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**FORMER REPRESENTATIVE HEATHER WILSON AWARDED
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SUPERIOR PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL**

Former New Mexico U.S. Representative Heather Wilson received the National Intelligence Superior Public Service Medal (NISPSM) from Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair in a ceremony today at ODNI headquarters.

Rep. Wilson was a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Armed Services Committee during her more than ten years in Congress, which included her leadership of the Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence as chairman and ranking member. She served in Congress from June 1998 until Jan. 2009.

“This award recognizes Congresswoman Wilson’s years of service to both our Nation and to the Intelligence Community,” said Director Blair. “Her support, insight and dedication have transformed our Community to meet today’s new intelligence challenges.”

Rep. Wilson was recognized as a staunch defender of research and development, according to Vice Admiral Robert Murrett, director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, who recommended her for the award. “She understood the critical importance of performing cutting-edge R&D to create an IC capable of understanding and defeating our adversaries of the future while simultaneously working tirelessly to protect America and her allies today,” he said

“Thank you very much for this honor,” stated Rep. Wilson. “Intelligence is our Nation’s first line of defense. I want to personally thank the men and women who serve in the Intelligence Community. It is this Community that has not only kept my family safe, but our entire country safe.”

The NISPSM recognizes superior service to the Intelligence Community from non-career Federal employees, private citizens and foreign nationals not employed by an IC organization. The ODNI established the award on Oct. 1, 2008 to acknowledge individuals who render extraordinary service at considerable personal sacrifice and who are motivated by patriotism, good citizenship or a sense of public responsibility.

The Director of National Intelligence oversees the 16 federal organizations that make up the Intelligence Community. The DNI also manages the implementation of the National Intelligence Program. Additionally, the DNI serves as the principal adviser to the president, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council on intelligence issues related to national security.

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Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair presents the National Intelligence Superior Public Service Medal to former New Mexico U.S. Representative Heather Wilson.

