Shimon Peres is Israel's 11th president, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and a world renowned statesman. Few are the individuals who hold a list of titles as impressive as Mr. Peres, one of the foremost leaders in the State of Israel's history.

Shimon Peres has served the State of Israel in key positions in the Knesset and the Israeli government for 60 years, most notably as prime minister, defense minister, and foreign minister. He also held a variety of other ministerial positions, including finance, immigration absorption, transportation, communications, economic development of the territories, information, and regional cooperation.

Shimon Peres (Perski) was born in 1923, in Vishnyeva, Belarus, to Yitzhak, a lumber tradesman, and Sara, a librarian and Russian teacher. The family immigrated to Israel when Mr. Peres was 11 years old, and established their home in Tel Aviv. While at the Ben Shenem Agricultural School, Mr. Peres met Sonya Galman who was a librarian and Russian teacher. The family immigrated to Israel when Mr. Peres was 11 years old. The couple had two children, Zvia, Yonatan, and Nehemia. (Mr. Peres has eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.)

Mr. Peres began his public career at the age of 20, when he was elected secretary of Hanoar Haoved Vehalomad youth movement. Soon after, heads of the Mapai Party, David Ben-Gurion and Berl Katznelson, took an interest in him and named him to Mapa's secretariat. In 1946 he was a member of the party's delegation to the Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland.

At the young age of 29, Mr. Peres was named director-general of the Defense Ministry, and under David Ben-Gurion's leadership he became the driving force behind the development of the Dimona and Soreq nuclear research centers. Mr. Peres also orchestrated the clandestine strategic relations between France and Israel in the years when the latter was under a stifling military embargo, and was able to assure that Israel's military industries had state-of-the-art weapons at their disposal. Mr. Peres' efforts ensured Israel would be able to generate deterrence vis-a-vis its enemies to this day.

During his term as defense minister, Mr. Peres promoted the military operation for the rescue of the Israeli hostages in Entebbe. Mr. Peres adamantly advocated against giving in to terrorism and insisted Israel must rescue the hostages.

The results of the 1984 elections saw the induction of a national unity government. For the first two years of its term, Mr. Peres served as prime minister, a position he followed by that of foreign minister in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government.

As prime minister, Mr. Peres navigated Israel through the worst economic crisis in its history. He was also the first to recognize computer software as an export industry, thus laying the groundwork for Israel's high tech industry and the country's position as a startup nation.

Mr. Peres has worked tirelessly to facilitate the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and the release of prisoners of Zion, and personally welcomed Natan Sharansky when he arrived in Israel. Mr. Peres also championed Operation Moses, to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

Mr. Peres was named foreign minister in Rabbi's 1992 government and oversaw the covert negotiations with the Palestinians in Oslo, which led the mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the subsequent historic signing of the 1993 Oslo Accords.

In 1994, Peres, Rabin and Yasser Arafat were honored with the Nobel Peace Prize. In October 1994, Rabin and Peres orchestrated the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, after years of clandestine relations between the two countries.

Following Rabin's assassination in November 1995, Mr. Peres was named prime minister, a position he held until the following elections, held in May 1996, when he assumed the role of chairman of the opposition. In 1996 he founded the Peres Center for Peace, dedicated to the promotion of sustainable development, regional cooperation, and peace-building in the Middle East.

In June 2007, Shimon Peres was elected Israel's ninth president. During his seven-year term, and in the time that has followed, Mr. Peres has worked tirelessly to bring all parts of Israeli society together, regardless of race, gender, or religious beliefs. A visionary, he has promoted technological ventures, and has continued to be a faithful emissary for the State of Israel around the world.

In 2008, Mr. Peres received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain; in 2012, U.S. President Barack Obama nominated Mr. Peres with the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and he was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

Mr. Peres has penned over a dozen books, as well as hundreds of articles featured in Israeli and foreign publications.

In recognition of his public, political, defense, and diplomatic work on behalf of the State of Israel, which he has served for seven decades, and with appreciation for his visionary outlook, seeking to place Israel at the forefront of world science and technology, Shimon Peres is hereby named an Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.