

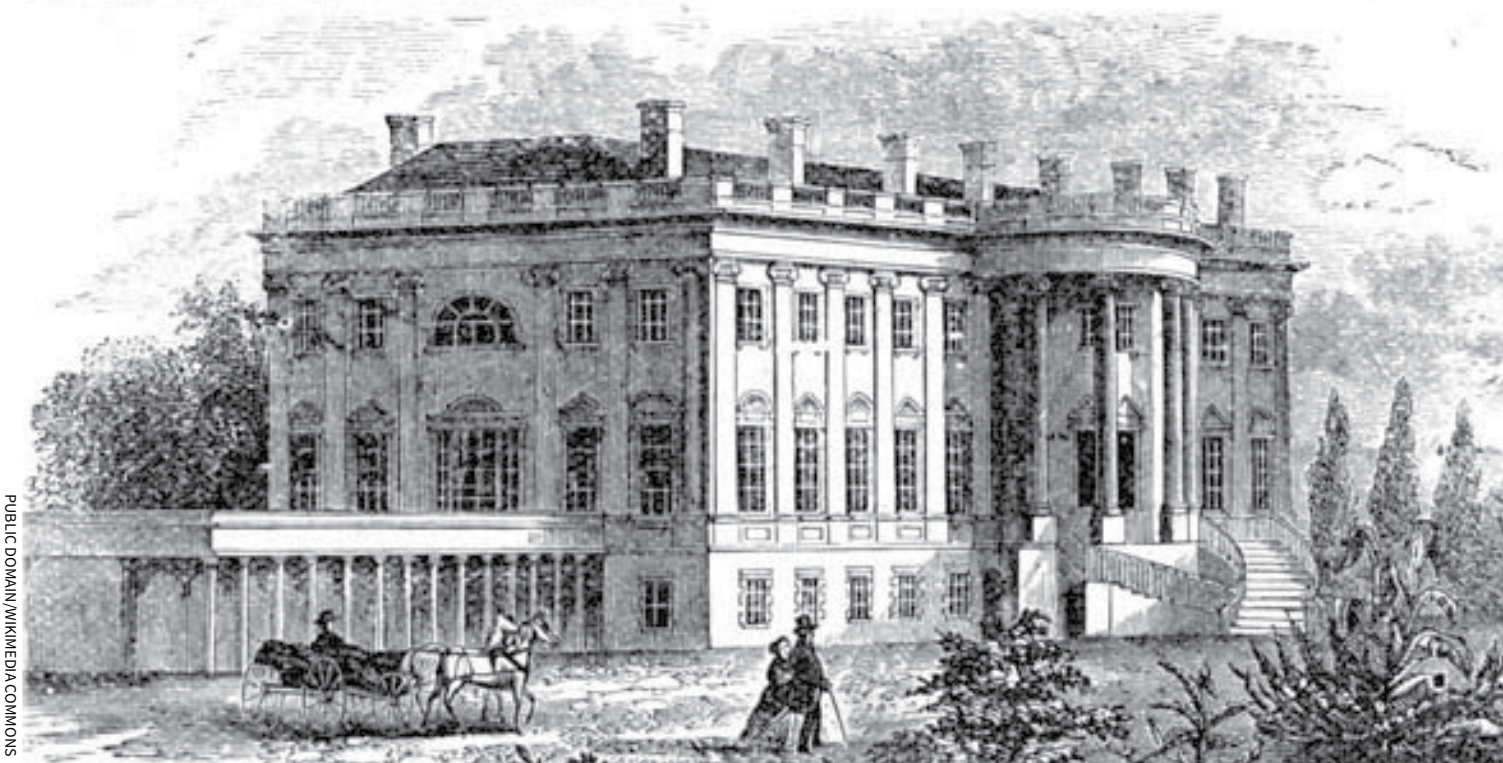
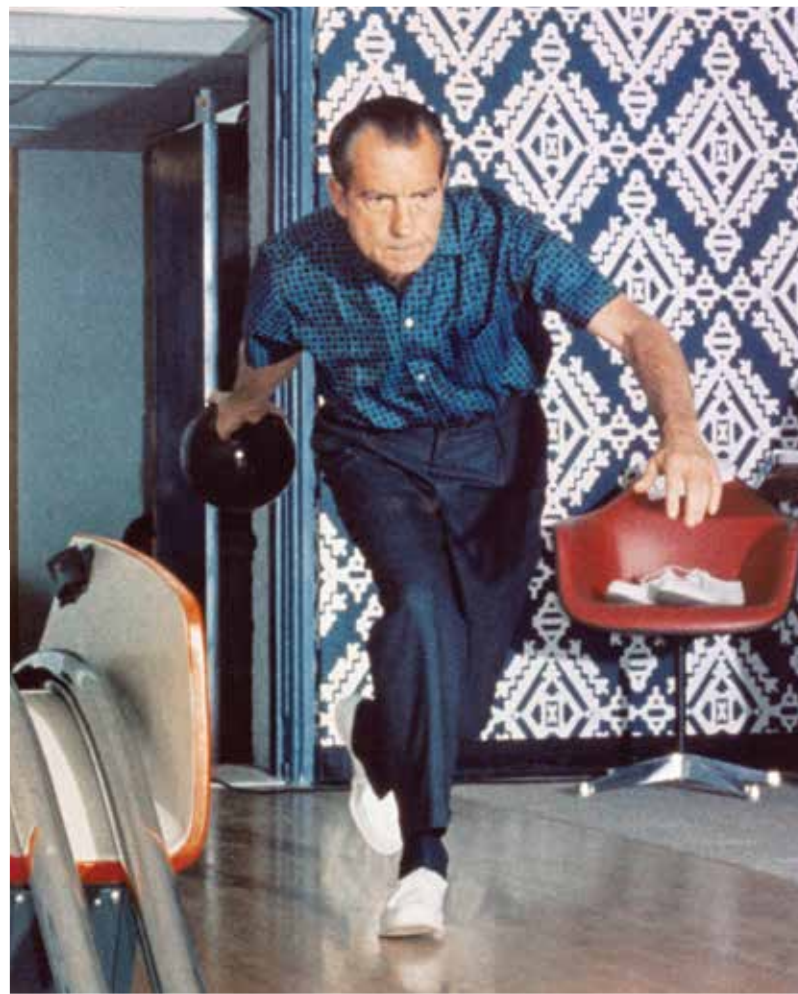
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Presidential Profiles

The Founding Fathers

America's Founding Fathers are a group of men who structured the government of the United States during the revolutionary period.

Their work, which includes authoring founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, has shaped the world. Here are brief biographies of each of the Founding Fathers who also held the highest office in the land.

JOHN ADAMS

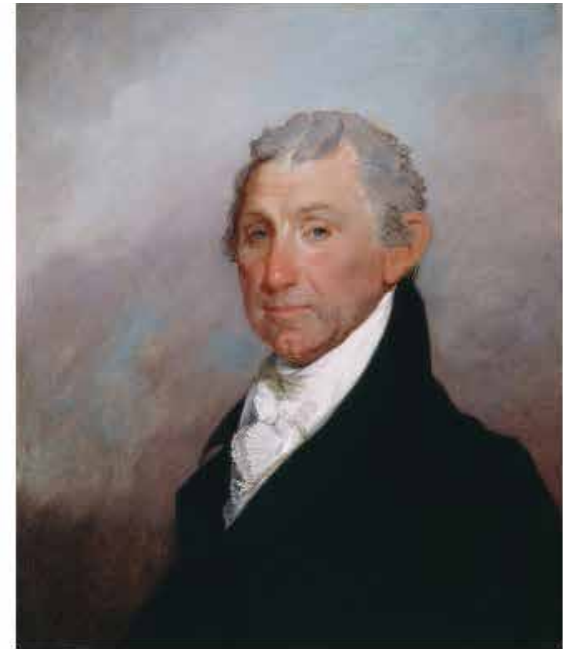
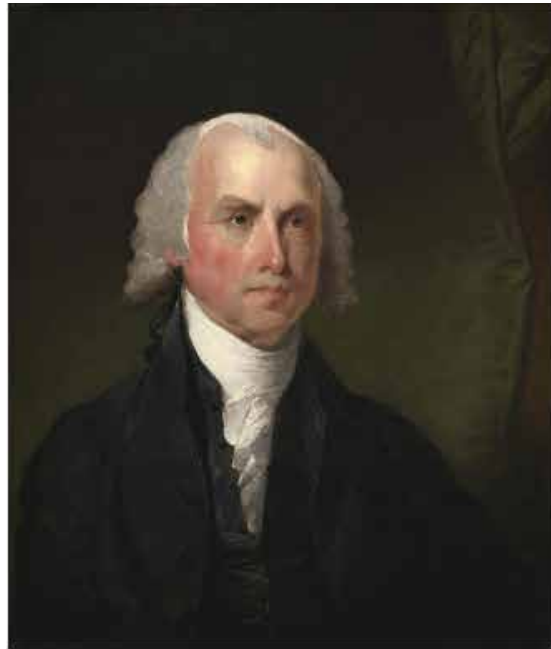
John Adams (1735-1826), a Massachusetts native, served in the First Continental Congress and helped draft the Declaration of Independence. He was the first vice president and second president of the United States. Elected as a Federalist, Adams saw the young country through a war between the French and the British.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was the primary drafter of the Declaration of Independence. He also served as the United States' first secretary of state and the second vice president and the third president. During his presidency, he negotiated the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the United States. He served a second term, seeing the nation through the war between Napoleonic France and Great Britain.

JAMES MADISON

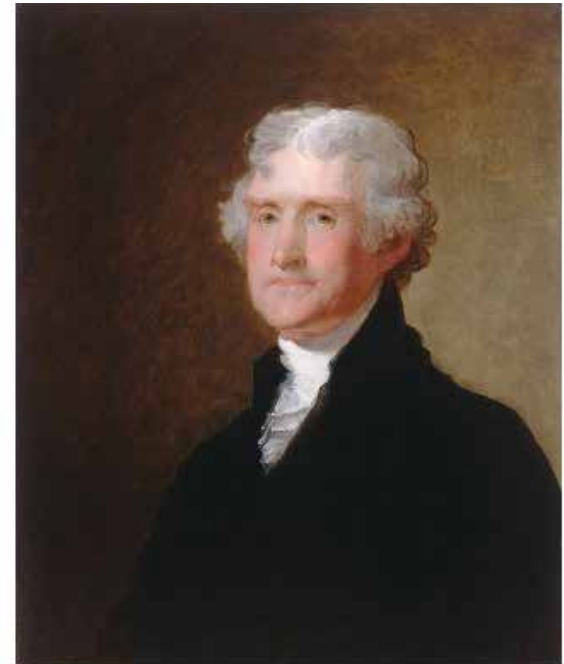
James Madison (1751-1836) wrote the first drafts of the U.S. Constitution,



co-wrote "The Federalist Papers" and sponsored the Bill of Rights. He won the 1808 presidential election with nearly 70% of the electoral votes. The War of 1812 would dominate both his presidential terms. During that conflict, the British invaded the United States, burning both the White House and the U.S. Capitol building. The war ended in 1815 with the Treaty of Ghent.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington (1732-1799) served as commander-in-chief of the colonial armies during the Revolutionary War and was the first president of the United States. The Virginia native and slaveholder was the only president in American history to be elected by unanimous approval of the Electoral college. His term set the tone for future presidencies, down to his preferred term of address, Mr. President. Washington strongly believed in and tried to project the image of the selfless public servant, even initially



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turning down his salary.

Washington served two terms as president. He personally lead troops into battle during the Whiskey Rebellion (1792) and pursued neutrality during yet another war between the British and

the French, sending John Jay to negotiate the Jay Treaty in 1794, which brought peace with Britain and cleared up issues from the Revolutionary War, including establishing a clear boundary between the U.S. and Canada.

Their work, which includes authoring founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, has shaped the world.

Great Presidential Speeches

When the president of the United States speaks, people around the world sit up and listen. Here are some excerpts from famous presidential speeches from the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS, SEPT. 19, 1796

"The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings and successes."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, NOV. 19, 1863

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

WOODROW WILSON, FOURTEEN POINTS, JAN. 8, 1918

"We have spoken now, surely, in terms too concrete to admit of any further doubt or question. An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak. Unless this principle be made its foundation no part of the structure of international justice can stand."



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President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivers his Atoms for Peace proposal to the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 8, 1953.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON YALTA, MARCH 1, 1945

"Peace can endure only so long as humanity really insists upon it, and is willing to work for it—and sacrifice for it. Twenty-five years ago, American fighting men looked to the statesmen of the world to finish the work of peace for which they fought and suffered. We failed them then. We cannot fail them again, and expect the world again to survive."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, ATOMS FOR PEACE, DEC. 8, 1953

"The United States knows that

peaceful power from atomic energy is no dream of the future. That capability, already proved, is here — now — today. Who can doubt, if the entire body of the world's scientists and engineers had adequate amounts of fissionable material with which to test and develop their ideas, that this capability would rapidly be transformed into universal, efficient, and economic usage."

JOHN F. KENNEDY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, JAN. 20, 1961

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been

granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility — I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it — and the glow from that fire can truly light the world. And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

White House Facts

George Washington selected the site of the White House in 1791.

It was designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban and was completed after eight years of construction. The first president to live in the White House was President John Adams. Here are some facts about the presidential residence.

- There is a quote inscribed on the State Dining Room from John Adams in a letter to his wife. It reads, "I pray heaven bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none by honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

- James Hoban was tapped to rebuild the White House after the British burned it in the War of 1812. Hoban also won a \$500 prize.

- James Monroe moved in in 1817 and built the South Portico.

- Andrew Jackson oversaw the building of the North Portico in 1829.

- President Theodore Roosevelt managed a White House renovation starting in 1902 that relocated the President's offices to the Executive Office Building, now known as the West Wing. That renovation was planned and executed by New York architectural firm McKim, Mead and White.

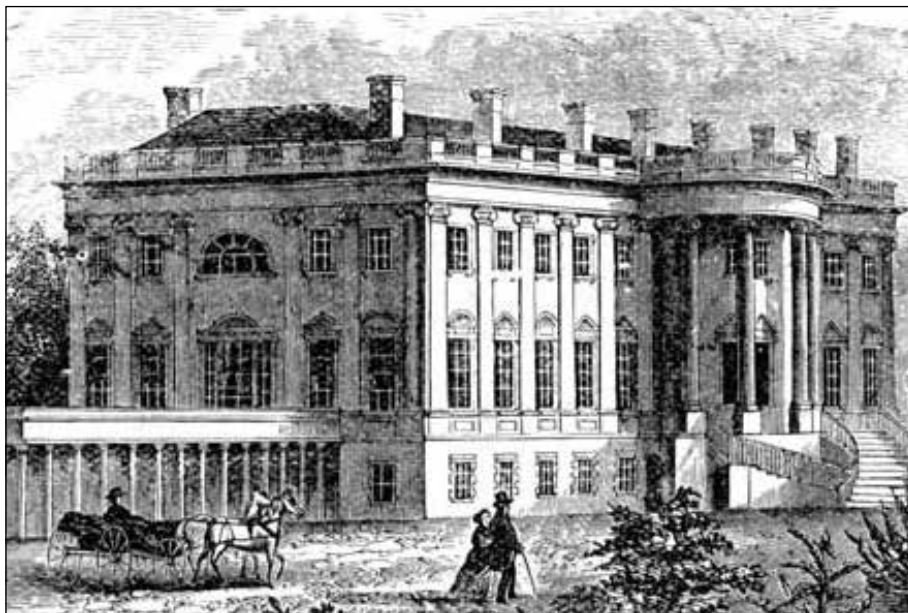
- President Harry S. Truman began another renovation oversaw by Lorenzo Winslow. The Truman family moved



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Clockwise from top left: President Warren G. Harding watches tennis players on the White House courts in 1923; President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden practice their putting on the White House putting green on April 24, 2009; Mid-19th century engraving shows the White House as seen from the South-West; and North Wall of the State Dining Room following its 1902 expansion by McKim, Mead and White.

back into the White House. This has been the last major overhaul of the White House.

- A refrigerator first came to the White House in 1845. Gas lighting was added in 1849 and electric lighting in 1891.

- There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms and six levels in the residence.

- There are 412 doors, 147

windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases and three elevators.

- It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the outside of the White House.

- After the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln lay in her room for five weeks while White House holdings were looted.

- President Theodore Roosevelt gave the White House its name in 1901. It has also been known as the President's Palace, the President's House and the Executive Mansion.

- During that same Roosevelt administration, the White House contained raccoons, snakes a badger and a bear.

- The White House has a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, bowling lane and putting green.

- The White House sits on 18 acres.

- The White House is a unit of the National Capital Parks system. It was accredited as a museum in 1988.

VPs Who Took Top Office

Since the office was established in 1789, there have been 49 vice presidents of the United States.

In the beginning, the vice presidency went to the person who received the second most votes for president in the Electoral College. But after the tied election of 1800, the Twelfth Amendment of the Constitution provided a separate elector ballot for the vice president.

Nine vice presidents have become president because the president died, resigned or was impeached and removed from office. Here are some other vice presidents who were elected to the highest office in the land.

JOHN ADAMS

John Adams (1735-1826) was the first vice president of the United States, serving under George Washington. He was elected president in 1796. He was the only member of the Federalist party to serve as president. He served one term in office and was succeeded by Thomas Jefferson.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was Adams' rival. He also served as vice president under Adams before being elected in 1800. He had two vice presidents, Aaron Burr and George Clinton.

MARTIN VAN BUREN

Martin Van Buren (1782-1862) was the eighth vice president of the United States and the eighth president of the U.S. Known as the Little Magician, Van Buren endured the panic of 1837 and the ensuing worst depression in U.S. history up to that time.

RICHARD NIXON

Richard Nixon (1913-1994) was vice



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Clockwise from top left: President John Adams, Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama; and President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H.W. Bush.

president under Dwight D. Eisenhower who was later elected president. His administration saw the Vietnam War, the first manned moon landings and was the first president to resign following the Watergate scandal.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

George H.W. Bush (1924-2018) was vice president under Ronald Reagan before being elected president and taking office in 1989. He was the first incumbent vice president elected president since Martin Van Buren in 1836.

JOE BIDEN

Joe Biden (born 1942) was Barack Obama's vice president for two terms. He was elected president in 2020 on the Democratic ticket with Kamala Harris, the first female vice president, as his running mate. Biden is the oldest person to become president at age 78.



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Presidential Hobbies

American presidents are on-call 24/7 and spend many of their waking hours knee-deep in the country's complex affairs.

That doesn't mean, however, they don't blow off steam from time to time. Here are some hobbies of past presidents.

ANDREW JACKSON

President Andrew Jackson bred horses at his Tennessee home and kept a racing stable at the White House, the White House Historical Foundation says. He had horses named Bolivia, Lady Nashville, Emilie and Busiris.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR

Considered an expert angler, President Chester A. Arthur was an avid fisherman. Arthur was the first president to visit Yellowstone.

His three-week fishing expedition in 1883 helped generate publicity that would help make the case for additional protections for the park.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum says that stamp collecting was one of the president's lifelong hobbies. He first got interested when he was 8 years old and enjoyed the hobby his whole life.

In the White House, the library says, there was scarcely a day when he did not spend some time with his collection.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

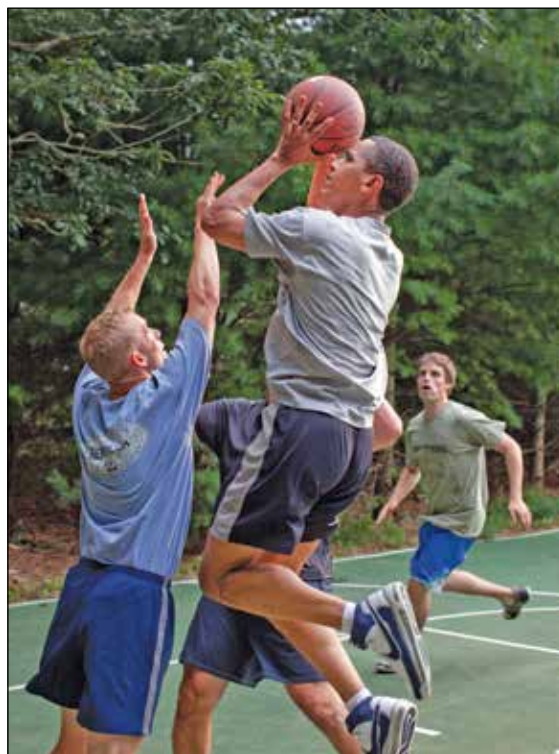
President William Howard Taft was the first president of the United States to openly admit playing golf. Golf was



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considered a rich man's game at the time and other presidents kept their playing a secret.

HERBERT HOOVER

An avid baseball fan, President Herbert Hoover made time for joining in and watching games whenever he could. He received complimentary

season passes from both the American and National leagues.

Hoover called baseball the perfect way to teach children about sportsmanship, work and good morals. "Next to religion," Hoover said, "baseball has a greater impact on our American way of life than any other American institution."

Clockwise from top left: President Herbert Hoover was an avid baseball fan; President William Howard Taft (center) enjoyed golf; President Richard Nixon was a bowler; and President Barack Obama enjoyed a game of basketball.

RICHARD NIXON

President Richard Nixon and first lady Pat Nixon were both avid bowlers. They had a one-lane alley built in an underground workspace in the White House in 1973.

"In many ways, bowling is better for me than golf because it doesn't take as much time. I don't have time to duck out and play golf, but I can duck out and bowl," Nixon once told the press corps.

BARACK OBAMA

President Barack Obama hosted basketball games that even included NBA players. Sports Illustrated reports that stars such as Kevin Durant, Scottie Pippen, LeBron James, Chris Paul, Derrick Rose, Alonzo Mourning and Magic Johnson.

Presidents after Leaving Office

Early American presidents could follow George Washington's example and quietly retire from public life.

Nowadays, with a persistent, 24-hour media cycle, presidents don't have the luxury of leaving the media bubble behind.

Here's a look at how some modern presidents spent their time after serving in the nation's top job.

RICHARD NIXON

After resigning office in 1974, Nixon retired to his California home. His estate, La Casa Pacifica, was dubbed the Western White House. He endured a series of surgeries and financial challenges brought on by the Watergate investigation, *People* magazine says, before spending the rest of his life trying to rehabilitate his reputation.

JIMMY CARTER

The oldest living president, Carter spent his time after his presidency focused on human rights and charitable causes, such as Habitat for Humanity.

He also founded the Carter Center, an organization focused on alleviating human suffering.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Carter has periodically gotten back into politics, endorsing Joe Biden for



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president at the Democratic National Convention in 2020 and criticizing President Donald Trump.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Part of the second father-and-son pair to serve as president, the elder Bush retired to

Above: President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan meet with former President Richard Nixon in the West Sitting Hall of the residence on July 28, 1988. **At left:** Former President Bill Clinton with his wife, then Sen. Hillary Clinton, in 2006.

private life with his wife, Barbara, in Houston. They divided their time between Texas and the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, *People* says. He also took annual cruises in Greece, went fishing and delivered paid speeches.

BILL CLINTON

After serving two terms in the White House, Clinton stayed active in politics both on his own and with his wife, former first lady, senator and secretary of state, Hillary Clinton. He opened the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton

Foundation for global foundation work. He endured a number of heart and respiratory health issues.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The younger Bush served two terms in office, during which he saw the Middle East war, the beginnings of the Great Recession, Hurricane Katrina and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He pledged to stay out of politics after leaving office and has, more or less, kept that promise. Bush has a new hobby — painting — and does charity work.

Famous First Ladies

Not all first ladies of the United States were the president's wife. If the president was a bachelor or widow, other female relatives or friends would carry out the first lady's official duties.

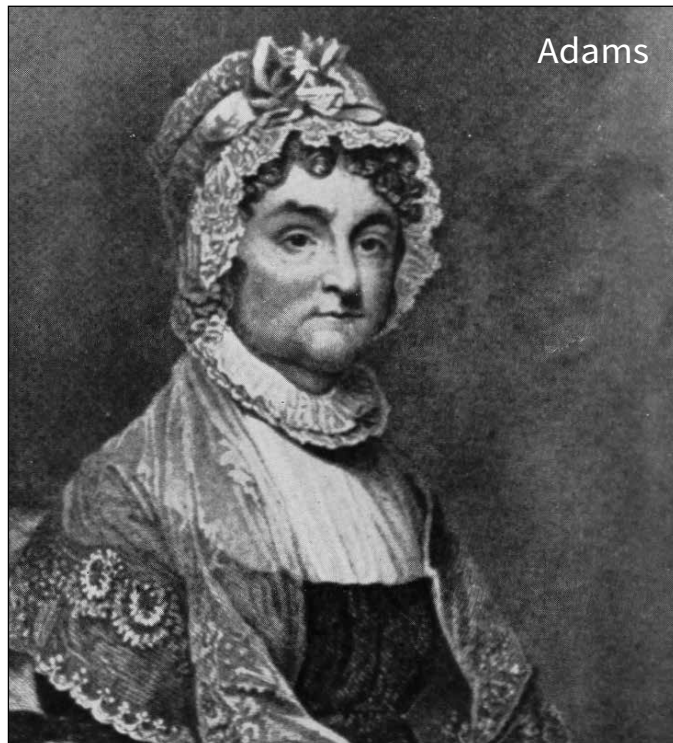
The National First Ladies' Library offers this information about the nation's first ladies.

MARTHA WASHINGTON

The first first lady, Martha Washington was George Washington's wife. She was born in Virginia and first married Daniel Parke Custis in 1750. He left her a widow when she was 26. She married Washington in 1759. When Washington became president, she was honored as Lady Washington, a public figure in her own right. She viewed her eight years as first lady as her civic duty.

ABIGAIL ADAMS

Massachusetts native Abigail Smith Adams saw her role as a hostess for the public and a symbol of her husband's Federalist Party. Her opinions were often voiced publicly, including her letters to the president. She was the first first lady to live in the White House, famously airing her family's laundry in the unfinished East Room.



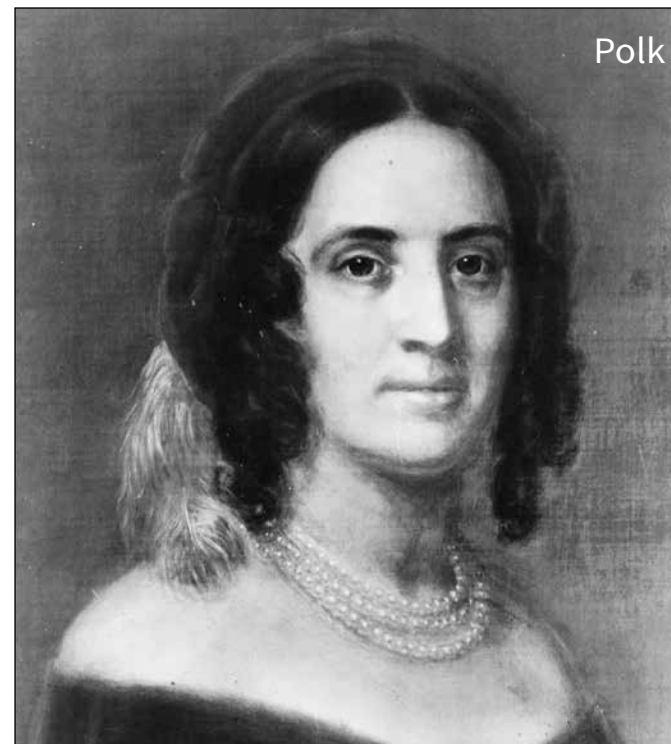
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DOLLEY MADISON

Unlike her predecessors, Madison had a zeal for public life. She created the role of the modern first lady, shaping political conversations and using every inch of her power,

including decorations and wardrobe to create a public identity. She was the first first lady to associate herself with a specific public project, a Washington, D.C., home for young girls.

ANNA HARRISON

She was not happy that her husband, William Henry Harrison, was opposed to her husband's candidacy for president. She was, nevertheless, present during the campaign.

When it came time to move into the White House, however, she sent her daughter-in-law Jane Harrison in her stead.

SARAH POLK

James Polk's wife refused to permit any White House business to be conducted on Sundays and banned dancing in the White House. She also refused to have whiskey, beer and other alcohol served in the White House, but did keep wine for dinner guests though neither she nor the president drank it.

HARRIET LANE

James Buchanan's niece, Harriet, took over first lady duties during his administration. The young woman entertained beaux during her time in the White House, including South Carolina Congressman Porcher Miles and British Minister to the U.S. Lord Lyons.

JULIA GRANT

Julia Dent Grant married President Ulysses S. Grant in 1848, when he was just Hiram Ulysses Grant, an Army officer. They had three sons and one daughter. She moved into the White House in 1869 when she was 43, and fully embraced her role. She also played a unique role in expanding the popularity of Christmas as a holiday when she allowed a Washington reporter to publish a story on how she celebrated with her family, including her early adoption of the new tradition of sending Christmas cards.