

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing

President of the French Republic

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was born on February 2, 1926 in Coblenz during the French occupation of Germany. He studied at the Janson de Sailly and Louis-le-Grand lycées in Paris and at the Blaise Pascal lycée in Clermont-Ferrand.

At the age of 16 he joined the Resistance and took part in the liberation of Paris. Enlisting in the First Army at 18 he fought in the French and German campaigns and was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was admitted to the Ecole Polytechnique in 1946 and later to the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

He was named *inspecteur des finances* in 1952, and was deputy director of the staff of Edgar Faure, President of the Council, in 1955.

On January 2, 1956 he was elected Deputy from the Puy-de-Dôme Department and in April 1958 was elected general councilor of the canton of Rochefort-Montagne. In November 1958 he was reelected Deputy from the Puy-de-Dôme Department (from the second district of Clermont-Ferrand).

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was appointed Secretary of State for Finance in January 1959, the youngest minister of the Fifth Republic. He was later named Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs in January 1962 and held that post until January 1966.

In September 1967 he was elected Mayor of Chamalières, a town near Clermont-Ferrand. He was reelected Deputy from Puy-de-Dôme in the first ballot in March 1967 and in June 1968 and held the office of chairman of the National Assembly Finance Committee.

President Pompidou, after his election in June 1969, appointed Mr. Giscard d'Estaing Minister of the Economy and Finance, a post he held throughout three cabinet changes (July 1972, August 1973 and March 1974).

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was elected President of the French Republic by universal suffrage on May 19, 1974.

He was married in December 1952 and he and his wife Anne-Aymone have four children, two daughters aged 21 and 14 and two sons aged 18 and 16.