

March 2019



John Berry

Former OPM Director and Ambassador to Australia

Ambassador Berry got to know the US democratic system from the bottom up. He started in management for the Montgomery County government, moving on to become a legislative director for U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer, and associate staffer on the House Appropriations Committee.

Berry also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary and acting Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement in the U.S. Treasury Department, as a senior policy advisor at the Smithsonian Institution, as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget at the U.S. Department of the Interior. John also served as director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and later of the National Zoo.

In 2013, President Obama named Berry as the Ambassador to Australia. In 2016, was named President of the American Australian Association (AAA). The AAA was founded nearly 70 years to promote cooperation and understanding between the United States and Australia.

Subject Area/Topic: WHAT CAN THE U.S. LEARN FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM?

Highlights: Ambassador Berry described four pillars that underlie a very positive US/Australia relationship.

- **Military.** On July 4, 1918, Australian General John Monash led a combined force of Australian and US troops in a 93-minute capture of the French town of Hamel. From that time on, Australia is the only country that has joined forces with the US in every war we have fought since then—including Iraq and Syria.
- **Trade.** Our free-trade agreement with Australia results in a trillion dollars of trade back and forth, 35,000 American jobs and our third largest trade surplus. (Australia has been exempted from Trump tariffs.)
- **Intelligence.** Former US Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper stressed the importance of Australia to our national security. Because Australia is very stable geologically, our listening network there can pinpoint underground nuclear testing with great accuracy.
- **Space.** Australia provides us with a base for Southern Hemisphere observation that is critical for science and security. The U.S. has invested \$100 million in a facility to maintain communication with Mars.