## The George Washington University’s Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients*
### 2000 to 2017

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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| 2017 | Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator (D-III.)  
      | Nadja West, U.S. Army Lieutenant General and U.S. Army Surgeon General  
      | Marty Baron, executive editor, The Washington Post |
| 2016 | Cory Booker, U.S. Senator (D-N.J.)  
      | Joanna Shields, under-secretary of state and minister for internet safety and security for Her Majesty’s Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland  
      | Albert H. Small, philanthropist and president of Southern Engineering Corporation |
| 2015 | Tim Cook, Apple CEO  
      | Carole M. Watson, Ph.D. ’78, former acting chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
      | Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health |
| 2014 | José Andrés, world-renowned chef and founder of ThinkFoodGroup  
      | Maudine R. Cooper, retired Greater Washington Urban League executive  
      | Russell Ramsey, B.B.A. ’81, chairman emeritus of the GW Board of Trustees and founder, chairman and CEO of Ramsey Asset Management. |
| 2013 | Kerry Washington, B.A. ’98, actress and activist  
      | Thad Allen, M.P.A. ’86, 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral  
      | Harriet Mayor Fulbright, M.F.A. ’75, international education advocate |
| 2012 | Brian Williams, *NBC Nightly News* anchor  
      | Carlos Slim, business leader and humanitarian  
      | Clarice Smith, artist |
| 2011 | Michael Bloomberg, New York City Mayor  
      | William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr., attorney  
      | Peggy Cooper Cafritz, arts advocate |
| 2010 | Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States of America  
      | Dave Brubeck, pianist and composer  
      | A. James Clark, chairman of the board and CEO, Clark Enterprises, Inc. |
| 2009 | Rahm Emanuel, chief of staff to President Barack Obama  
      | Jeanne Narum, director of Project Kaleidoscope and the Independent Colleges Office  
      | John Safer, B.A. ’47, artist |
| 2008 | Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP  
      | Daniel Inouye, J.D. ’52, U.S. Senator  
      | Charles T. Manatt, J.D. ’62, former chairman, GW Board of Trustees  
      | Mike McConnell, M.P.A. ’86, director of National Intelligence |
- Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, GW president emeritus and University Professor of Public Service
- Wolf Blitzer, veteran broadcast journalist and CNN anchor
- Ralph J. Cicerone, president of the National Academy of Sciences
- Linda W. Cropp, former chairwoman of the Council of the District of Columbia
- Harvey V. Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine
- Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., president of the Trust for America’s Health and former United States Senator and Connecticut Governor

2006
- George H.W. and Barbara Bush, former president of the United States and former first lady of the United States
- Sumner Redstone, chairman of Viacom, CBS Corporation, and National Amusements, Inc.
- Frank Robinson, baseball Hall of Fame player

2005
- Andy Rooney, CBS News commentator
- Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor and professor of physics and electrical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Alberto Ibargüen, publisher of Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald
- Retired Major General Philip K. Russell, M.D.

2004
- Luther W. Brady, B.A. ’46, M.D. ’48, professor of clinical oncology
- Leon Lederman, physicist and Nobel Laureate
- Gail Kern Paster, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library
- General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

2003
- Mark Warner, B.A. ’77, Governor of Virginia
- Sen. Jean Carnahan (D-Mo.)
- Sheldon S. Cohen, former IRS Commissioner
- Madeleine Jacobs, editor-in-chief of Chemical & Engineering News
- Billy Taylor, jazz musician

2002
- Darrell Green, Washington Redskins defensive full back
- Jim Hall, former chairman of National Transportation Safety Board
- Lois Green Schwoerer, award-winning author
- Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University
- John D. Zeglis, chairman and CEO of AT&T Wireless Services

2001
- Tony Bennett, entertainer
- Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation
- Charlene Drew Jarvis, president of Southeastern University
- H.R. Shepherd, inventor of the metered dose inhaler
- Leonard Slatkin, music director of National Symphony Orchestra
- John R. Tydings, president of Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Herman Wouk, Pulitzer Prize winner

2000
- Madeline Albright, Secretary of State
- Sir Martin Gilbert, noted historian and biographer
- Rep. John Lewis (D-GA)
- James Wolfensohn, World Bank group president

Featured speakers are listed first. For a full list of honorary degree recipients dating back to 1827 visit: [https://provost.gwu.edu/honorary-degree-recipients](https://provost.gwu.edu/honorary-degree-recipients)

For information about GW’s Commencement on the National Mall, visit [commencement.gwu.edu](http://commencement.gwu.edu).

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