

Congratulations! King Carl XVI Gustaf

Only a matter of days after celebrating his 60th birthday, the Swedish monarch and Queen Silvia were guests of honor at The American-Scandinavian Foundation's 2006 Gala Dinner in New York.

KING CARL XVI GUSTAF IS

the 74th king of Sweden. He and his predecessors, going back more than one thousand years, form one of the oldest monarchies in the world. He is also the seventh king of the House of Bernadotte, dating from 1810 when the Swedish Riksdag chose the Marshal of France, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, as heir apparent to the Swedish throne.

This is an especially memorable year for the royal couple. In June they will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. They first met at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, where Silvia Renate Sommerlath, of German and Brazilian parentage, served as an interpreter and host. They were married June 19, 1976, and they reside at Drottningholm Palace outside Stockholm and use the Royal Palace in Stockholm as their workplace.

The royal couple's three children are Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Carl Philip and Princess Madeleine. Prince Carl Philip was born heir apparent, but a constitutional reform that was already underway at the time of his birth made his older sister, Victoria, the Crown Princess and heiress apparent in 1980.



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This deeply affecting picture of the three-year-old Crown Prince Carl Gustaf collaborating on a letter with his grandfather King Gustaf VI Adolf reminds us of the missing royal generation, that of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, the present king's father, who was tragically killed in a plane crash in 1947. On the facing page we see young Crown Prince Carl Gustaf sitting by the windowsill overlooking part of Stockholm's inner harbor in Princess Sibylla's (his mother) Yellow Salon at the Royal Palace.

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King Carl Gustaf has long been interested in sports of all kinds, perhaps especially ice hockey, in which Sweden is one of the leading nations. Here, the young prince is shown matching skills with two of Sweden's all-time hockey greats, Lasse Björn (left) and Sven Tumba. The King is also the Honorary Chairman of the World Scout Foundation and often participates in Scout activities in Sweden and other countries.



In this palace portrait of Crown Prince Carl Gustaf he is in his late teens.

Sweden being a constitutional monarchy, the king's duties are largely ceremonial and representative—such as paying and receiving state visits, opening the annual session of the parliament, chairing the special session held during a change of government and receiving and signing credentials of foreign ambassadors. For more than 100 years, however, the Swedish king has been perhaps more widely known as the presenter of the annual Nobel Prizes. On the facing page, King Carl XVI Gustaf is shown presenting the 2003 Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel to co-winner Robert F. Engle of New York University.

