

THE SOVEREIGN FUND, A NON-PROFIT CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION, WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1981. Committed to the belief that people thrive to the extent that they control their own destiny, the Fund's founder, Kurt W. Simon, and its Board of Directors focus on people who strengthen individual freedom in America.

Three objectives guide the Fund. First, with its annual Sovereign Fund Award, the foundation aims to identify and celebrate one citizen each year for exceptional contributions to the cause of personal freedom. Second, the Fund is committed to publicizing the achievements of award recipients—people who might otherwise remain the unsung heroes of our time. Finally, by educating the general public to the importance of individual freedom, the Fund hopes to inspire others to cherish and protect those liberties that are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Nominations for award winners are welcomed on an ongoing basis, and will be given serious consideration by the Fund's Board of Directors. Guidelines for candidate selection are deliberately vague because the enhancement of "individual freedom" can take a variety of forms. Award candidates may be selected from among:

- ♦ civic leaders whose actions increase personal liberty; philosophers,

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teachers and authors who inspire others to strive toward individual freedom;

- ♦ media owners, publishers, editors and journalists who educate the public about encroachments into personal freedom and offer reasoned strategies for combating those infringements;
- ♦ scientists and inventors whose theories or products liberate people from physical or emotional limitations;
- ♦ entrepreneurs and industrialists whose enterprises help others to achieve economic independence;
- ♦ economists whose theories free people from financial enslavement;
- ♦ artists whose work celebrates the importance of individual freedom; and
- ♦ legal authorities whose efforts put an end to restrictive laws or enable legislation that safeguards personal liberty.

As the foundation proceeds through its second decade, the Board will continue to look for and honor Americans who have seen freedom infringed and done something about it—not just to benefit themselves, but others as well. "Everything that is truly great and inspiring," said Albert Einstein, "is created by the individual who can labor in freedom." It was with respect for this principle that the Sovereign Fund was established, and with faith in this ideal that it continues to operate.



A STATEMENT ABOUT  
**KURT W. SIMON**  
AND THE SOVEREIGN FUND



WHEN KURT W. SIMON CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1936, HE WAS A 23-YEAR-OLD GERMAN IMMIGRANT WITH TWO IMPORTANT ASSETS: the willingness to work hard and an irrepressible need to question commonly held assumptions. Over time, these qualities helped him steadily build his own financial security. Today, they direct his philanthropic energies.

During his long career, Mr. Simon has been employed as a newspaper photographer, motion picture studio messenger, television director, and chief executive officer for a major corporation in Germany. He has also worked independently, as the first television producer west of the Rockies, an award-winning educational film producer, a real estate developer, and a private investor. In addition, he has had first-hand experience with the inner workings of government. Immediately upon becoming a U.S. citizen in 1941, he volunteered for the Army. He served as both an aide to General Dwight D. Eisenhower and as a counter-intelligence agent in the European Campaign. By the end of World War II, he had earned three combat stars and a Presidential citation. After leaving military service, he returned to Los Angeles, where he has been a renowned civic leader since the 1950s.

Unlike many other American success stories, Mr. Simon's achievements resulted not from large financial resources with which to start nor from a long streak of remarkable good fortune. In fact, his first several years in the



United States were often lean. His accomplishments came instead from occasional moments of inspired vision coupled with years of tenacious effort. He often worked more than one job at a time—all day as an employee of someone else's business and at night as his own boss, pursuing projects that engaged both his imagination and his pragmatism.

In 1981, Mr. Simon established the Sovereign Fund as a way in which to thank the United States for the opportunities he had found here nearly a half century before. "This country not only allowed me the chance to think as creatively as I chose, but it gave me the freedom to transform a few of my dreams into realities." For the past ten years, he has used the foundation to acknowledge Americans who have protected and enhanced the individual's right to chart his own course in life.

While a few Sovereign Fund Award recipients have focused their attention on physical freedom, others have worked for economic freedom—such as an escape from the enslavement of dead-end 9-to-5 jobs, or liberation from undue taxation. "All of them," explains Mr. Simon, "have made this country a better place, not because they have altered the social or legal premises upon which it operates. Quite to the contrary, they have honored and upheld freedoms that form the very basis of the United States."

The impetus for the foundation dates back to the early 1950s, when Mr. Simon was working for Warner Bros. Studios. He read an article by Peter Drucker that set forth the distinction between the temperament of employees and the self-employed. Drucker explained that if you want to be successful and happy, it is essential to match your career to your basic disposition.

That message changed Mr. Simon's entire perspective. "I quit my job that day," he recalls, "and really started my life."

That is one of the reasons why, thirty-five years later, Mr. Drucker was chosen to receive a Sovereign Fund Award. "Not because of what he did for me alone," says Mr. Simon, "but because of what he did for countless thousands of people. Imagine, he cut through tired old assumptions that even now prevail about job security and workplace commitment. He went straight to the heart of what constitutes professional freedom, and he offered everyone who cared to consider the matter a chance to control their own destiny. In that sense, Peter Drucker typifies what the Sovereign Fund Award is all about."

The annual Sovereign Fund Award is a financial gift to be used in whatever way the recipient chooses. Although the foundation does welcome award nominations, Mr. Simon and the foundation's Board of Directors generally prefer to conduct their own search and selection process. The Fund always looks for potential recipients from among many disciplines and fields of interest.

"Over time," explains Mr. Simon, "we hope that the award will become a symbol for the freedom and innovation that has allowed Americans to make this country great. We want the Sovereign Fund to identify those rare individuals, whether they be famous or unknown, who have made it their business to alert the rest of us to recurrent attacks on our personal freedom and independence. We want the award to pay respect to those who have taught us how to protect ourselves against those attacks. Perhaps most important, we hope the award will serve as a reminder that freedoms once secured can still be lost unless men and women of exceptional worth come forward to defend them."

*The Board of Directors,  
The Sovereign Fund  
1992*