



Citation

George Herbert Walker Bush, your entire career has been marked by exceptional and selfless service to the security and well-being of the American people.

Your service to the nation began shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when at the age of 18, you finished high school and immediately joined the Navy. As a young naval aviator, you experienced combat first-hand in the South Pacific, including the mission during which your torpedo plane was hit and caught fire. You stayed the course and completed the mission before parachuting into the sea and being rescued hours later by a submarine. By the war's end, you had flown 58 combat missions and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery.

After the war, you again served the nation as a member of Congress from 1967 through 1971, when you represented the Houston area in the House of Representatives, casting votes in support of many historic pieces of legislation including the Civil Rights Act of 1967 and the legislation that ended the draft.

Following your time in Congress, you next served our nation as a diplomat, first as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 1971 to 1973, and then as the Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China.

Next, you were called to serve as the leader of the Intelligence Community in the challenging and politically charged atmosphere of the post-Watergate era. Your leadership as the Director of Central Intelligence from 30 January 1976 to 20 January 1977 is credited with restoring the morale of the CIA, which was reeling from the findings of the Church Commission. The CIA Headquarters complex, renamed the George Bush Center for Intelligence in 1999, stands as a testament to how critically important a role you played in the Intelligence Community.

After a brief return to private life, during which you were a professor at Rice University and a director with the Council on Foreign Relations, you returned to serve our nation as Vice President for eight years under President Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1989.

When you took the oath of office to become our 41st President, you also became the ultimate consumer of U.S. intelligence, a role for which you alone among all presidents were uniquely prepared. You first learned to appreciate the value of intelligence as a warfighter in the cockpit of Navy Avenger in World War II. At the UN and in Beijing, you understood the value of intelligence as an enabler of diplomacy. As Director of Central Intelligence, you learned to appreciate the difficult balance between protecting secrets and protecting the values of a democracy. As Commander-in-Chief, you used those hard-earned lessons to help keep the nation safe during a period that included the fall of the Berlin Wall, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, military action in Panama, and the Liberation of Kuwait. Throughout your presidency, you used intelligence as an instrument of national power and in support of foreign policy to our collective best advantage and to great result.

Today, the National Intelligence University takes great pride in recognizing your career as an exemplar of the highest ideals of service to the security and well-being of the nation by awarding you the degree of *Doctor of Strategic Intelligence, Honoris Causa*.