



Franklin Award Presented to Robert L. Gordon III, President, Be the Change, Inc.

Robert Gordon is President of Be the Change, Inc. and a member of the organization's Executive Board. Be the Change, Inc. is a social impact organization that creates and manages national issue-based campaigns, such as ServiceNation, Opportunity Nation, and Got Your 6, to drive broad cross-sector coalitions to scale positive social change in American society. In 2010, Gordon was appointed in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. During his tenure, he spearheaded the creation of the department's Military Spouse Employment

Partnership, an initiative boasting more than 200 "Fortune 500+" employment partners. For his service he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. Before joining the Obama administration, Gordon was the Senior Vice President and Chief People and Program Officer at City Year. He is a Colonel U.S. Army, retired, and completed a 26 year career in the U.S. Army, serving as an artillery officer, aide-de-camp to General Colin Powell, and head of American Politics at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. As a White House Fellow from 1992-93, Gordon served in the Bush Administration as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and in the Clinton Administration as the Director of Special Operations, Office of National Service.



George A. Smith HOOAH Award Presented to Eli Williamson, Co-Founder and Board President, Leave No Veteran Behind

Eli Williamson is the co-founder of Leave No Veteran Behind, a non-profit focused on employment opportunities for veterans. As the Executive Director of Leave No Veteran Behind, Williamson implemented debt relief and transitional employment programs, skills training, and community service opportunities for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. He was also the former Director of Veterans Programs for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation where he led the Foundation's place-based grant making in support of Illinois Veterans. As the

Director he led efforts to improve veteran outcomes in the areas of employment, behavioral health, and navigation of services. Prior to 2009, Williamson served in both Iraq and Afghanistan as a non-commissioned officer in the US Army, a member of Psychological Operations (PSYOP), and as an Arabic linguist working on outreach to foreign civilian communities supporting special operations forces. Before leaving the Army, Williamson served as a retention officer, providing career counseling and transition support to soldiers leaving the military.



Citizen of the Year Award Presented to Robert D. Putnam, Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University

Robert D. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy, and past president of the American Political Science Association. In 2006, Putnam received the Skytte Prize, the world's highest accolade for a political scientist, and in 2012, he received the National Humanities Medal, the nation's highest honor for contributions to the humanities. Notable publications include *Making Democracy Work* and *Bowling Alone: The*

Collapse and Revival of American Community, both among the most cited (and bestselling) social science works in the last half century. His most recent book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, a New York Times bestseller, chronicles the growing gap in opportunity for American youth. Putnam is now working on a major empirical project about 20th century economic, social, and political trends and the implications for American culture.