



Washington **Speakers** Bureau

Benjamin Solomon Carson, Sr., M.D.

Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., had a childhood dream of becoming a physician. Growing up in a single parent home and being challenged by dire poverty, poor grades, a horrible temper, and low self-esteem appeared to preclude the realization of that dream, until his mother, with only a third-grade education, challenged her sons to strive for excellence. Young Ben persevered, and today is an emeritus professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for 29 years. He was the inaugural recipient of a professorship dedicated in his name in May 2008 and is now the Emeritus Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D. and Dr. Evelyn Spiro, R.N. Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery, having retired on June 30, 2013.

Some career highlights include the first and only successful separation of craniopagus (Siamese) twins joined at the back of the head in 1987, the first completely successful separation of type-2 vertical craniopagus twins in 1997 in South Africa, and the first successful placement of an intrauterine shunt for a hydrocephalic twin. Although he has been involved in many newsworthy operations, he feels that every case is noteworthy -- deserving of maximum attention. He is interested in all aspects of pediatric neurosurgery, and has a special interest in trigeminal neuralgia (a severe facial pain condition) in adults.

Dr. Carson holds more than 60 honorary doctorate degrees and has received literally hundreds of awards and citations. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science, the Horatio Alger Society of Distinguished Americans, and many other prestigious organizations. He has served on the board of directors of numerous organizations, including Kellogg Company, Costco Wholesale Corporation, the Academy of Achievement, Vaccinogen which is a Maryland-based cancer vaccine research and development company, and is an Emeritus Fellow of the Yale Corporation, the governing body of Yale University. He was appointed in 2004 by President George W. Bush to serve on the President's Council on Bioethics. He is a highly regarded motivational speaker who has addressed various audiences from school systems and civic groups to corporations and has spoken twice during the President's National Prayer Breakfast in 1997 and 2013.

In 2001, Dr. Carson was named by CNN and *TIME* Magazine as one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists. That same year, he was selected by the Library of Congress as one of 89 "Living Legends" on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. He is also the recipient of the 2006 Spingarn Medal which is the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP. In February 2008, Dr. Carson was presented with the Ford's Theatre Lincoln Medal by President George W. Bush at the White House. In June 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by the President, which is the highest civilian honor in the land. Dr. Carson was recognized in November 2008 by U.S. News & World Report and on Harvard's Center for Public Leadership, as one of "America's Best Leaders." On

February 7, 2009, the award-winning movie entitled “Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story,” starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. as Dr. Carson, premiered on TNT and is based on his memoir.

Dr. Carson is co-founder of the Carson Scholars Fund, which recognizes young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. The Fund is currently operating in 50 states and the District of Columbia, having awarded more than \$6.7 million dollars to more than 6,700 scholars. The program also establishes Ben Carson Reading Rooms to encourage young students and their families to discover the pleasure to be found in books and to recognize the true power of learning.

His first four books, *Gifted Hands*, *THINK BIG*, *The Big Picture* and *Take the Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose and Live with Acceptable Risk* (January 2008), provide inspiration and insight for leading a successful life; his fifth book, *America The Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great*, released in early 2012, and his sixth book, *One Nation: What We Can All Do To Save America's Future*, released on May 20, 2014, have both made the New York Times Bestseller List. His seventh book, *One Vote: Make Your Voice Heard*, was released on September 22, 2014. His eighth book, *You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G.*, which encourages young people to aim high, was recently released on February 4, 2015. His ninth book, *More Perfect Union*, was released on October 5, 2015

Dr. Carson is a highly sought-after inspirational and motivational speaker. Dr. Carson has been married for over 40 years to his wife, Candy, and is the father of three adult sons and has two grandchildren.

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