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Denise L. Pease Takes Oath of Office as GSA Regional Administrator

NEW YORK CITY — Federal and local officials, other dignitaries, special guests and her many family members and friends gathered today to attend the swearing-in ceremony of **Denise L. Pease** as Regional Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration's Northeast and Caribbean Region. The event took place at GSA's regional headquarters in the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in New York City. Pease, appointed to this position by President Obama, officially joined the GSA region on Monday, September 13.

Former six-term Congressman from California, **Tony Coelho**, was a guest speaker at the morning event. Coelho, who is renowned for championing the rights of the disabled and for sponsoring the Americans With Disabilities Act, is Chairman of the Board of the American Association of People with Disabilities and a former chairman of the Epilepsy Foundation of America. An Invocation during the program was delivered by former New York Congressman, the Reverend **Dr. Floyd H. Flake**, Senior Pastor of the Greater Allen Cathedral in Jamaica, NY.

Among the dignitaries and special guests were Congressman **Joseph Crowley** of New York's Seventh District and Congressman **Jerrold Nadler** of New York's Eighth District. Also in the audience were former New York City Comptroller **Bill Thompson**, President of the NAACP New York State Conference **Dr. Hazel N. Dukes**, and New York State Assemblyman **Hakeem Jeffries**, among others.

As she took the oath of office, Pease was surrounded by members of her family including her aunts **Loretta Pease Tolson**, **Mary Elizabeth Mathis**, and **Rose Dunklin**, uncle **Alfred Leon Dunklin**, her goddaughters **Monica W. Morris** and **Jada Denise Brooks**, and godson **Elkanah Carnell Reed**. The oath was administered by **Stephen Leeds**, Senior Counselor to **GSA Administrator Martha Johnson**, who was also in attendance to witness the ceremony.

In her comments after taking the oath of office, Pease reflected on the duties and responsibilities of those who dedicate their lives to public service stating, "While I stand on the shoulders of so many of my family and ancestors, my devotion to public service is to insure that everyone particularly our youth, our future have a better world in which we live.... We have become public servants because we want every child's future to be better than our past."

As the Region 2 Regional Administrator, Pease oversees the federal government's real estate portfolio, procurement of goods and services, and information technology for New York, Northern New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. GSA's Northeast and Caribbean Region has approximately 700 employees, an annual operating budget of \$1.4 billion and a real estate portfolio that includes 72 government-owned buildings and leased space in 469 commercial buildings. The region is also

managing a number of major projects, including the expansion of several border stations along the U.S. border with Canada; the construction of a new federal courthouse in Buffalo, New York; the return of federal tenants to the World Trade Center site; the and more than \$480 million in projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“Denise is recognized as a dedicated and insightful leader, and as a thoughtful and thorough policy strategist. Thanks to her considerable talents, I am confident that she will be an asset to our leadership team as we work to accomplish the important work given to GSA by the Administration,” said Martha N. Johnson, Administrator of General Services.

Pease most recently served as Assistant Comptroller of Commercial Banking for New York Comptroller William Thompson. In that capacity, she was the liaison between New York City’s banking and financial community and the city leadership.

Prior to joining the Comptroller’s office, Pease served as Deputy Superintendent of Banks for New York State, one of the country’s senior financial regulatory positions, and she has been instrumental in developing financial literacy consumer education programs. Pease is a nationally recognized voice on consumer education, community development, and the financial industry.

In 1995, Pease was in a car accident that caused severe trauma to her brain, and she was later diagnosed with epilepsy. After a five year struggle to diagnose and recover from the effects of the accident, Pease became a national advocate and champion for persons with disabilities.

Pease received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University, was a National Urban Fellow, and a Charles H. Revson Fellow on the Future of New York at Columbia University.

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