

For Their Ideas



The Kennedy Society of Denmark

The Kennedy Society of Denmark was founded in Toreby's oldest school on 29th May, 1967 – John F. Kennedy's 50th birthday – after a memorial service in Toreby church. The Society was founded by Pastor Svend Aage Nielsen, Toreby.

The purpose of the Society is:

"Keeping alive John F. and Robert F. Kennedy's inspiration and philosophy of life, so that their good words can be translated into good deeds."

The Society is non-partisan, independent and works ecumenical. It is run by a board of 5 members, and it has an annual meeting in accordance with its rules. With the purpose one are welcome as a member for 5 dollars a year as a student and as a retired and 10 dollars for others. Svend Aage Nielsen has written the book *John F. Kennedy Livssyn* 1967 in Danish. And *KENNEDY'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. Revolution of Love and Visions of Peace*, 1981, New York.

The Kennedy Society has worked with articles and public statements about the ideas of the Kennedy brothers. It has also translated some Kennedy statements and speeches into Danish.

On the 25th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima the Society published the booklet "NEW FOREIGN POLICY – NOW" with John F. and Robert F. Kennedy's warnings against the growing risk of an atomic war.

The booklet was translated into English and Russian and has been sent to statesmen and politicians in both the East and the West.

Its vision was inspired by President John F. Kennedy's appeal on 20th January 1961 to create this clearly defined *new world order*: "Not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just, and the weak secure and the peace preserved."



The Rainbow over the UN in New York. **"For in the development of this organisation rests the only true alternative to war, and war appeals no longer as a rational alternative."**

President John F. Kennedy in his address in UN, September 25, 1961. Photo: Svend Aage Nielsen October 7 1981.

In the Society we want the ideas and visions of John F. and Robert F. Kennedy being followed today. Among them JFK's words on 20th January 1961: "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich... Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belabouring those problems which divide us." To understand the East better JFK stated July 25, 1961: "We recognize the Soviet Union's historical concerns about their security in Central and Eastern Europe, after a series of ravaging invasions..." and stated in his July 10, 1963 speech for Peace: "And no nation in the history of battle ever suffered more than the Soviet Union in the Second World War. At least 20 millions lost their lives." September 25, 1961 he said: "The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us." And RFK said July 9, 1965: "Guns and bombs

cannot fill empty stomachs or educate children, cannot build homes or heal the sick.."

Since 29th May 1977 the Society has used John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles in Courage" from 1956 with a sustainable Laudation as an award to **"a person who had shown courage to benefit his country."** The full Laudation can be seen under Awards at www.kennedysociety.dk *The Award have been presented:*

1980 to President *Anwar Sadat* for his courageous contribution to peace by his peace-mission to Jerusalem.

1981 to Her Majesty Queen *Margrethe II* of Denmark for her courageously expressed philosophy of life.

1982 to former Chancellor *Willy Brandt* for his courageous work for détente in Europe, and his kneeling in Warsaw.

1983 to *Andrei Sakharov* for his courageous critical words to the East and the West and his call for rapprochement.



Svend Aage Nielsen presents The Profiles in Courage Award in Rome August 8, 1984. Photo: Pontificia Fotografia, Felici.

1984 to Pope *John Paul II* for his courageous contribution to peace and reconciliation by condemning torture and suppression of human rights.

1985 to *Liv Ullmann* for her courageous contribution as UNICEF's first female goodwill-ambassador.

1986 to His Majesty King *Juan Carlos I* of Spain for his courageous commitment to Spain's democracy.

1987 to General Secretary *Mikhail Gorbachev* for his courage to initiate an open reform and peace policy toward the common goal: A World without weapons and violence (The New Delhi-declaration).

1988 to Land Parliament member *Karl Otto Meyer* for his courage on fundamental human rights for the Danish minority and the general interests of Germany.

1989 to Secretary-General *Peréz de Cuéllar* for his courageous challenge to the United Nations.



March 15, 1991, Prague. President Václav Havel receives the Award and 15 from the Society. Photo: Stina Løvgreen.

- 1990 to President Václav Havel for his courage throughout the years in the Charter 77-Movement; for his consistent ethical attitude when he became the leader of his country.
- 1991 to His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales for his courage to protect the environment, and our common heritage.
- 1992 to former Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen, Denmark for his courage for justice and human rights for all people.
- 1993 intended to President Richard von Weizsäcker, Germany for his courage against racism and anti-semitism.
- 1994 to the Danish Emergency Drivers in former Yugoslavia. At the risk of life and limb they voluntarily took food and medicine out to the needy and besieged minorities.



November 26, 1994 on Christiansborg, Copenhagen. Award receiver with Profiles in Courage and four in the board. Photo: Stina Løvgreen.

- 1995 to Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland for her efforts through the UN-report: "Our Common Future."

- 1996 to President of South Africa Nelson Mandela. For his courage in freeing all the people of South Africa.
- 1997 to Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma for her courage. And for civil-courage to demand a government of the people.
- 1998 to "Médecins Sans Frontiers." In the courageous and unselfish way they have crossed new frontiers.
- 1999 to Secretary-General of UN, Kofi Annan. He has shown courage in working for both peace and human rights.
- 2000 to Human Rights champion, Sergei Kovaljov, State Duma Deputy, Russia, for his courageous effort for human rights.
- 2001 to Chief Oncologist Carsten Rose, Lund. For his courage and his responsibility in the treatment of patients.
- 2002 to former President of Ireland Mary Robinson for her courageous contribution for human rights in the world.
- 2003 to His Holiness the Dalai Lama who has led a courageous non-violent struggle for liberty of his people and all people.



June 9, 2003 Copenhagen. His Holiness Dalai Lama receives the Award and thanks the chairman. Photo Ole F. Andersen

- 2004 to Senator Edward M. Kennedy for his courage to develop and promote the inspiration and ideas of his brothers.
- 2005 to Ted Sorensen for courage in the new Strategy of Peace.
- 2006 to the deminers and the work to ban cluster munition in the world, represented by the efforts by DanChurchAid.
- 2007 to archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu for his non-violent struggle against apartheid. For forgiveness and reconciliation for the hopes and dreams of human beings.
- 2008 to Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims in Denmark for courageous effort against torture.
- 2009 to her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan for her courage for women and against the threat of nuclear weapons.
- 2010 to Daniel Ellsberg for his courage as a whistle-blower to end the war in Vietnam by publishing the Pentagon Papers.

- 2011 to Somaly Mam Cambodia for her courage to translate what she has gone through into good deeds for many others.
- 2012 intended to prime minister Jens Stoltenberg for his courage to "more democracy, openness, humanity. But never naivety."



November 7, 2007 London. Archbishop Desmond Tutu receives the Award from the chairman. Photo: Kim Wiesener
2013 to Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for her courage for the Kennedy legacy against apathy and abuse of religion.



- Mrs. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Svend Aage Nielsen. May 30, 2013 in Munich by the Profiles in Courage Award-Ceremony.
- 2014 to International Red Cross. For 150 years Red Cross workers have shown courage in danger and in many challenges.
- 2015 to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I for his courage to unity, justice and peace for all.
- 2016 intended to Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel for her courage against Anti-semitism, racism and xenophobia.
- 2017 to Amnesty International for human rights to all people..

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