

# Patriot



# Colin Powell

African-American

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# Colin Powell

1937-

Colin Powell was born in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem. He graduated from Morris High School in 1954. He received a bachelor's degree in geology from City College of New York. It was here that he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He found something he loved and could do well.



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# Colin Powell

1937-

Upon graduation in 1958, the Army appointed him as a second lieutenant.

In 1962, Powell served as a military advisor in Vietnam. Six years later, the army appointed him as battalion executive officer and division operation officer in Vietnam.



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**Colin Powell**

1937-

He returned to the United States in 1969 and earned his MBA from George Washington University in 1971.

In 1972, Powell served as assistant to the deputy director of the Officer of Management and Budget. Thereafter, he served in several government positions.



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**Colin Powell**

1937-

From 1983 to 1986, he served as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense. In 1987, he was appointed as the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.



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**Colin Powell**

1937-

His last military assignment, from October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1993, was as the 12th **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**, the highest military position in the Department of Defense.



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**Colin Powell**

1937-

In 1993, Powell retired from military service. President George W. Bush nominated him the Secretary of State and he took office on January 20, 2001. In November 2004, Powell resigned after President Bush won reelection.



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**Colin Powell**

1937-

Dates of Rank

2nd Lieutenant	09 JUN 1958
1st Lieutenant	30 DEC 1959
Captain	02 JUN 1962
Major	24 MAY 1966
Lieutenant Colonel	09 JUL 1970
Colonel	01 FEB 1976
Brigadier General	01 JUN 1979
Major General	01 AUG 1983
Lieutenant General	01 JUL 1986
General	04 APR 1989

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**Colin Powell**

1937-

Military Medals and Ribbons

- Army Overseas Service Ribbon (3)
- Army Service Ribbon
- Vietnam Service Medal (1 Silver Service Star)
- National Defense Service Medal (1 Bronze Service Star)
- Presidential Citizens Medal
- Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters)
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Air Medal
- Purple Heart

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**Colin Powell**  
1937-

Military Medals and Ribbons

- Bronze Star Medal ("V" Device)
- Soldiers' Medal
- Legion of Merit (Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal, Coast Guard
- Distinguished Service Medal, Navy
- Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force
- Distinguished Service Medal, Army (Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Defense Distinguished Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters)

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**Colin Powell**  
1937-

Foreign Decorations

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath - Honorary
- French Republic Legion d'honneur
- Canadian Meritorious Service Cross

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**Colin Powell**  
1937-



Powell as a  
Cadet in ROTC.

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**Colin Powell**  
1937-



Powell in Vietnam

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**Colin Powell**  
1937-



General Powell and Genral Schwarzkopf in the 1991 Persian Gulf War

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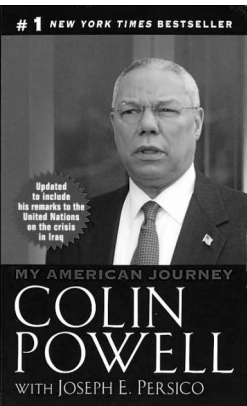
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**Colin Powell**



Colin Powell Auto-Biography

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**Colin Powell**



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