

# Gordon E. Moore



**Gordon E. Moore** and his wife Betty established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in September 2000, which seeks to develop outcome-based projects that will improve the quality of life for future generations. The Foundation focuses its work in three areas of interest to the Moores: environmental conservation, science, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Gordon co-founded Intel in 1968, serving initially as Executive Vice President. He became President and Chief Executive Officer in 1975 and held that post until elected Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in 1979. He remained CEO until 1987 and was named Chairman Emeritus in 1997, stepping down in 2006.

Gordon is widely known for “Moore's Law,” in which in 1965 he predicted that the number of components the industry would be able to place on a computer chip would double every year. In 1975, he updated his prediction to once every two years. Because of changing technology, the industry now states approximately every 18 months. “Moore’s Law” has become the guiding principle for the industry to deliver ever-more-powerful semiconductor chips at proportionate decreases in cost. In practical terms, what this means is smaller, cheaper chips with more functionality that allows everything from a laptop computer; cell phones; AEDs; GPS; cleaner car emissions/skid control/antilock brakes; digital cameras, to medical devices that non-invasively see inside the body, and literally 100’s of thousands of other uses.

Gordon earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Chemistry and Physics from the California Institute of Technology. He was born in San Francisco, California, on January 3, 1929.

Gordon is less well known for his philanthropic work even though he has been contributing to science, technology, education, and conservation projects for decades. Gordon received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from George W. Bush in 2002. He received the National Medal of Technology from President George H. W. Bush in 1990. He is currently the chairman of the executive committee for Conservation International and a member of the Board of Directors of Gilead Sciences, Inc. He is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the California Institute of Technology from 1995 until the beginning of 2001 and continues as a senior trustee.