BUILDING A BETTER WORLD
U.S. Presidents
Salute B'nai B'rith
B'nai B'rith has promoted the dignity and protected the rights of all Americans since its creation in 1843, its vital contributions to humanity have earned plaudits from many prominent individuals, including the Presidents of the United States. From Grover Cleveland to George Bush, America's Presidents have understood that B'nai B'rith's commitment to educating the young, serving the vulnerable, enhancing cooperation between all races and religions, and advancing human rights has enriched not only the Jewish people, but all people. The following pages present a sampling of comments by Presidents of the United States. They were taken from the correspondence of the Presidents, as well as from their public statements. Their words are an enduring testament to our commitment for 150 years to build a better world for all.
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 encouragement 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'hai 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 strives 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
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 civic programs; conducted studies of vital issues; combatted 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 the 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 BUSH
1989-1993
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
B'NAI B'RITH

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

HONORING THE PAST
BUILDING THE FUTURE

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