

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CNTA TO HOST ANNUAL EDWARD TELLER LECTURE ON OCTOBER 24

The 32nd Annual Edward Teller Lecture and Banquet will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m., at the Amentum Performing Arts Center located at 126 Newberry Street SW in downtown Aiken. The Lecture will be followed by a dinner reception across the street at Newberry Hall, 117 Newberry Street SW. Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) sponsors the annual Edward Teller Lecture and Banquet as a public outreach. The event is named in honor of the famed nuclear pioneer who played a key role in advancing nuclear science during the Second World War.

Our distinguished guest speaker is the Honorable Joyce Connery. Connery serves as the Chair of the Defense Nuclear Safety Board. The Board is an independent organization within the executive branch, chartered with the responsibility of providing recommendations and advice to the President and the Secretary of Energy regarding public health and safety issues at Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities. Connery is serving her second term as Chair, originally being confirmed in August 2015.

Prior to her confirmation, Connery was the Director of Nuclear Energy Policy within the Office of International Economics on the National Security Council under President Obama. She has also served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Energy and Director for Threat Reduction and Nuclear Energy Cooperation in the office of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator at the National Security Council.

Several award and scholarship winners will be recognized at the event. These include the 2023 Nuclear Service Award, the 2023 Distinguished Scientist Award, the Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship, the CNTA High School Essay Contest scholarship winners, and Educator Grant recipients.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with tickets at \$50 per person. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the CNTA office at cnta@bellsouth.net, calling the CNTA office at (803) 649-3456, or by purchasing them online at <https://cntaware.org/event/32nd-annual-teller-lecture/>. Tickets must be paid for or invoiced in advance of the event. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Instead of paper tickets, attendees will receive email confirmation and will check in at registration stations at the event.

Dr. Edward Teller was a native of Hungary and came to the United States, as did many other Jewish scientists escaping from Nazi Germany. During the Manhattan Project, Dr. Teller was a central figure in the design and production of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons materials. Though Dr. Teller was the “father of the hydrogen bomb” and convinced President Truman of its need to counter Soviet advances, he nevertheless considered the teaching of theoretical physics as his primary occupation.

President George W. Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in July 2003. Dr. Teller died at his home in California in September 2003 at age 95.

Dr. Teller presented a public lecture in Augusta, GA in 1992 and consented to CNTA naming its annual lecture and banquet in his honor. The Annual Edward Teller Lecture and Banquet is CNTA's largest community outreach program. The audience primarily consists of community leaders, elected officials, and nuclear professionals. High school and college students also attend courtesy of corporate and collegiate donations.

Notable lecturers have included authors, industry leaders, elected officials, nuclear medical pioneers, national laboratory directors, and many others with an impressive list of accomplishments in support of the nuclear industry and national security.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization that provides factual information on nuclear topics and educates the public on nuclear issues. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or e-mail cnta@bellsouth.net.



Caption: The Honorable Joyce Connery.