

Maximizing Equity,  
Fairness, and  
Inclusion through  
Social Insurance

*The Robert M. Ball Award* **2016**  
FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOCIAL INSURANCE

**Honoring**

**William Spriggs**

2016 recipient of  
the Robert M. Ball Award for  
Outstanding Achievements  
in Social Insurance

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**Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

**National Press Club Ballroom  
Washington, DC**

**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**NATIONAL  
ACADEMY  
OF • SOCIAL  
INSURANCE**

## Welcome and Thank You

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On behalf of the Event Committee, the Board of Directors, and staff of the Academy, welcome and thank you for joining us this evening as we recognize and honor William Spriggs with the 2016 Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance.

Bill Spriggs is a friend, colleague, and mentor for many of us here. While Bill's contributions extend across many policy areas, tonight – in the spirit of the Academy's founder, Bob Ball – we highlight his extraordinary record of public service and effectiveness in maximizing equity, fairness, and inclusion through social insurance.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Bill has diligently educated policymakers, labor and business leaders, and advocates for policies that promote the economic security of all Americans. He inspires us all with his insightful scholarship, which has advanced our understanding of the importance of social insurance to vulnerable populations, including low-income workers, women, and people of color.

Thank you to the many sponsors – organizations and individuals – who have made this memorable evening possible. Your generous financial support will allow the Academy to grow its research, education, and leadership development work across all areas of social insurance. Our colleagues who contributed their time and energy to serve on the Event Committee also deserve many thanks.

Cheers!

**Richard Trumka & Maya Rockeymoore**  
**2016 Robert M. Ball Award Event Committee Co-Chairs**

## **The 2016 Robert M. Ball Award Honoring William Spriggs**

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### **Reception**

Featuring members of the Howard University Jazz Ensemble

### **Seated Dinner**

#### **Welcome**

William J. Arnone  
Board Chair, National Academy of Social Insurance

#### **Reflections on the Honoree**

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives

Hugh Price

Former President of the National Urban League

Maya Rockey Moore

President/CEO, Global Policy Solutions  
Co-Chair, 2016 Event Committee

Richard Trumka (Video)

President, AFL-CIO  
Co-Chair, 2016 Event Committee

#### **Presentation of the Award**

William J. Arnone  
Board Chair, National Academy of Social Insurance

#### **Keynote Speech**

William Spriggs  
2016 Ball Award Recipient  
Chief Economist, AFL-CIO  
Professor of Economics, Howard University

#### **Celebratory Toast**

# The Robert M. Ball Award <sup>2016</sup>

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN SOCIAL INSURANCE

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Robert M. Ball

**About the 2016 recipient of the Robert M. Ball Award:**  
**William Spriggs**

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William Spriggs was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy at the United States Department of Labor, an appointment he held from 2009 to 2012. Spriggs is currently Chief Economist to the AFL-CIO and Professor of Economics at Howard University. His illustrious career to date – spanning unions, public service, nonprofit think tanks, government, and academia – has focused on maximizing equity, fairness, and inclusion through social insurance.

Across all of his positions, Spriggs has made substantial contributions consistent with the spirit, ideals, and work of Bob Ball. His insightful scholarship has underscored the importance of social insurance to the U.S. economy and to vulnerable populations such as low-income workers, women, and people of color.

“Bill Spriggs is a trailblazer for economic justice,” said Maya Rockey Moore, President and CEO of Global Policy Solutions and Academy Board member. “His commitment to ensuring economic equality, worker safety, and expanding opportunities for all Americans has literally forged a path where there wasn’t one before.”

As Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Labor, Spriggs worked with a team to coordinate regulatory processes, develop metrics for expectations on health, and ensure those efforts incorporated inclusive growth. During his tenure, Spriggs represented the United States and played a key role in helping draft The ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation of 2012. Much like the Academy’s work on an international level, this recommendation encourages other countries to think about comprehensive social security systems and aims to ensure that all members of society enjoy at least a basic level of economic security throughout their lives.

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- Research and Analysis
- Project Management
- Event Management
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- Technical Writing

**Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, Ph.D.**

President and CEO  
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**Congratulations to William Spriggs**  
**2016 Recipient of the Robert M. Ball Award**  
**for Outstanding Achievements in**  
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THE GIVING  
OF ONESELF  
TO OTHERS  
THAT WE  
TRULY LIVE."**

—Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus  
*Founder AARP*

Congratulations to 2016 Robert M. Ball winner  
William Spriggs. We applaud your leadership  
and public service.



# AFL-CIO

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Congratulations to Bill Spriggs,  
from your colleagues at the AFL-CIO, on being  
the recipient of the Robert M. Ball Award for  
Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance.

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The Service Employees International Union **Congratulates**  
**William Spriggs**: 2016 winner of the Robert M. Ball  
Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance.



As union members, we are all fighting for every family to succeed. Together with The National Academy of Social Insurance, our partners, supporters and all those who believe in the irrefutable cause for justice—we are unstoppable.



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Questions? Please contact Kristine Quinio, Director of Development and Administration, by e-mail at [kquinio@nasi.org](mailto:kquinio@nasi.org) or at (202) 243-7008.

**“Social insurance is the basic insurance policy Americans have for social stability, a modicum of social justice, and a society in which risks are taken freely and energetically because there is some protection against catastrophe and social breakdown.”**

**E.J. Dionne, Jr., *Washington Post*, “Why Social Insurance?”, January 1999.**



## About the Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance

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Each year, the National Academy of Social Insurance presents the Robert M. Ball Award to an individual whose recent work has made a significant impact on the U.S. social insurance system.

No individual has done more to advance American social insurance programs than Robert M. Ball. From his early appointment in a field office to his selection as Commissioner of Social Security by President Kennedy in 1962, to advisory roles in each of the following presidential administrations, Bob Ball sought a balance between political pragmatism and his determination to protect the principles of social insurance. He was the single most influential individual in advancing American social insurance programs for over 60 years.

Bob Ball served as Commissioner of Social Security from 1962 to 1973. He also played a crucial role in the origin of Medicare in 1965, and then successfully carried out the ambitious task of implementing the program. Ball founded the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) in 1986 and continued to advise presidential administrations and policy-makers and to write on Social Security, Medicare, national health insurance and welfare until his death in January 2008 at the age of 93. Bob Ball's greatest gift was his ability to persuade policymakers in countless contexts to put aside partisanship for the sake of posterity.

### Previous winners of the Robert M. Ball Award

#### **KAREN DAVIS (2015)**

Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

#### **MARILYN MOON (2014)**

Director, Center on Aging, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

#### **ALICE M. RIVLIN (2013)**

Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution and Visiting Professor, Georgetown University

#### **ROBERT D. REISCHAUER (2012)**

Distinguished Institute Fellow and President Emeritus, Urban Institute

#### **JOHN C. ROTHER (2010)**

President and CEO, National Coalition on Health Care

#### **ALICIA H. MUNNELL (2009)**

Director, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

#### **PETER DIAMOND (2008)**

Institute Professor Emeritus, MIT

#### **HENRY AARON (2007)**

Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

#### **MONROE BERKOWITZ (2006)**

Professor of Economics, Rutgers University (1919-2009)

#### **BRUCE C. VLADECK (2005)**

Senior Advisor, Nexera Incorporated

#### **STEPHEN C. GOSS (2004)**

Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration

## About the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)

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The National Academy of Social Insurance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization made up of the nation's leading experts on social insurance. Its mission is to advance solutions to challenges facing the nation by increasing public understanding of how social insurance contributes to economic security.

Social insurance encompasses broad-based systems that help workers and their families pool risks to avoid loss of income due to retirement, death, disability, or unemployment and to ensure access to health care. Despite the importance of social insurance in the United States, few people know the programs well. The Academy was established as an independent organization to promote informed discussion and debate on social insurance issues and to stimulate fresh thinking.

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