

Report on National Academy of Sciences Event, April 25, 2015

by

R. Norris Keeler
C. H. Gibson, Editor

On April 25, there was a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), here in Washington. Shortly before this, Miriam and I received an invitation from Russia that a close personal friend, Academician Vladimir Fortov was to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences as a Foreign Associate on that date, and we were to be guests of honor for that ceremony.

But two days before that event, we were asked to arrive two hours early, and report to the Board Room of the NAS.

Upon arriving there, we were greeted by Fortov. and were seated, When everyone had arrived Fortov began the meeting. He said that the Russian Academy of sciences has taken action to honor two American scientists. These were Peter Lax. a famous mathematician, and the other was me. Lax was the recipient of the Lomonosov gold medal, and I was the winner of the Semonov Medal. Historically, Lomonosov founded the Russian Academy of Sciences, under Peter the Great, and N. N. Semonov was a Nobel Laureate for his work on chemical chain reactions. He founded the Institute of Chemical Physics, where Fortov did much of his early work.

Fortov cited Lax's work in game theory, and some recent studied of soitons observed in solutins of partial differential equations. Fortov cited my leadership in shock wave science, and of joint oceanographic expeditions which led to an improved understanding of ocean turbulence.

Following our acceptance comments, and after a short reception we returned to the auditorium and our seats for the banquet, and induction of new members to the NAS, My wife and I were seated next to Fortov at Table 1, along with the President (American) of the NAS.

In our meeting before the general convocation Fortov and the VP of the RAS were present, along with the Russian ambassador, and the TASS Washington Office director.

Photos are attached.

Photo 1; Keeler giving acceptance speech

Photo 2 Some principals at the ceremony' Lev Zeleny. VP, RAS; Bruce Darling, Executive Director, NAS R. N. Keeler, Semonov Award honoree; Vladimir Fortov, President, RAS; Peter Lax. Lomonosov Medal recipient



Semonov Medal, Awarded to R. Norris Keeler by Vladimir Fortov on April 25, 2015.