On June 30, 2007, Peter G. Peterson retired from the Council’s Board of Directors after thirty-three years. He served as chairman of the Board for twenty-two years, and the Board has named him chairman emeritus. Council members gathered to pay tribute to Pete at a dinner in New York, where his formal portrait was unveiled; at the National Conference; and at a lunch in Washington, DC. The following are a few quotes from the toasts that were offered during these events.

DAVID ROCKEFELLER  It is very difficult to adequately express our gratitude to Pete for his outstanding leadership as chairman. Although I knew that he would take the Council to new heights when he succeeded me in the position, I am not sure that I could have predicted how innovative his leadership would be.

MAURICE R. GREENBERG  I think Pete’s greatest legacy will be the Council. The breadth and the inclusiveness that he has brought to this organization have made a big difference. It’s become more relevant to policymakers and to the public at large. The credibility of the Council has increased enormously. Pete has had the patience and the wisdom to lead these historic changes.

LESLIE H. GELB  Pete is a real guardian of the membership of this place, to see that it remains the heart of the foreign policy community in this country.

CARLA A. HILLS  Pete has the incredible knack for spotting an issue before it becomes a headline and then stimulating the Council to achieve a real understanding of it.
LEE CULLUM  I was told once that leadership depends on two things: command of the facts and the ability to win people’s trust. Certainly Pete Peterson has both. But the qualities that perhaps make him really a great leader are his qualities as a person.

ROBERT E. RUBIN  A journalist asked me recently about the role the great public citizens have played in American life, and asked who I thought played that role of the public citizen today. I answered that it seemed to me there were a number of people who contributed greatly to our country as public citizens, and that foremost amongst them was Pete Peterson.

RICHARD N. HAASS  Pete is generous with more than just his thoughts. He has intelligently, skillfully, and strategically used what he has earned in the business world to assist numerous organizations and institutions, including this one. May he be a role model for the future.

ALAN GREENSPAN  Pete has been a true renaissance man and a good friend. He is dedicated to making the world better and he has. He exemplifies what is possible in America for someone with talent and principles.

THEODORE C. SORENSEN  We’re here tonight to salute Pete’s twenty-two years at the top. . . . I can say on behalf of everybody here that I think we’re fortunate to have a great American like Pete Peterson.