

PRESS RELEASE  
March 31, 2009

Contact: Sherri Ferris  
Email: [sherri@protocolprofessionals.com](mailto:sherri@protocolprofessionals.com)

### **AMBASSADOR NANCY BRINKER JOINS HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD OF PDI-POA**

ATLANTA – Chris Young, President of Protocol & Diplomacy International – Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA), announced today that the Honorable Nancy G. Brinker, former Chief of Protocol of the United States, will join other distinguished leaders as a member of the organization's honorary advisory board. Ambassador Brinker served as the top protocol officer for the U.S. during the last two years of the most recent Bush Administration.

"I am proud to join this group of dedicated professionals," Brinker said. "Protocol officers provide an extremely important service to the world. They are the people who create the right atmosphere for diplomacy and business to succeed."

Brinker was an innovator in her role at the State Department. Most notably, she successfully established the "Experience America" program where the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C., had the opportunity to understand firsthand the business, civic, political, and cultural climate of regions of the United States outside the Beltway.

Upon the conclusion of her service as Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Brinker returned to lead Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an organization she founded in 1982 and dedicated to the elimination of breast cancer through research, education, and health services. She also served as the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 2001-2003.

"We are extraordinarily proud to welcome Ambassador Brinker to our honorary advisory board," Young said. "For the past two years she represented the United States with grace and dignity, shining brightly on the most prominent stage in our profession. With her wealth of experience and willingness to share, she will be an invaluable resource for our members."

Ambassador Brinker joins two of her predecessors, Selwa Roosevelt (Reagan Administration) and Joseph Verner Reed (G.H.W. Bush Administration) on the honorary advisory board.

Founded in 2002, Protocol and Diplomacy International – Protocol Officers Association is our nation's first official protocol officers association. It was established at the first international protocol conference held at the United States Department of State in Washington, D.C. The Board of Directors and Honorary Advisors are individuals respected in the field worldwide for their protocol expertise.

The organization's mission is to provide the highest level of collective expertise, training, information, and advice regarding internationally and nationally accepted rules of protocol. PDI-POA is committed to facilitating communication, understanding, and cooperation between individuals, governments and cultures.

The organization's Eighth Annual International Protocol Education Forum, "Form and Substance: International Protocol in a National Capital," will be held in Washington, D.C., August 4-7, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.protocolinternational.org/>.

###