

## Richard T. Childress

Richard Childress was born in Huntington, West Virginia, on November 22, 1942. After graduation from the University of Cincinnati in 1965, he accepted a Regular Army Commission and saw military service in the United States, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Germany. During his military career, he entered the Army's Foreign Area Program as a specialist in Asian Affairs and retired in 1989 as a Colonel.

Mr. Childress is an internationally known Asian specialist, with in-depth knowledge of Asian culture and broad experience in national security, foreign policy, economic and commercial matters regarding Asia. As Director of Asian Affairs at the White House, on the National Security Council staff, he was the senior White House advisor to the Secretary of State and official delegate of each Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting from 1981 through 1988. He led or participated in each United States policy delegation to Vietnam and Laos from 1982 to 1989. Mr. Childress was National Security Council representative on each US Government interagency group on Southeast Asian Affairs between 1982 and 1989, NSC advisor to two Presidential emissaries (Senator Paul Laxalt to the Philippines and General John Vessey to Vietnam). He was NSC liaison with the US-ASEAN Business Council, the US-ASEAN center for Technology Transfer and the US-Philippine Business Council. Mr. Childress was a designated surrogate speaker for President Ronald Reagan.

Upon leaving the government, Mr. Childress established a successful Washington-based consulting firm, Asian Investment Strategies, engaged by the US business community focused on ASEAN. Its clients ranged from Fortune 500 companies to small and mid-size firms wishing to compete with international corporations in ASEAN. He co-founded a power development corporation, the Asian Energy Corporation.

Mr. Childress remains active in public affairs and public policy, and has been a speaker at Asia-related forums such as the Asia Society, Carnegie Foundation, Aspen Institute of the United States and various universities. He has appeared on numerous national network news programs and has been an expert witness on Asian affairs in many Congressional hearings. Mr. Childress' honors and awards include commendations from President Reagan and Bush, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and each Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs from 1982 through 1989. He has received humanitarian awards from several foreign governments for his work, from the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, and from SERTOMA. He is an Army Pace award winner. He is the recipient of 24 military awards and decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf, the Bronze Star Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, parachutist wings and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Mr. Childress holds an AA and BA in Psychology from the University of Cincinnati, and MA in Asian studies from the University of Arizona and has further post-graduate work at the University of Kansas and the University of Oklahoma. His military education includes 15 professional courses of study including officer basic and advanced courses, the Command and General Staff College and Senior Service College and a one-year study and travel sabbatical in Southeast Asia as an Army Foreign Area Officer. In addition, he has received formal language training and speaks Vietnamese, Thai and German.

Writing includes published conference papers hosted by CSIS, the Heritage Foundation, the Asia Society, the Stanley Foundation and the Aspen Institute. His work is found in *Reversing Relations with Former Adversaries*, ed. C. Richard Nelson and Kenneth Weiserode, University of Florida Press, 1989; *The Thai Challenge: Balancing the Superpower Triangle through a Period of Regional Change*, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1990. Unpublished academic papers include *Protest and Executive Change*, University of Kansas, 1972; *The Prince and the Poppy: Politics and Narcotics in Southeast Asia*, University of Arizona, 1976; *Psycho-Social Element of Power in India*, Strategic Appraisal, USACGSC, 1973; *Inertial Change in India*, University of Kansas, 1973; *Southeast Asia*, US Global Strategy Council, 1993; and *A Historical Lottery*, Dorrance Publishing, 2017.

Mr. Childress is married with one son and two granddaughters.