



Committee for The Swedish-American of the Year 2017

April 2017

Pressrelease

The Swedish-American of the Year 2017

Jan Eliasson was born September 17, 1940 in Gothenburg and is a well-known Swedish and international diplomat.

Vasa Orden of America has appointed Jan Eliasson as the Swedish-American of the Year for all the fantastic work he has done and continuing to do for world peace and understanding across the borders.

Jan Eliasson attended Hvitfeldska High School and was a foreign exchange student in Indiana 1957-1958. He has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Gothenburg. He is also an officer in the Navy reserve.

Jan Eliasson began his career in 1965 at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has worked in several countries.

He has served as mediator for the UN in the Iran/Irak conflict, in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and in Darfur, Sudan. He has also represented the UN in Somalia, Mozambique and the Balkans. He was the Swedish Ambassador to the UN in New York 1988 and 1992. He was the Under Secretary General at the UN 1992-1994 responsible for the newly created department for humanitarian aid. He served as Swedish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1994-2000.

Jan Eliasson was the Swedish Ambassador to the United States 2000-2005. In June 2005 he was the first Swede to be elected Chairman of the UN General Assembly, a mandate that lasted to 2006. In 2006 he was appointed Swedish Foreign Minister.

He has a profound interest in water issues, in particular for the developing world and was the first chairman of Water Aid, Sweden.

Jan Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations from July 2012 to December 31 2016. Jan Eliasson is married to former State Secretary for Higher Education Kerstin Eliasson. They have three grown-up children and eight grandchildren.

Jan Eliasson has also received many international awards for his work. In 2016 he was awarded the Government's Illis Quorum, 18th size for his lifelong and untiring work for peace and understanding between countries, both as a representative for Sweden and the United Nations.

Vasa Orden of America is very proud to appoint Jan Eliasson as the Swedish-American of the Year 2017. He has done enormous work for both Sweden and United States of America. He is also well-known for his humanitarian work.

The celebration for Jan Eliasson will take place in Filipstad and Karlstad on Saturday, August 5th.

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Vasa Orden of America has every year since 1960 appointed The Swedish American of the Year to commemorate the Swedish emigration to North America. 57 have received the honor and they represent a wide range of competences and talents, women as well as men. In recent years the honor has gone to:

2008 Barbro Osher, consul-general, 2009 Ann-Charlotte Hanes Harvey, professor in drama, 2010 John E. Norton, political scientist/historian, 2011 Kerstin Lane, head of museum, 2012 Ingvar Wikström, entrepreneur in Swedish cuisine, 2013 Martina Arfwidson, CEO Face Stockholm, 2014 Fred Bergsten, economist, 2015 Emily Tepe, singer, 2016 Nils Lofgren, musician

Chairman of the Committee for The Swedish-American of the Year 2017
Connie Grön
Illervägen 7
53157 Lidköping
Tel:+(0)510-27709
Connie.a.gron@lidkoping.org

