The George Washington University’s Commencement Speakers and Honorary Degree Recipients Since 2000

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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| 2018 | *Marcia McNutt*, president, National Academy of Sciences  
*Elana Meyers Taylor*, B.S., '06, M.T.A. '11, U.S. Olympic athlete  
*Steven Knapp*, president emeritus, The George Washington University |
| 2017 | *Tammy Duckworth*, U.S. Senator (D-III.)  
*Nadja West*, U.S. Army Lieutenant General and U.S. Army Surgeon General  
| 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*, president emeritus, The George Washington University |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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| 2007 | 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  
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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