pursuits, perhaps a little sadder but much wiser, with a sense of meritorius achievement and a broadened intellectual perspective of great benefit to themselves, their analysis, and their students

Should the opportunity for public service come your way, at some point in your career or for all of it, it is a choice I commend to you. I would go further and argue that it represents a relatively rare opportunity to go beyond even that cherished academic goal of “filling a gap” in the literature, to work in a larger frame, with a longer view. There is enormous work to be done that would benefit from your best – all the more after this period of near separation of academia and the public sector. It has been to the clear detriment of both.