AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
One Hundred and Forty-third Commencement

SPECIAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MAY 21, 2022
ORDER OF EVENTS

Sylvia M. Burwell, University President, Presiding
Lilian Baera-Mendoza, Vice Chair, Faculty Senate, University Marshal

ALUMNI GRADUATE PROCESSIONAL
Prelude Brass Ensemble

FACULTY AND PLATFORM PARTY PROCESSIONAL
DC Emerald Society Pipes and Drums

WELCOME
Sylvia M. Burwell, University President

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Sylvie Wickwire

INVOCATION
Reverend Bryant Oskvig, University Chaplain

INTRODUCTION OF ALUMNI GRADUATE SPEAKERS
Fanta Aw, Vice President, Undergraduate Enrollment, Campus Life, and Inclusive Excellence

ALUMNI GRADUATE ADDRESSES
Adrika Sylmi Lazarus, SIS/MA '20
Yara Doumit, Kogod/BSBA '21

CONFERRAL OF HONORARY DEGREE
Peter Starr, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
President Burwell
Edward J. O'Keefe, SPA/BA '05, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Edward J. O'Keefe

PRESIDENT’S CHARGE TO ALUMNI GRADUATES
President Burwell

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREES
Provost Starr
President Burwell
Collage of Arts and Sciences
School of Public Affairs
Washington College of Law
School of International Service
School of Communication

RECOGNITION OF DOCTORAL DEGREES
Provost Starr
President Burwell
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Communication
School of Public Affairs
School of Education
School of International Service
Office of Professional Studies
Kogod School of Business
Washington College of Law

PRESENTATION OF MASTER’S AND BACHELOR’S DEGREES
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College of Arts and Sciences
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Washington College of Law

RECESSINAL
DC Emerald Society Pipes and Drums

(Audience will rise and remain standing until the platform party, faculty, and alumni graduates have left the arena.)

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

EDWARD J. O'KEEFE, SPA/BA '05
Doctor of Humane Letters

Ed O’Keefe is senior White House and political correspondent, reporting regularly for the CBS Evening News, CBS Mornings, Face the Nation, and the CBS News Streaming Network.

O’Keefe has covered the Biden administration from day one and previously served as lead correspondent for the Biden-Harris campaign and presidential transition. Over the course of the 2020 campaign cycle, he led coverage of the Democratic presidential contest from the early primary states and conducted several interviews with top contenders.

O’Keefe served as the CBS’s lead correspondent at the 2020 Democratic National Convention and helped lead coverage of election night and the ensuing days from CBS News's election headquarters in New York City. He also helped lead the network's hours-long coverage of the January 6, 2021, assault on the United States Capitol.

Since joining CBS News in April 2018, O’Keefe has also contributed to coverage of the 2018 midterm elections; the contentious confirmation hearing for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh; the funerals of former president George H. W. Bush, former Arizona senator John McCain, and former Georgia congressman John Lewis; the record-long 2019 federal government shutdown, and the scandals that rocked the Commonwealth of Virginia’s government that same year.

O’Keefe previously spent more than a dozen years with the Washington Post covering Congress, federal agencies, and presidential elections. He is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and once served as one of the group's national vice presidents.

A proud 2005 graduate of American University’s School of Public Affairs, O’Keefe grew up in Delmar, New York. He and his wife, Valerie, SOC/BA ’05, have two young daughters and live in Washington, DC.

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