William J. Bennett is one of America’s most important, influential and respected voices on cultural, political and education issues. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Bennett studied philosophy at Williams College (B.A.) and the University of Texas (Ph.D.) and earned a law degree from Harvard. He is the Washington Fellow of the Claremont Institute, where he is also the chairman of Americans for Victory over Terrorism, a project dedicated to sustaining and strengthening public opinion as the war on terrorism moves forward.

Over the course of his professional life, in education, government and the private sector, Bennett has succeeded in a trifecta of American institutions. He brings broad and deep experience achieved from a unique series of successes in several distinct fields: He is an award-winning professor in academia, having taught at Boston University, the University of Texas and Harvard; he is a three-time confirmed executive in the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations, including holding two cabinet-level positions as Secretary of Education under Ronald Reagan and the Nation’s first Drug Czar under the first President Bush; third, he is the best-selling author of numerous books, including two New York Times #1 best-sellers and two of the most successful books of the 1990s; fourth, he is the founder and the first Chairman of a very successful online education company: K-12; and he is the host of the #7 ranked nationally syndicated radio show, Morning in America.

In his various roles, Bennett is perceived—even by his adversaries—as a man of strong, reasoned convictions who speaks candidly, eloquently and honestly about some of the most important issues of our time.

Bennett completed a three-volume history of the United States, entitled America: The Last Best Hope. Volume I was released in May 2006 and Volume II in April 2007. It is currently being used by schools and school systems around the country to teach high school students American history. The third book in the series entitled, A Century Turns: New Hopes, New Fears—America 1988 to 2008, was released in early 2010. As a communicator, Bennett has received rare acclaim. In 2002, he was named by focus groups and leading analysts the “Best Communicator of 2002,” and the most well received public commentator on the issues of “pride, patriotism, faith and moral conviction.” In April of 2005, the Sunday New York
The Times named Bennett the “leading spokesman of the Traditional Values wing of the Republican Party.”


Although he is a well-known Republican, Bennett often has crossed party lines in order to pursue important common purposes. He has worked closely with Democratic leaders such as Senator Joseph Lieberman to fight the decline of popular culture and to end worldwide religious persecution.

Thanks to his government positions, his writings and speeches and thousands of media appearances, Bennett has extraordinary influence on America’s political and social landscape. He now appears exclusively on cable television on CNN. He has been named one of the most influential individuals in America. He, his wife Elayne, and their two sons live in Maryland.