

Gov. Kean Among 5 Outstanding New Jerseyans to Receive William J. Hughes Center Honors

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The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy recognized five outstanding New Jerseyans at the 2015 Hughes Center Honors today at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway, NJ.

The Honors are awarded for professional excellence and a commitment to public service, civility and bipartisanship which reflects the life and career of Ambassador William J. Hughes, who served as U.S. ambassador to Panama and as a U.S. congressman for 20 years.

"Tonight we honor a person who was able to bridge partisan divides," said President Herman Saatkamp in introducing former New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean to receive the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. "Governor Kean treated allies and adversaries with respect."

"It's an honor to get an award with Bill Hughes' name on it," said Gov. Kean. "He is and was the best."

"There's still so much to do and to do together," Gov. Kean continued "When you get to know.9(e)-.7(1.8(9(e)(ov)-7)0 -35tae9.6(sa(s)9.4(o -35t8(id)8.9(en8#Tlyd w)11.gg)9.2(ec TJ0 -1.625 TD.0011

"We can still dream big dreams," Gov. Kean said. "We've still got the best country and the best state in the world,"

Retired Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr., of the New Jersey Supreme Court, received the Civility in Government and Politics Award. In presenting it, Ambassador Hughes cited Wallace's "deep and abiding commitment to civility," and "the extraordinary way he has conducted himself as a citizen, lawyer and judge."

Justice Wallace is counsel to the firm of Brown and Connery and concentrates his practice in mediation, arbitration and complex litigation. Justice Wallace's career as a jurist spanned over 25 years, and he thanked Gov. Kean for first appointing-9(i)-9(i)-s, a"Stockton provided me with the tools – insight, compassion and confidence – to do what I do today," Connors said.

He earned his M.P.A. from Rutgers University and his J.D. Rutgers School of Law-Camden. He currently practices law with Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Cherkos & Connors. Prior to his tenure in the State Senate, Connors also served in the General Assembly, on the Lacey Township Committee and as mayor of Lacey Township.

Edward J. Graham, chairman and CEO of South Jersey Industries, received the Excellence in Civic Engagement Award.

