

Ambassador (Ret.) Allan Mustard VIOGRAFIKOOO

Ambassador (retired) Allan Mustard, class of Career Minister, was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan on November 25, 2014. He previously served as Agricultural Minister-Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. A widely recognized authority on agricultural and food aid policy, he has broad experience in guiding economic reform assistance throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

During his ambassadorship, Mr. Mustard was a proponent of [OpenStreetMap](#), as well as an active volunteer mapper.^{[7][8]} At the [North American Cartographic Information Society's](#) annual banquet in 2019, he gave a keynote address on his mapping in [Turkmenistan](#).^[9] He also gave keynote presentations at the OSM annual conference, [State of the Map](#) in 2016^[10] and 2020.^[11] In December 2019, he was elected chair of the board of the [OpenStreetMap Foundation](#).^[12]

He describes himself as a [Wikipedian](#).^[13]

More about Mr. Mustard https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Mustard

Allan Phillip Mustard is a retired American agricultural economist and career diplomat who served as the [United States Ambassador to Turkmenistan](#) from 2014 to 2019. He is now the chair of the [OpenStreetMap Foundation](#), and advises the [Caspian Policy Center](#).

Contents

- [1 Early years](#)
- [2 Career](#)

- [3 Support for open content projects](#)
- [4 Awards and honors](#)
- [5 Personal life](#)
- [6 References](#)
 - [6.1 Further reading](#)
- [7 External links](#)

Early years

Mustard's father, Donald, was a veterinarian;^[1] his mother was a teacher.^[2] Mustard was raised on a dairy farm in [Brady](#),^[2] in [Grays Harbor County, Washington](#), where he attended [Montesano High School](#).^[1] He was subsequently educated at [Grays Harbor College](#).^[3] In 1978 he graduated with BAs in Political Science, and in Slavic Languages and Literature, from the [University of Washington](#), Seattle.^[3]

Mustard's early positions included work as a guide-interpreter for the U.S. [International Communication Agency](#) in [Kishinev](#), Moscow^[3] and at [Rostov-na-Donu](#), in the then USSR, and a year as a social worker with the Jewish Family Service in Seattle.^{[2][3]} While in the USSR he met an [agricultural attaché](#), who encouraged him to study agriculture as a route to his desired career in the diplomatic service.^[1] He achieved an MS in [agricultural economics](#) from the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#) in 1982.^[3]

Career

Mustard's first permanent government role, from 1982 to 1986, was as an agricultural economist at the [Foreign Agricultural Service](#) of the [Department of Agriculture](#), in Washington DC.^{[2][3]} From 1986 to 1988 he was an assistant agricultural attaché at the [U.S. embassy in Moscow](#), USSR.^{[2][3]} During that period, the Soviets withdrew all local staff from the embassy, so Mustard's ability to [touch-type](#) in Russian saw him doubling up in a clerical support role.^[2] In 1988 he became an agricultural trade officer at the [Consulate General in Istanbul](#), Turkey, serving there until 1990.^{[2][3]}

He was back at the Foreign Agricultural Service from 1990, first as deputy coordinator for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Secretariat, being promoted to deputy director of the Emerging Democracies Office in 1992.^{[2][3]}

From 1996 to 2000 he served as agricultural counselor at the [U.S. embassy in Vienna](#), where he had responsibility not only for Austria, but also Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.^{[2][3]}

This was followed by another period in Washington, D.C., first as assistant deputy administrator for foreign agricultural affairs at the Foreign Agricultural Service (2000-2002) and then as a Fellow in the Senior Seminar in Foreign Relations at the [Department of State](#) (2002-2003).

From 2003 to 2008 he served as Agricultural Minister-Counselor, back at the Moscow embassy, and from 2008 to 2011 in the equivalent position at the [U.S. embassy in Mexico City](#), Mexico.^{[2][3]} From 2011 he was in an equivalent position in New Delhi, India. At the embassy there he had responsibility for programs in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, including food aid in the latter.^[2]

He was sworn in as U.S. [Ambassador to Turkmenistan](#) on November 25, 2014.^[3] In October 2015 he was joined at a [groundbreaking](#) ceremony for a new embassy building in Turkmenistan's capital, [Ashgabat](#), by the city's mayor.^[4] Following his June 2019 retirement,^[5] he was succeeded by [Matthew Klimow](#).

In June 2020 he was one of 612 former diplomats, senior military officers, and other government

officials who signed an open letter expressing alarm at calls by President [Donald Trump](#) and others for the use of U.S. military personnel to end [Black Lives Matter protests](#) on U.S. soil.^[6]

Support for open content projects

During his ambassadorship, Mustard was a proponent of [OpenStreetMap](#), as well as an active volunteer mapper.^{[7][8]} At the [North American Cartographic Information Society](#)'s annual banquet in 2019, he gave a keynote address on his mapping in [Turkmenistan](#).^[9] He also gave keynote presentations at the OSM annual conference, *State of the Map* in 2016^[10] and 2020.^[11] In December 2019, he was elected chair of the board of the [OpenStreetMap Foundation](#).^[12]

He describes himself as a [Wikipedian](#).^[13]

Awards and honors

Mustard has received the [United States Department of Agriculture](#)'s [Distinguished Honor Award](#) (the agency's highest); and its Superior Honor Award (twice); as well as the [Grand Decoration of Merit in Gold](#) of the Republic of Austria (the country's highest for a foreigner).^[14]

Personal life

Mustard is married to Ann Anderson Mustard, a former [CBS Radio News](#) correspondent,^[2] whom he courted at the University of Illinois.^[15] They have one daughter.^[16]

He sits on the advisory board of the [Caspian Policy Center](#).^[14]

Mustard speaks Russian, German and "basic Spanish".^[3]