



The Honorable William F. Winter

Born in 1923 in Grenada, Mississippi, William F. Winter served in the armed forces in World War II and the Korean War. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mississippi in 1943 and an LL.B. in 1949. He has since been awarded over five honorary degrees.

William has served Mississippi in numerous official capacities including Governor 1980–1984; Lt. Governor 1972–1976; Mississippi State Treasurer 1964–1968; Mississippi State Tax Collector 1956–1964; and Representative in the Mississippi House of Representatives 1948–1956.

Governor Winter’s credentials within the academic community are long standing: Jamie Whitten Professor of Law and Government at the University of Mississippi School of Law (Fall 1989); Eudora Welty Professor of Southern Studies at Millsaps College (Spring 1989); Fellow, Institute of Politics, Harvard University (1985) and President, Ole Miss Alumni Association (1978).

He continues to practice law with the Jackson, Mississippi firm of Watkins Ludlum Winter & Stennis, P.A. as special counsel in the firm’s Government Relations Practice Group.

Governor Winter is most well known for his role in leading the charge for publicly funded primary education. His governance echoed his belief that all people, regardless of race or class, should be entitled to the same rights and privileges as the most privileged enjoys.

Governor Winter’s accomplishments were honored in 1997 when President Bill Clinton initiated “One America,” an unprecedented national conversation on race. Winter served on the board of One America, helping to bring the only deep-South public forum to the University of Mississippi.

President Bill Clinton has called Winter a “great champion of civil rights.” Positive changes stem from great leadership, and William is one of many guiding lights for Mississippi and America. On May 12, 2008, Governor Winter was honored at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. [Click here to read his acceptance speech.](#)