



POSTAL NEWS

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TOM RIDGE TO HEADLINE MAILING INDUSTRY TRADE SHOW

Washington, D.C. - The nation's first director of homeland security, Tom Ridge, will be a headline speaker at the 2005 National Postal Forum (NPF), the country's largest mailing industry trade show, on March 23 in Nashville, TN.

Ridge, the former Pennsylvania Governor who oversaw the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and became the organization's first secretary, will speak of his experience while with the Department and the close relationship he developed with the U.S. Postal Service.

"This will be one of Secretary Ridge's first public addresses since he left the Department," said Postmaster General John Potter. "This will be a rare opportunity to learn his views of the state of national security and the role the Postal Service and the mail play in this arena."

The Wednesday general-session luncheon of the March 20-23 NPF will provide the setting for Ridge's presentation. Registration and additional information are available at www.npf.org.

Tom Ridge Background

On January 24, 2003, Tom Ridge became the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for more than 180,000 employees from 22 combined agencies. Ridge's mandate was complex and broad: strengthen our borders, provide intelligence and infrastructure protection, counter weapons of mass destruction, and give the country the capability to respond and recover.

By the time he became Secretary, Ridge had been Director of the Office of Homeland Security for 16 months, following the terrorist attacks of September 11. He played a key role in planning the cross-agency response to the bioterror attack on the postal system, and in laying the groundwork for the largest agency transformation in this government's history.

Before going to Washington, Secretary Ridge was twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania, serving from 1995 to 2001. As Governor, his aggressive technology strategy helped fuel the state's advances in economic development, education, health and the environment. Ridge created industry-led Greenhouse initiatives in advanced computing technologies and the life sciences, and signed into law the Education Empowerment Act, to help more than a quarter-million children in Pennsylvania's lowest-performing schools.

A graduate of Harvard, he served as an infantry staff sergeant in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star for Valor. Returning to Pennsylvania, he earned his law degree and was elected to Congress in 1982. He

was the first Congressman to have served as an enlisted man in the Vietnam War and was overwhelmingly re-elected five times.

National Postal Forum Events

The four-day National Postal Forum in Nashville offers general sessions, day-long symposiums, workshops and networking events. The 2004 event in Washington, D.C., attracted 6000 mailing professionals. The schedule for 2005 includes:

- A Monday, March 21 general session featuring Postmaster General Jack Potter.
- More than 100 workshops and 13 specialty business tracks.
- The mailing industry's largest exhibit hall, with its novel learning labs and USPS-sponsored NASCAR drivers, cars and race simulators.
- Five full-day symposiums focused on Marketing, Packages, Periodicals, Printers, and Mail Industry Research and Intelligence.
- A closing dinner and private concert with country music artist Sara Evans.
- More details and registration information can be found at www.npf.org or by phoning 703-218-5015. Registration discounts are available to early registrants, industry associations and organizations planning to send several attendees.

About The National Postal Forum

The National Postal Forum (NPF), a not-for-profit educational corporation, was established in 1968 by a group of major postal customers/mailers who were committed to an ongoing partnership with the United States Postal Service. The Forum's goal, then as now, is to provide education to business mailers and communication/ feedback between the USPS and its business customers for a more responsive and efficient mail communications system.