



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION FOR DANFORTH AUSTIN

June 3, 2011

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has served as Director of the Voice of America (VOA) from October 2006 to June 2011, and as Acting Deputy Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) from August 2007 to September 2010;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has worked tirelessly to make VOA a dynamic, world-class international multimedia broadcaster, providing reliable and authoritative news and information to an estimated weekly audience of 123 million in 44 languages;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has championed VOA's core principles of professional independence and journalistic integrity;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has led VOA and IBB in responding to extraordinary challenges that included changing broadcast priorities, swift expansion of broadcasts during periods of crisis, changing media consumption habits, rapid evolution of broadcast technologies, and repression of free media by many countries;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin, in his pursuit to stay competitive in the 21st century, has shown great vision and innovation in developing new VOA programming strategies that focus on using the most effective media platforms for each region;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has been unwavering in his commitment to extend VOA's reach through new media, including social media, establishing the IBB Office of New Media and markedly improving VOA's 49 websites and diversifying digital delivery platforms;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin increased VOA's reach via television to important audience areas, including Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia and Tibet, and expanded radio broadcasts to Somalia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Burma, North Korea, Venezuela, Haiti, Georgia, and elsewhere;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin oversaw critical reorganizations of VOA's Central News, English and South Asia Divisions, the Persian News Network, the Russian Service, and IBB's Office of Technology, Services and Innovation;

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has enhanced leadership, improved communications with VOA and IBB employees, increased training and recognition of extraordinary performance, and addressed numerous employee concerns; and

WHEREAS, Danforth Austin has initiated plans and policies for meaningful collaboration within the U.S. international broadcasting networks and with foreign counterparts BBC World Service, Deutsche Welle, Radio Netherlands, and Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors hereby expresses its great appreciation and gratitude for Danforth W. Austin's exemplary performance and invaluable contributions in the furtherance of the mission of U.S. international broadcasting.

Walter Isaacson
Chairman
Broadcasting Board of Governors

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