

We have the extraordinary honor today of continuing the legacy of one Great Missourian Harry S Truman and recognizing the accomplishments and statesmanship of another great Missourian, Senator Jack Danforth.

They served our Republic at different times, but each displayed a grace and integrity that epitomized the best qualities of public service. Both served in challenging and tumultuous times which tattered the fabric of our nation, but their plain spoken honesty would always mend those tears.

Difficult times require leaders of exceptional character to step forward and we can always rely on Senator Danforth to tell the truth and do what is right. The people of Missouri have a faith and trust in Jack Danforth which transcends party politics. As a man of the cloth he brings that faith in humanity to his public service.

Senator Jack Danforth has served the people well in every challenging duty bestowed on him. In 1968 he was elected as Attorney General where his ethics and fairness were a template of his office. In 1976 he was elected to the U.S. Senate where in often partisan and divisive times he established a reputation of openness and bipartisanship in working towards solutions. Democrats, Republicans, Presidents knew him as a man of his word.

After his distinguished two decade career in the United States Senate, our nation continued to call on him.

In 1999 Danforth was appointed to lead an investigation into the 1993 Waco Seige.

In 2001 President Bush appointed him as special envoy to the Sudan where his efforts brokered a peace deal that officially ended a civil war.

In 2004 Danforth was sworn in as United States Ambassador to the United Nations where he continued his efforts to bring peace to the troubled Sudan.

When Danforth left that post to return to family and his private life he said "Forty seven years ago ,I married the girl of my dreams, and, at this point in my life ,what is most important to me is to spend more time with her".

On behalf of the citizens of Independence it is my great honor and privilege to present a great Missourian, General, Senator, Ambassador the 2015 Harry S Truman Public Service Award Jack Danforth