



The American Ambassadors Project

BLACK AMERICAN U.S. AMBASSADORS (1949-Present)

By Year of Appointment

166 Total Ambassadors: 109 living (66%); 57 deceased (34%)

Compiled by Dr. Carlton McLellan (Ph.D.)

1949	Edward R. Dudley* (NCA)	Liberia (1949-1953)
1950	NONE	
1951	NONE	
1952	NONE	
1953	Jessie D. Locker* (NCA)	Liberia (1953-1955)
1954	NONE	
1955	Richard L. Jones* (NCA)	Liberia (1955-1959)
1956	NONE	
1957	NONE	
1958	NONE	
1959	John Howard Morrow* (NCA)	Guinea (1959-1961)
1960	NONE	
1961	Clifton R. Wharton* (FSO) Mercer Cook* (NCA)	Norway (1961-1964) Niger (1961-1964)
1962	NONE	
1963	Carl T. Rowan* (NCA)	Finland (1963-1964)
1964	Clinton E. Knox* (FSO) Will Mercer Cook* (NCA)	Dahomey (1964-1969) Senegal & The Gambia (1964-1966)
1965	Patricia Roberts Harris* (NCA) Hugh H. Smythe* (NCA)	Luxembourg (1965-1967) Syria (1965-1968)

	Franklin H. Williams* (NCA)	Ghana (1965-1968)
1966	Elliot P. Skinner* (NCA)	Upper Volta (1966-1969)
1967	Hugh H. Smythe* (NCA)	Malta (1967-1969)
1968	Samuel C. Adams* (NCA)	Niger (1968-1969)
1969	Terence A. Todman* (FSO)	Chad (1969-1972)
	Samuel Z. Westerfield* (FSO)	Liberia (1969-1972)
	Clinton E. Knox* (FSO)	Haiti (1969-1973)
1970	Jerome H. Holland* (NCA)	Sweden (1970-1972)
	Clarence C. Ferguson, Jr. * (NCA)	Uganda (1970-1972)
1971	Charles J. Nelson* (NCA)	Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland (1971-1974)
	John E. Reinhardt* (FSO)	Nigeria (1971-1975)
1972	William B. Carter* (FSO)	Tanzania (1972-1975)
	Terence A. Todman * (FSO)	Guinea (1972-1975)
1973	O. Rudolph Aggrey* (FSO)	Senegal and The Gambia (1973-1977)
1974	David B. Bolen* (FSO)	Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland (1974-1976)
	Theodore R. Britton, Jr. (NCA)	Barbados and Grenada (1974-1976)
	Terence A. Todman* (FSO)	Costa Rica (1974-1977)
1975	NONE	
1976	Ronald D. Palmer* (FSO)	Togo (1976-1978)
	William B. Carter* (FSO)	Liberia (1976-1979)
	Charles A. James* (NCA)	Niger (1976-1979)
1977	Andrew J. Young (NCA)	USUN/ New York (1977-1979)
	Maurice D. Bean* (FSO)	Burma (1977-1979)
	Richard K. Fox, Jr.* (FSO)	Trinidad and Tobago (1977-1979)
	Mabel M. Smythe (NCA)	Cameroon (1977-1980)
	William B. Jones* (FSO)	Haiti (1977-1980)
	Wilbert J. LeMelle* (NCA)	Kenya & The Seychelles (1977-1980)
	David B. Bolen*(FSO)	East Germany (1977-1980)
	Ulrich S. Haynes, Jr.* (NCA)	Algeria (1977-1981)
	O. Rudolph Aggrey* (FSO)	Romania (1977-1981)
1978	Terence A. Todman* (FSO)	Spain (1978-1983)
1979	Mabel M. Smythe* (NCA)	Equatorial Guinea (1979-1980)
	Donald F. McHenry (NCA)	USUN/ New York (1979-1981)
	Horace G. Dawson (FSO)	Botswana (1979-1981)
	Anne F. Holloway* (NCA)	Mali (1979-1981)
	William B. Carter* (FSO)	At-Large (Liaison w/ State & Local Gov't) (1979-1981)
	Barbara M. Watson* (NCA)	Malaysia (1980-1981)

1980	Walter C. Carrington* (NCA)	Senegal (1980-1981)
1981	Gerald E. Thomas* (NCA) John A. Burroughs, Jr. * (NCA) Ronald D. Palmer* (FSO) Melvin H. Evans* (NCA)	Guyana (1981-1983) Malawi (1981-1984) Malaysia (1981-1984) Trinidad and Tobago (1981-1984)
1982	Howard K. Walker* (FSO)	Togo (1982-1984)
1983	Arthur W. Lewis* (FSO) Gerald E. Thomas* (NCA) George E. Moose (FSO) Terence A. Todman* (FSO)	Sierra Leone (1983-1986) Kenya (1983-1989) Benin (1983-1986) Denmark (1983-1989)
1984	NONE	
1985	Edward J. Perkins* (FSO) Irvin Hicks, Sr. (FSO)	Liberia (1985-1986) The Seychelles (1985-1987)
1986	Ronald D. Palmer* (FSO) Cynthia Shepard Perry* (FSO) Edward J. Perkins* (FSO)	Mauritius (1986-1989) Sierra Leone (1986-1989) South Africa (1986-1989)
1987	NONE	
1988	Leonard H. O. Spearman, Sr.* (NCA) George E. Moose (FSO) John A. Burroughs, Jr.* (NCA)	Rwanda (1988-1990) Senegal (1988-1991) Uganda (1988-1991)
1989	Ruth V. Washington** (NCA) Howard K. Walker* (FSO) Johnny Young* (FSO) Cynthia Shepard Perry* (NCA) Terence A. Todman* (FSO) Jewel Stradford Lafontant* (NCA)	The Gambia (1989) Madagascar & The Comoros (1989-1992) Sierra Leone (1989-1992) Burundi (1989-1993) Argentina (1989-1993) At-Large (U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs) (1989-1993)
1990	J. Steven Rhodes (NCA) Aurelia Erskine Brazeal (FSO) Arlene Render (FSO) Leonard H. O. Spearman, Sr.* (NCA)	Zimbabwe (1990) Micronesia (1990-1993) The Gambia (1990-1993) Lesotho (1990-1993)
1991	Charles R. Baquet, III (FSO) Johnnie Carson (FSO)	Djibouti (1991-1993) Uganda 1991-1994)

	Edward J. Perkins* (FSO)	USUN/ New York (1992-1993)
1992	Irvin Hicks, Sr. (FSO)	Alternate Representative of the U.S. to the 47th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (With Rank of Ambassador) (1992-1993)
	Ruth A. Davis* (FSO)	Benin (1992-1995)
	Kenton Wesley Keith (FSO)	Qatar (1992-1995)
	Joseph Monroe Segars* (FSO)	Cape Verde (1992-1996)
1993	Aurelia Erskine Brazeal (FSO)	Kenya (1993-1996)
	Edward J. Perkins* (FSO)	Australia (1993-1996)
	Leslie M. Alexander (FSO)	Mauritius & The Comoros (1993-1996)
	Howard F. Jeter (FSO)	Botswana (1993-1996)
	Walter C. Carrington* (NCA)	Nigeria (1993-1997)
1994	Carl B. Stokes* (NCA)	The Seychelles (1994-1995)
	Irvin Hicks, Sr. (FSO)	Ethiopia (1994-1996)
	Johnny Young* (FSO)	Togo (1994-1997)
	Jerome G. Cooper* (NCA)	Jamaica (1994-1997)
	Sidney Williams	Bahamas (1994-1998)
1995	Johnnie Carson (FSO)	Zimbabwe (1995-1997)
	Mosina H. Jordan (FSO)	Central African Republic (1995-1997)
	Bismark Myrick* (FSO)	Lesotho (1995-1998)
	James A. Joseph* (NCA)	South Africa (1995-1999)
1996	Leslie M. Alexander (FSO)	Ecuador (1996-1999)
	John F. Hicks, Sr.* (FSO)	Eritrea (1996-1997)
	Arlene Render (FSO)	Zambia (1996-1999)
	Sharon P. Wilkinson (FSO)	Burkina Faso (1996-1999)
1997	Betty E. King (NCA)	USUN/ECOSOC (1997-2001)
	George E. Moose (FSO)	USUN/Geneva (1997-2001)
	Johnny Young* (FSO)	Bahrain (1997-2001)
1998	Shirley E. Barnes (FSO)	Madagascar (1998-2001)
	William D. Clarke (FSO)	Eritrea (1998-2001)
	George W. B. Haley* (NCA)	The Gambia (1998-2001)
	Elizabeth D. McKune (FSO)	Qatar (1998-2001)
	Robert C. Perry (FSO)	Central African Republic (1998-2001)
	George M. Staples (FSO)	Rwanda (1998-2001)
	Charles R. Stith (NCA)	Tanzania (1998-2001)

1999	Carol Moseley-Braun (NCA) Diane E. Watson (NCA) Gregory L. Johnson (FSO) Delano Eugene Lewis, Sr.* (NCA) Harriet L. Elam-Thomas (FSO) Bismark Myrick* (FSO) Sylvia Gaye Stanfield (FSO) Johnnie Carson (FSO)	New Zealand & Samoa (1999-2001) Micronesia (1999-2001) Swaziland (1999-2001) South Africa (1999-2001) Senegal (1999-2002) Liberia (1999-2002) Brunei Darussalam (1999-2002) Kenya (1999-2003)
2000	Pamela E. Bridgewater (FSO) Sharon P. Wilkinson (FSO) Howard F. Jeter (FSO)	Benin (2000-2002) Mozambique (2000-2003) Nigeria (2000-2003)
2001	Mattie R. Sharpless (FSO) George M. Staples (FSO) Arlene Render (FSO) Johnny Young* (FSO) Francis X. Taylor (NCA)	Central African Republic (2001-2002) Cameroon/Equatorial Guinea (2001-2004) Cote d'Ivoire (2001-2004) Slovenia (2001-2004) At-Large: Coordinator of Counter-Terrorism and Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2001-2004)
	Wanda L. Nesbitt (FSO)	Madagascar (2001-2004)
	Pierre-Richard Prosper (NCA) Roy L. Austin (NCA)	At-Large (Office of War Crimes) (2001-2005) Trinidad and Tobago (2001-2009)
2002	James D. McGee (FSO) Larry L. Palmer* (FSO) Joseph Huggins (FSO) James I. Gadsden (FSO) Aurelia E. Brazeal (FSO) Robin R. Sanders (FSO) Charles A. Ray (FSO) Gail Denise Mathieu (FSO) Francis X. Taylor (NCA) Richard L. Baltimore (FSO)	Swaziland (2002-2004) Honduras (2002-2005) Botswana (2002-2005) Iceland (2002-2005) Ethiopia (2002-2005) Congo (2002-2005) Cambodia (2002-2005) Niger (2002-2005) Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Diplomatic Security & Director, Office of Foreign Missions (with Rank of Ambassador) (2002-2005) Oman (2002-2006)
	Harry K. Thomas, Jr. (FSO)	Bangladesh (2003-2005)

2003	Roland W. Bullen (FSO)	Guyana (2003-2006)
	Jendayi E. Frazer (NCA)	South Africa (2004-2005)
2004	Margarita D. Ragsdale (FSO) June Carter Perry (FSO) Joyce A. Barr (FSO) James D. McGee (FSO)	Djibouti (2004-2006) Lesotho (2004-2007) Namibia (2004-2007) Madagascar & The Comoros (2004-2007)
2005	Roger D. Pierce (FSO) Pamela E. Bridgewater (FSO)	Cape Verde (2005-2007) Ghana (2005-2008)
	Cindy L. Courville (NCA)	African Union (2006-2008)
2006	Clyde Bishop (FSO) Eric M. Bost (NCA) Gayleatha B. Brown* (FSO) Bernadette M. Allen (FSO)	Marshall Islands (2006-2008) South Africa (2006-2009) Benin (2006-2009) Niger (2006-2010)
	Barry L. Wells (NCA) James D. McGee (FSO)	The Gambia (2007-2009) Zimbabwe (2007-2009)
2007	Maurice S. Parker (FSO) June Carter Perry (FSO) Gail D. Mathieu (FSO) John L. Withers (FSO) Eunice S. Reddick (FSO) Wanda L. Nesbitt (FSO) Robin R. Sanders (FSO)	Swaziland (2007-2009) Sierra Leone (2007-2009) Namibia (2007-2010) Albania (2007-2010) Gabon & Sao Tome and Principe (2007-2010) Cote d'Ivoire (2007-2010) Nigeria (2007-2010)
2008	John M. Jones (FSO) Marcia S. Bernicat (FSO) C. Steven McGann* (FSO) Linda Thomas-Greenfield (FSO)	Guyana (2008-2009) Senegal and Guinea Bissau (2008-2011) Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu (2008-2011) Liberia (2008-2012)
2009	Gayleatha Brown* (FSO) Nicole A. Avant (NCA) Charles A. Ray (FSO) Teddy B. Taylor (FSO) Susan E. Rice (NCA)	Burkina Faso (2009) Bahamas (2009-2011) Zimbabwe (2009-2012) Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu (2009-2012) USUN/ New York (2009-2013)

	Ron Kirk (NCA)	U.S. Trade Representative (with Rank of Ambassador) (2009-2013)
	Michael A. Battle (NCA)	African Union (2009-2013)
	Alfonso E. Lenhardt (NCA)	Tanzania (2009-2013)
	Bonnie D. Jenkins (NCA)	Coordinator for Thread Reduction Programs (with Rank of Ambassador) (2009-2017)
	Ertharin Cousins (NCA)	USUN/Rome (2009-2017)
	Mary Jo Wills (FSO)	Mauritius and The Seychelles (2010-2011)
	Beatrice Welters (NCA)	Trinidad and Tobago (2010-2012)
2010	William Kennard (NCA)	European Union (2010-2013)
	Wanda L. Nesbitt (FSO)	Namibia (2010-2013)
	Betty E. King (NCA)	USUN/Geneva (2010-2013)
	Harry K. Thomas, Jr. (FSO)	Philippines (2010-2013)
	Bisa Williams (FSO)	Niger (2010-2013)
	Helen Reed-Rowe* (FSO)	Palau (2010-2013)
	Pamela Bridgewater (FSO)	Jamaica (2010-2013)
	Suzan Johnson Cook (NCA)	At-Large (International Religious Freedom) (2011-2013)
2011	Pamela L. Spratlen (FSO)	Republic of Kyrgyzstan (2011-2014)
	Susan D. Page (NCA)	South Sudan (2011-2014)
	Sue K. Brown* (FSO)	Montenegro (2011-2015)
	Frankie A. Reed (FSO)	Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu (2011-2015)
	Adrienne S. O'Neal (FSO)	Cape Verde (2011-2015)
		Swaziland (2012-2015)
	Makila James (FSO)	
2012	Larry L. Palmer* (FSO)	Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis (East Caribbean, & the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) (2012-2016)
	Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley (FSO)	Malta (2012-2016)
	Reuben E. Brigety, II (NCA)	African Union (2013-2015)
2013	Tulinabo S. Mushingi (FSO)	Burkina Faso (2013-2016)
	Patrick H. Gaspard (NCA)	South Africa (2013-2016)
	Dwight L. Bush, Sr. (NCA)	Morocco (2014-2017)
2014	Michael A. Lawson (NCA)	International Civil Aviation Organization (2014-2017)
	Brian Nichols (FSO)	Peru (2014-2017)

	Eunice S. Reddick (FSO) Todd D. Robinson (FSO) Daniel W. Yohannes (NCA) Crystal Nix-Hines (NCA) Cynthia H. Akuetteh (FSO) Pamela L. Spratlen (FSO) Marcia S. Bernicat (FSO) Robert A. Wood (FSO)	Niger (2014-2017) Guatemala (2014-2017) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2014-2017) United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2014-2017) Gabon & Sao Tome and Principe (2014-2018) Uzbekistan (2014-2018) Bangladesh (2014-2018) U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament and U.S. Special Representative for Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention Issues (With Rank of Ambassador) (2014-2020)
2015	Gentry O. Smith (FSO) Stafford Fitzgerald Haney (NCA) Carolyn P. Alsup (FSO) Harry K. Thomas, Jr. (FSO)	Director of the Office of Foreign Missions (with Ambassador Rank) (2015-2017) Costa Rica (2015-2017) The Gambia (2015-2018) Zimbabwe (2015-2018)
2016	John L. Estrada (NCA)	Trinidad & Tobago (2016-2017)
2017	Tulinabo S. Mushingi (FSO)	Senegal & Guinea-Bissau (2017-2021)
2018	Joel E. Danies (FSO) Dereck J. Hogan (FSO) Brian A. Nichols (FSO)	Gabon & Sao Tome and Principe (2018-2019) Moldova (2018-2021) Zimbabwe (2018-2021)
2019	Natalie E. Brown (FSO)	Uganda (2019-2023)
2020	NONE	
2021	Linda Thomas-Greenfield (FSO) Michael A. Battle (NCA) Sharon L. Cromer (FSO) Tulinabo S. Mushingi (FSO) N. Nickolas Perry (NCA)	USUN/New York (2021-2025) Tanzania (2021-2025) The Gambia (2021- Present as of April 2025) Angola & Sao Tome and Principe (2021-2025) Jamaica (2021-2025)
2022	Yohannes Abraham (NCA) Jessica Davis Ba (FSO) Candace A. Bond (NCA)	Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (With Rank of Ambassador) (2022-2025) Cote d'Ivoire (2022-2025) Trinidad and Tobago (2022-2025)

	Rueben E Brigety, II (NCA) Timmy T. Davis (FSO) John Nkengasong (NCA)	South Africa (2022-2025) Qatar (2022-2025) Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally (With Rank of Ambassador-At Large) (2022-2025) Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations (With Rank of Ambassador) (2022-2025)
	Robert A. Wood (FSO)	
2023	Vernelle Trim FitzPatrick (FSO) Ervin J. Massinga (FSO)	Gabon (2023-2025) Ethiopia (2023-2025)
2024	Arthur W. Brown (FSO)	Ecuador (2004-Present as of April 2025)

NCA = Non Career Appointees
FSO = Foreign Service Officers

*Deceased (in red)

**Tragically, Ambassador Washington was killed in a car accident in January of 1990, in the United States, just one week prior to her departure to serve as U.S. Ambassador in The Gambia.