

2006 Keynote Speaker

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend



Ms. Townsend has a long history of accomplishment in the public arena and more recently in the private sector working with Rock Creek, a fund of hedge funds, for two years. As the State of Maryland's first woman lieutenant governor, Ms. Townsend was in charge of a multimillion dollar budget and had oversight of major cabinet departments, including Economic Development and Transportation. Prior to being elected lieutenant governor, Ms. Townsend served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

She taught foreign policy at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. In the mid-1980s, she founded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award.

Ms. Townsend currently serves on the boards of directors of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the Center for American Progress, the Points of Light Foundation, National Catholic Reporter, and the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Ms. Townsend is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Inter-American Dialogue. Previously, she served on the boards of the Export-Import Bank, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and the Wilderness Society and was the chairman of the board of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial.

An honors graduate of Harvard University, Ms. Townsend received her law degree from the University of New Mexico, where she was a member of the law review. She has received ten honorary degrees.

Ms. Townsend's book, *Failing America's Faithful: How Today's Churches Mixed God with Politics and Lost Their Way*, will be published by Warner Books in March 2007.

The eldest child of the late U.S. Senator and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy, Ms. Townsend lives in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband, David, a professor at St. John's College in Annapolis. They have four daughters, Meaghan (28), Maeve (26), Kate (22), and Kerry (14).