

2000 AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award

The AMS, the American Astronomical Society (AAS), and the American Physical Society (APS) have presented the first AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award. The award recognizes a public figure for his or her sustained and exceptional contributions to public policies that foster support for research, education, and industrial innovation in the physical sciences and mathematics.

The year 2000 recipients of the AAS-AMS-APS Public Service Award are WILLIAM FRIST, JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, and HAROLD VARMUS. Frist (R-Tennessee) and Lieberman (D-Connecticut) are United States senators. They are co-chairs of the Senate Science and Technology Caucus and strong advocates for federal support of basic research. Varmus, who until December 1999 was director of the National Institutes of Health, emphasized in many forums that biomedical research depends upon research in mathematics and the physical sciences.

At a ceremony on Capitol Hill on March 29, 2000, each honoree received a cast crystal award mounted on an engraved black marble base. The base carries the logos of the three societies and the words "for committed and sustained effort in support of science".

The AMS believes that science and mathematics research and education are critical to the future of American society. They contribute to the nation's knowledge base and its scientific infrastructure and also enable the development of new technologies and new industries. Nevertheless, few government leaders devote significant efforts to developing public policies that recognize the importance of science and mathematics research and education. For this reason and to encourage public leaders to devote a portion of their policy



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Public Service Award winners (left to right) Joseph I. Lieberman, Harold Varmus, and William Frist.

efforts to the support of science and mathematics, the AAS, AMS, and APS have established this joint public service award.

Awardees are chosen by a selection committee consisting of two representatives from each organization, for a total of six members. In addition, the Washington, DC, representative of each society participates in an advisory, ex-officio capacity. The AMS representatives on the selection committee are president Felix E. Browder and past president Arthur Jaffe; the AMS Washington, DC, representative is Samuel M. Rankin III. Up to four awards will be given annually.

—Allyn Jackson