BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

U.S. Presidents Salute B'nai B'rith

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL
Since our founding in 1843, B’nai B’rith has been a leader in the fields of community service and philanthropy. Our vital work around the globe, spanning three centuries, has been recognized by U.S. presidents and other world leaders. • From Grover Cleveland to Donald Trump, American presidents have acknowledged that B’nai B’rith’s commitment to promoting programs of tolerance and diversity, enhancing cooperation between all races and religions and serving the vulnerable has enriched not only the Jewish people, but all people. • In the following pages you will find tributes from American presidents taken from their correspondence and public statements. Their words are an enduring testament to our unwavering commitment to building a better world: a commitment we carry into the future.
A society formed for the furtherance of such noble purposes as that of B’nai B’rith should not only excite the enthusiasm of its members, but should also inspire the good wishes of all who desire to see humanity bettered and the higher instincts of our nature cultivated.

GROVER CLEVELAND
1885-1889; 1893-1897
Hearty good wishes to
B’nai B’rith … all success in
its work of strengthening the
ties between man and man,
and contributing to the uplift
and betterment of humanity.
It has been a great educational
and enlightening factor in our
American life.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
1901-1909
I have great respect for
B’nai B’rith because of the good
which it has done. It is a body of
representative American citizens
that deserves the approval and
couragement of all their fellow
citizens.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
1909-1913
The fine work of B’nai B’rith … undoubtedly contributes to the uplift and betterment of the nation. I have been particularly interested in the work of education and philanthropy, and the effort to destroy the provincialism of prejudice as between races.

WOODROW WILSON
1913-1921
I hope that all America will catch the spirit of B’nai B’rith in campaigning against all movements aimed to rend the concord of American citizenship.

Fraternity must be the abiding purpose of our people.

WARREN G. HARDING
1921-1923
As my acquaintance with B’nai B’rith has widened, my regard for its high aims and effective methods has increased.

CALVIN COOLIDGE
1923-1929
It is a pleasure to bear witness to the high ideals of public service that animate B’nai B’rith, and to the practical intelligence with which its broad policies of social service and philanthropy are carried into execution. Its usefulness, not only in the United States but also in Europe and the Near East, is everywhere recognized with gratitude; while in this country I would especially commend its example in working for mutual magnanimity, understanding, and cooperation between all races and creeds.

HERBERT C. HOOVER
1929-1933
B’nai B’rith has effectively served the well-being of American Jewry and the Nation. Its philanthropic achievements are permanently enshrined … its endeavors in the realm of education exhibit a far-sighted understanding in the problems of the younger generation … its programs of good will strive toward harmony among the component elements comprising our American society.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
1933-1945
The fine patriotic service of
B’nai B’rith during the war years
has earned a Nation’s gratitude.
What impresses me most is …
that we may count upon
B’nai B’rith’s service during peace
as we counted upon it with such
good results during war.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
1945-1953
I am glad to express my appreciation for B’nai B’rith’s achievements in promoting understanding, cooperation, and good will among Americans of all races and creeds. I know that the men and women of B’nai B’rith, who have so consistently fought for the freedom and equality of all Americans, will continue to work unselfishly for the fulfillment of these great principles.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
1953-1961
Voluntary organizations such as B’nai B’rith are an essential part of a free society. The long history and wide range of B’nai B’rith interests have been a positive and constructive force for a good part of the history of our nation.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
1961-1963
JOHNSON

You have never tired, you have never faltered, you have never lost faith in your cause; and your cause has given faith to your nation. You are pro-justice and pro-freedom.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
1963-1969
The highest standards of

B’nai B’rith, and of the United

States, and of humanity, are one

and the same today, tomorrow,

and in all the years to come.

RICHARD M. NIXON
1969-1974
You, the sons and daughters of the Covenant, have kept your commitment to Judaism and to America. The glow of your compassion illuminates the best of our nation’s traditional spirit of voluntary service to others.

GERALD R. FORD
1974-1977
The men and women of B’nai B’rith share with me a total commitment to the preservation of human rights, liberty and freedom of conscience.

JIMMY CARTER
1977-1981
For more than 140 years, B’nai B’rith has sponsored religious, cultural, and civil programs; conducted studies of vital issues; combated bigotry; and worked tirelessly to advance the cause of tolerance and humanity. Because of your efforts, today our country has a bigger heart, a deeper sense of generosity of spirit that must always define America.

RONALD REAGAN
1981-1989
Because it is rooted in a commitment to charity and understanding, your work also has a positive impact far beyond the Jewish community. I applaud your efforts to promote cooperation and tolerance among people of all backgrounds, and it is my sincere hope that as we move forward with our historic efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, your example will continue to erode barriers of bigotry and mistrust, wherever they exist.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH
1989-1993
CLINTON

You’ve been there to help those in need in your own neighborhoods, establishing local volunteer efforts, helping the blind, settling refugees from the former Soviet Union, combating the scourge of drugs, and working to strengthen the education of young Americans … What guides you is a belief in a covenant that we all share to enrich the lives of those around you, to fight bigotry, to protect liberty.

BILL CLINTON
1993-2001
Since 1843 B’nai B’rith has been dedicated to helping those in need and preserving the rich traditions of Jewish life … I commend the men and women of B’nai B’rith for your leadership and service. Your efforts improve the lives of countless individuals and remind us that we must be vigilant in our pursuit of freedom, tolerance and compassion.

GEORGE W. BUSH
2001-2009
OBAMA

B’nai B’rith International has helped open our eyes to injustice and to people in need for 170 years. By providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief, promoting human rights and volunteerism, and offering a strong voice for the Jewish community around the world, organizations like yours help us live up to our basic belief that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.

BARACK OBAMA
2009-2017
Over the past 175 years, B’nai B’rith International has enhanced the lives of Jewish people and of many others around the world through charity, volunteerism, educational programs, and advocacy efforts. These achievements extend far beyond one community or one country, and they reflect a sustained commitment to enriching the spirit of humanity.

DONALD J. TRUMP
2017-Present