Chuck Manatt owned extensive farmland in his native Iowa.

“Learning to earn, earning to live, living to serve,” the creed of Future Farmers of America, of which he was a member as a young man in Iowa, guided his life as a public servant.
He was highly active in American Democratic politics and had a keen interest in nurturing future political leaders.
“He believed that investing in the next generation of leaders was the right thing to do and devoted his time and resources to make it a reality.”

– Former IFES Chairman Peter G. Kelly
At the state level, he chaired the California/Southern California Democratic Party and served on the National Committee of the California Democratic Party.
He was one of the architects of the global democracy movement. His creations include the National Endowment for Democracy, the Democratic Party of the United States and IFES.”

– IFES President and CEO Bill Sweeney
In 1999, former President Bill Clinton appointed Manatt as the U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.
As ambassador, Manatt emphasized election administration reform and greater cooperation between the Dominican Republic and the United States’ criminal justice systems.
Manatt served as chairman of IFES’ Board of Directors from 1993 to 1999 and was a distinct leader.
He had an unwavering commitment to spreading democracy around the world and helping those who are less fortunate.
“IFES has been a leader in assisting new democracies in every corner of the globe.”

– Charles T. Manatt
Manatt’s statement was true then, as IFES helped young democracies in Eastern Europe, and remains true today in the aftermath of the Arab Spring in the Middle East and North Africa.
Ambassador Charles Taylor “Chuck” Manatt

“Chuck’s legacy spans the globe — he laid the foundation for the democracy-building movement around the world and was instrumental in IFES’ early years.”

– Former IFES Chairman Peter G. Kelly
The Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards pay tribute to outstanding men and women who share his commitment to freedom and democracy.
He and his family established the Charles and Kathleen Manatt Fellowship at IFES’ Center for Applied Research and Learning.
The Charles and Kathleen Manatt Fellowship awards graduate students from the American Midwest the opportunity to work with IFES experts and conduct research on democracy and governance.
Manatt fellows’ research has helped shape learning at IFES and across the wider democracy and governance community.
Ambassador Charles Taylor “Chuck” Manatt

His family is proud to honor his legacy and celebrate the 2018 Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards honorees.
This year’s Democracy Awards honorees demonstrate the dedication to democracy and human rights embodied by Manatt throughout his life and career.