



## *2017 Veterans Day Benefit Gala*

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### **2017 London Medal Recipient And Gala Guest Speaker Major General (R) Arnold Punaro**



General Arnold Punaro, USMA (Ret), is chief executive officer of The Punaro Group, LLC, a Washington-based firm he founded in 2010 specializing in federal budget and market analysis, business strategy/risk, government relations, and crisis management. Defense News recognized him as one of the 100 most influential individuals in U.S. Defense.

In November 2015, General Punaro completed a two-year term as the Chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association, the country's largest defense industry association. He is Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, which serves as an independent advisor to the Secretary of Defense on Reserve and National Guard matters. General Punaro's government service includes Director of National Security Affairs for a US Senator, staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a member of the US Special Envoy for Middle East Regional Security, a Commissioner on the Commission on National Security/21st Century, and Chairman of the Defense Reform Task Force for the Secretary of Defense. His private sector experience includes serving as a senior executive for SAIC from 1997 to 2010.

General Punaro's military careers culminated as the Director of the Marine Corps Reserve. He was mobilized to serve on active duty in combat operations in Vietnam, Operation Desert Shield, and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions to include the Secretary of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. General Punaro is the author of the book *On War and Politics: The Battlefield Inside Washington's Beltway*, published by the Naval Institute Press in October 2016. He holds a MA degree for the University of Georgia and a MA degree from Georgetown University.