

# Bryce Harlow Foundation

*Integrity in Government Advocacy*

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## **Bryce Harlow Foundation Announces Recipients of its 2026 Awards**

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 13, 2026 – The Bryce Harlow Foundation, the nation’s premier organization promoting ethics and integrity in the profession of lobbying and government advocacy, announced the recipients of its 2026 awards.

Susan Margaret Collins was born in Caribou Maine, where her family runs a sixth-generation lumber business that was founded by her ancestors in 1844. Both of her parents also served as Mayor of Caribou. Her father, a World War II veteran, served in both the Maine State Senate and the State House, one of four generations of Collins family members to serve in the Maine Legislature. She began working for Maine Senator Bill Cohen when he was a Representative. In 1987, she was appointed by Maine Governor John McKernan as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. In 1992, she was appointed as Director of the Small Business Administration’s Regional Office by President George H.W. Bush.

In 1996, Senator Collins was elected to the Senate, succeeding Bill Cohen. Senator Collins has earned a national reputation as an effective legislator who works across party lines to solve problems and deliver results for the people of Maine and America. She has repeatedly been ranked as the most bipartisan member of the U.S. Senate by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University. Her record demonstrates significant legislative accomplishments in such critical areas as health care, small business development and job creation, education, transportation, national defense, and issues of particular interest to our nation’s seniors. Known for her Maine work ethic, Senator Collins has cast more than 9,000 consecutive votes and holds the longest perfect voting record in the history of the U.S. Senate. Senator Collins is married to Thomas A. Daffron. They reside in Bangor, Maine, along with their beloved black lab, Pepper.

“We are thrilled to present this much-deserved award to Senator Susan Collins,” Bryce Harlow Foundation board chair Lori Reilly said. “Throughout her Senate service, Senator Collins has worked tirelessly with all members of the Senate and is widely considered the most bipartisan member to help forge consensus to pass meaningful legislation for all Americans.”

Rich Gold, Partner at Holland & Knight LLP, will receive the Bryce Harlow Business Government Relations Award, which is given annually to a leader in government advocacy in recognition of an exemplary career in the profession. Rich Gold has spent more than three decades at the forefront of

public policy, embodying the principles of integrity and professionalism that Bryce Harlow championed. As leader of Holland & Knight's acclaimed Public Policy & Regulation Group, Rich has transformed the practice of advocacy—building one of Washington's most respected and innovative teams and guiding clients through some of the most complex legislative and regulatory challenges of our time. From his early service in the U.S. Senate and the Environmental Protection Agency to his leadership in private practice, Rich has shaped landmark policies in energy, environment, healthcare, trade, and infrastructure. Recognized as one of the nation's top government relations professionals, he is among a select few ranked Band 1 nationwide by Chambers USA and has earned accolades from *The Hill*, *Washingtonian*, and *Legal 500*.

Rich's commitment to the Bryce Harlow Foundation spans decades. As a board member emeritus, mentor, and tireless advocate for the Foundation's mission, he has championed the profession of advocacy and personally mentored dozens of young professionals pursuing careers in public policy. His dedication to developing talent extends beyond the Foundation—within Holland & Knight and across Washington, Rich is widely regarded as a trusted advisor and career guide, helping shape the next generation of leaders in government relations. His career reflects not only extraordinary achievement but also a steadfast dedication to the values Bryce Harlow held dear. "Rich leads with honor, expertise, and a strong commitment to sound public policy," Foundation Awards Dinner Chair Heidi Brock said. "He models what integrity in advocacy looks like, and we are so pleased to be recognizing him with this award."

The awards will be presented during the Foundation's annual awards dinner on April 16, 2026 at the Marriott Marquis. Sponsorship information and ways to support the event may be found at [www.bryceharlow.org](http://www.bryceharlow.org). Proceeds are used to award Fellowships to part-time graduate students who work full-time and expect to pursue careers in government advocacy.

### **About the Bryce Harlow Foundation**

The Bryce Harlow Foundation was established in 1981 in honor of the late Bryce Harlow to promote integrity within the lobbying profession and to increase the understanding of its essential role in the development of sound public policy. Bryce Harlow, who served under four U.S. presidents, established the first White House Congressional Liaison Office and served as its director during the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations. The Foundation provides scholarships to graduate students who work full time

and foresee a career in government advocacy. For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.bryceharlow.org](http://www.bryceharlow.org).

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