President
Richard von Weizsaecker

Richard von Weizsaecker was born on April 15, 1920 in Stuggart. He studied law and history at the universities of Oxford, Grenoble and Goettingen and received his doctorate in 1954.

Dr. von Weizsaecker joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1954 and was a member of the CDU national executive from 1966 to 1984. A member of the Bundestag (federal lower house) from 1969 to 1981, he served as Bundestag Vice-President from 1979 until 1981 when he was elected Governing Mayor of West Berlin, a position equivalent in Canada to a provincial premier. He was Governing Mayor until 1984.

Dr. von Weizsaecker has been a leading lay member of the German Evangelical Church, having served as President of the German Protestant Convention from 1964 to 1970 and as a member of the Synod and Council of the German Protestant Church from 1969 to 1984.

Dr. von Weizsaecker has been federal President since 1984. He was re-elected to a second five-year term in 1989 by the Federal Convention (a constitutional body convened only for this purpose).

Dr. von Weizsaecker and his wife Marianne have three sons and a daughter.