

Nicolas Maduro

Venezuela's vice president, named by Hugo Chavez as the South American leader's preferred successor



■ **Born:** Nov 23, 1962, Caracas

■ **1970s and 80s:** Begins political career as trade union activist while working as bus driver in Caracas

■ **1994:** Plays key role in securing release of Chavez from prison following 1992 failed coup attempt. Maduro's lawyer wife, **Cilia Flores**, leads Chavez's legal team

■ **1998:** Chavez wins presidential election. Maduro enters National Assembly, becomes Speaker in 2005

■ **2006:** Appointed Foreign Minister. Promotes Chavez's left-wing agenda, wins praise for easygoing style

■ **Oct 2012:** Named Vice President. If Chavez resigns or dies, Maduro takes over until new presidential elections are held