



## **Honorary Doctoral Degree Recipients**

An honorary degree is the highest honor a university can bestow.

The following individuals have been recipients of Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large.

### **1938**

Special Honorary Law Degree

Hugh Roy Cullen and Lillie Cranz Cullen

### **1950**

Special Honorary Degree

Edison E. Oberholtzer

### **1980**

Special Honorary Degree

The Honorable Aaron J. Farfel

### **1984**

George P. Mitchell

The Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby

### **1985**

Gerald D. Griffin\*

George A. Butler

### **1986**

William Barron Hilton

Philip C. Johnson

**1987**

LeRoy and Lucile B. Melcher  
Philip G. Hoffman

**1988**

Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson

**1989**

The Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher  
Aaron Cohen

**1990**

Donald Barthelme\*\*  
Norman J. Ramsey

**1991**

Faith P. Bybee  
Christoph Eschenbach  
Eric M. Hilton  
The Honorable Catalina Vasquez Villalpando  
His Excellency Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier\*

**1992**

Jacques-Louis Lions  
Gurji Ivanovich Marchuk  
David Gockley

**1993**

Luis Garibay  
Reverend William A. Lawson

## **1994**

The Honorable George H. W. Bush  
Daniel Howard Yergin  
Ron Stone

## **1995**

The Honorable John J. Moores  
Veronica Nia Dorian Becnel\*\*  
His Excellency Carlos Saul Menem\*

## **1996**

Ernesto J. Cortes, Jr.  
Song Jian\*

## **1997**

Edward Franklin Albee  
Glenn Allan Goerke  
The Honorable William P. Hobby, Jr.

## **1998**

The Honorable Robert C. Lanier  
The Honorable Kenneth L. Lay  
The Honorable Wilhelmina R. Morian  
John F. Oró

## **1999**

The Honorable Richard Riley  
The Honorable James L. Ketelsen  
Elizabeth D. Rockwell

## **2000**

Roderick R. Paige  
Irvin M. Borish

## **2001**

Charles T. Bauer  
James W. Nantz, III

## **2002**

The Honorable Jack Joseph Valenti  
John H. Lienhard  
The Honorable Charles E. McMahan  
Jan de Hartog

## **2003**

Neal R. Amundson  
Loretta Devine  
Guy V. Lewis  
The Honorable Eduardo Aguirre, Jr.

## **2006**

The Honorable Margaret LaMontagne Spellings\*  
Maconda Brown O'Connor\*

## **2007**

Ray Elvin Miller  
The Honorable Leonard Rauch

## **2010**

John Hofmeister  
Lyle P. Lovett

## **2011**

Walter Kase  
Kenneth Parr  
Herman D. Suit

## **2012**

Gerald D. Hines  
Brien A. Holden  
Nicholas J. Massad, Jr.

Cristina Rivera Garza  
Ruth J. Simmons

### **2013**

Edith Irby Jones  
Belle Griggs Johnson  
The Honorable Welcome W. Wilson, Sr.

### **2014**

His Excellence Dinesh Singh

### **2015**

James F. McIngvale  
Melvyn L. Wolff

### **2016**

Glenn T. Lilie  
James Victor Samuels  
Gilbert Russell Ybarra

### **2017**

The Honorable Arnold A. Schwarzenegger  
The Honorable Michael J. Cemo  
Dr. Richard B. Davies

### **2018**

Robert Stephen Stagner

### **2019**

Cyvia Grossberg Wolff

### **2020**

Marvin E. Odum III

Richard G. Rawson

**2021**

Maria Estrada-Campos

Andrew and Barbara Gessner

Bernard A. Harris Jr.

John Rogers

**2022**

Kathrine G. McGovern

**2024**

Dominic Ng

**2025**

Nathan Fowler

Julian Schnabel

\* degree awarded at a special convocation

\*\*degree awarded posthumously