



# I-House Alumni Spotlight: Kenneth D. Taylor (IH 1957-59)

Canadian diplomat, educator, and businessman

November 4th is the  
45th Anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis

Years at I-House: 1957-59  
Birthday: October 5, 1934  
Death: October 15, 2015  
Country of Origin: Canada



*I-House was like a first diplomatic posting in that "once you come to I-House, you live with an international understanding almost unique or impossible to get elsewhere."*



## About Ambassador Taylor:

With extensive international business experience, Ken began his career in the Canadian Foreign Service and held senior diplomatic positions around the world in a 25-year career. In 1979, while serving as the Canadian Ambassador in Iran, he played a key role in helping six Americans escape from Iran during the hostage crisis which was portrayed in the 2012 movie *Argo*. Comparing reality with the movie's dramatized depiction which highlighted the American role in the operation, Former President Jimmy Carter stated that "the main hero in my view was Ken Taylor."

## Education:

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto
- Master of Business Administration, UC Berkeley Haas

## Honors & Awards:

- United States Congressional Gold Medal
- Officer of the Order of Canada
- Military Order of the Iron Mike Award

## Roles:

- Ambassador of Canada to Iran (1977-80)
- Canadian Consul-General to New York City (1980-84)
- Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs at Nabisco Brands (1984-89)
- Chancellor of Victoria College, University of Toronto (1998-2004)



## Watch on YouTube:

### I-House 2013 Alumni Couple of the Year

[youtube.com/ihouseberkeley](https://youtube.com/ihouseberkeley)

Ambassador Taylor met his wife, Dr. Patricia Taylor, over breakfast at I-House. They were honored at the 2013 Celebration & Awards Gala. Hear more about their story in their own words.



*"The lessons of I-House have been such an important part of our lives since—and of course we wouldn't have each other if it weren't for I-House" – Dr. Patricia Taylor*

Dr. Patricia Taylor recently passed away on September 9th, 2024. She and Ambassador Taylor will be remembered for their heroism and as honored members of the International House alumni community.

