

Yasuo Fukuda



■ **1936:** Born Jul 16, father is former Prime Minister ***Takeo Fukuda***

■ **1959-89:** Business career includes oil company and directorship of financial institute

■ **1990:** Wins seat in House of Representatives

■ **1997:** Elected deputy director of ***Liberal Democratic Party***

■ **2000-2004:** Longest-serving Chief Cabinet Secretary in Japanese history, under Prime Ministers ***Yoshiro Mori*** and ***Junichiro Koizumi***. Leaves post amid pension scandal in May 2004

POLICY GOALS

■ ***Economics:*** May raise 5 percent consumption tax – thorny issue as last increase in 1997 was blamed for slowing economy

■ ***Foreign relations:*** Likely to promote friendly relations with China and flexible approach on North Korea

■ ***Yasukuni Shrine:*** Wants end to prime ministerial visits, proposing secular alternative to memorial