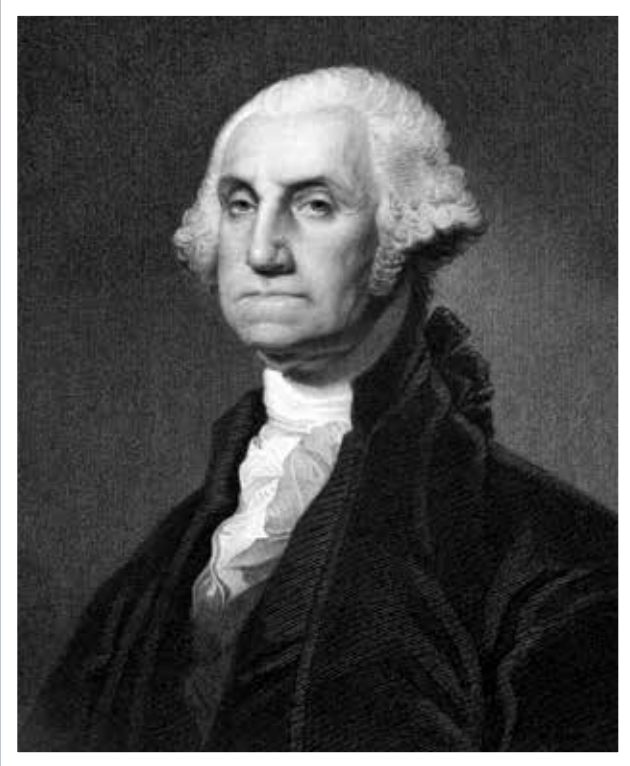




PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES





George Washington

President No.: 1
Born: 1732 **Died:** 1799
Term: 1789 to 1797

After a long military and political career, George Washington was looking to retire at the same time the nation was looking for leadership.

His direction during the Constitutional Convention in 1787, however, catapulted him into position as a frontrunner for the presidency. On the heels of the constitution being ratified, the electoral college unanimously elected Washington as the nation's first president.

Washington's presidency is still lauded today as revolutionary and nation-changing, as each December, thousands gather on the banks of the Delaware River in Washington Crossing, Pa., to watch the reenactment of his 1776

Christmas trek across the waterway.

Several hundred re-enactors in Continental military dress listen to General Washington's speech and then row across the river in replica boats. The event is proof that Washington's spirit is alive and well more than 200 years after his presidency ended.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

Arguably as monumental as his presidential legacy, Washington built a reputation for being an elite military leader, as well. He was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1754 and fought many of the initial battles of what grew into the French and Indian War.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington

managed and maintained his personal land. He also married Martha Dandridge Custis and led a simple life.

As time went on, he began to feel exploited by British regulations on land management. When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Washington was elected commander in chief of the Continental Army.

He led a grueling six-year barrage of battles until finally, in 1781, with the aid of French allies, he forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

MAJOR POLICY

Dealing with war and battles became an expertise of

Washington's, even during his presidency. When the French Revolution led to a major war between France and England, Washington insisted on the U.S. remaining neutral.

Neutrality was important to Washington in many aspects of political leadership, and he urged his countrymen to avoid excessive party spirit or geographical restrictions. Despite his efforts, two parties were developing by the end of his first term.

Washington grew weary of the back-and-forth by the end of his second term and decided to retire. His rest was short lived. He enjoyed less than three years of retirement, dying of a throat infection on Dec. 14, 1799.



Franklin D. Roosevelt

President No.: 32
Born: 1882 **Died:** 1945
Term: 1933 to 1945



The 75th anniversary of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's election to a third term as the nation's president was in 2015. He was the first and likely the last chief executive to earn this distinction. His longevity as a leader and spirit as a problem-solver helped define his presidency, which is regarded as one of the most important in United States history.

The nation's 32nd president assumed power in the deepest valley of the Great Depression, and his message of hope and perseverance permeated the spirit of the American people.

Ten simple words uttered at his inaugural address, in a way, defined Franklin D. Roosevelt's

entire presidency: 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.'

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

Born in 1882 in Hyde Park, N.Y., Roosevelt attended Harvard University and Columbia Law School, and married Eleanor Roosevelt in 1905.

Roosevelt won election to the New York Senate in 1910 and was appointed assistant secretary of the Navy by President Woodrow Wilson. By 1920, he was the Democratic nominee for vice-president.

His rapid ascension up the political ladder came to a screeching halt when in the summer of 1921, he was stricken with poliomyelitis.

The condition required a long, hard fight to regain the use of his legs. Seven years later, Roosevelt became governor of New York.

MAJOR POLICY

Roosevelt was elected president in November 1932 to the first of four terms. By March there were 13 million unemployed Americans and banks were closing at an alarming rate. His New Deal proposition was enacted by Congress as a sweeping program to bring recovery to business and agriculture.

As the nation slowly emerged from the Depression, Roosevelt was re-elected by a large margin. His collection of terms was punctuated when the Japanese attacked

Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and he spearheaded the organization of the nation's resources for a global war.

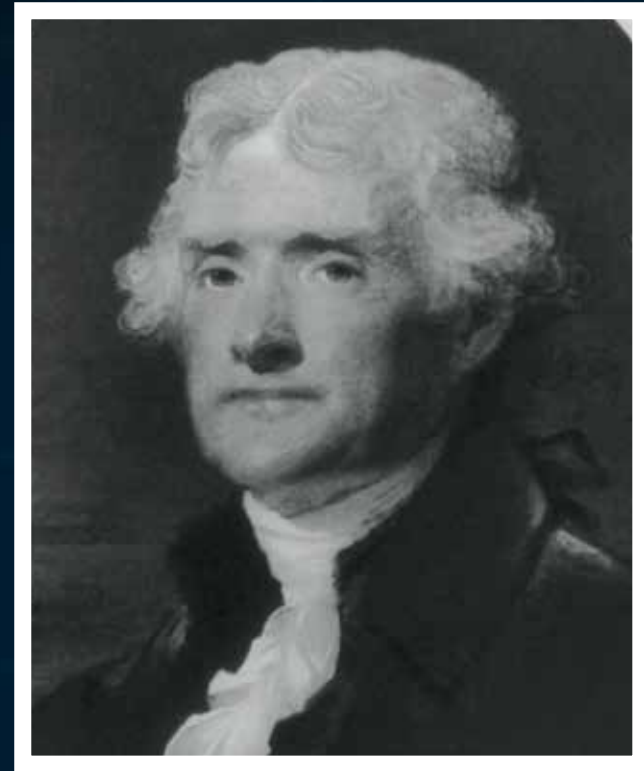
With the foresight of the need for stronger relations between international powers, Roosevelt also laid the groundwork for the planning of a United Nations. He coined the organization's name, which was first used in the Declaration by United Nations on Jan. 1, 1942, during the Second World War.

As the war drew to a close, Roosevelt's health deteriorated. On April 12, 1945, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage, leaving behind a long history of service to his country and a reputation for swift, resolute action.



Thomas Jefferson

President No.: 3
Born: 1743 **Died:** 1826
Term: 1801 to 1809



Thomas Jefferson served as our nation's third president. Fittingly, he died on July 4, 1826. Known as the silent member of Congress, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence at the age of 33. In the years following, he worked hard to make sure it was instituted across the nation, and also wrote a bill establishing religious freedom, enacted in 1786.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

This powerful pioneer of liberty was born in 1743 in Virginia, where he inherited about 5,000 acres of

land. He studied at the College of William and Mary and became an expert in the legal field before reluctantly becoming a presidential candidate in 1796.

That year, he came within three votes of election and became vice-president to his opponent, John Adams, through a flaw in the Constitution. There was even more controversy in 1800, as Republican electors cast a tie vote between Jefferson and Aaron Burr. The House of Representatives settled the tie in favor of Jefferson and the rest was history.

MAJOR POLICY

When Jefferson assumed the presidency, it was a time of early rest in terms of the world's warfare. He quickly slashed Army and Navy expenditures, cut the budget and reduced the national debt by a third.

The greatest feat of his presidency occurred in 1803: the Louisiana Purchase. Although the Constitution made no provision for the acquisition of new land, Jefferson worked out the \$15 million deal with Napoleon for one of the largest land deals in history (800,000 square miles of land).

Jefferson spent the majority of his second term devising ways to keep his nation out of the Napoleonic wars, which were spreading rapidly throughout Europe. In trying to remain neutral, Jefferson used economic threats and an embargo upon American shipping that ended up working against his nation's prosperity.

The embargo was lifted as Jefferson left office. He died on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, just a few hours before the passing of the nation's second president, John Adams.



Theodore Roosevelt

President No.: 26
Born: 1858 **Died:** 1919
Term: 1901 to 1909



Much like his distant relative, Franklin Roosevelt, who would later serve in the same position, Theodore Roosevelt was a passionate president with aspirations to better the lives of the American people.

Due to his affluent upbringing in New York City, Roosevelt's youth differed greatly from those of the log cabin presidents who had served before him. He was born in 1858 into a wealthy family but — like FDR — would battle much tragedy and illness throughout his life.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

In 1884, Roosevelt's first wife,

Alice Lee Roosevelt, and his mother died on the same day. Overcome with great sadness, he spent the next chapter of his life driving cattle and hunting big game on his ranch in the Badlands of the Dakota territory.

He remarried in 1886 and became a lieutenant colonel of the Rough Rider Regiment during the Spanish-American War.

Roosevelt won as the Republican candidate for governor in 1898, eventually becoming the vice-president behind McKinley. When the president was assassinated, Roosevelt became the youngest leader in the nation's history (42).

MAJOR POLICY

Roosevelt leveraged his age advantage to challenge Congress and the American public to take on progressive, strengthened reforms.

One of his major impacts was ensuring the construction of the Panama Canal, driving the creation of a strategic shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific.

His policy was not only celebrated by the American population and business leaders, but also by the international community. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the Russo-Japanese War and reached a gentleman's agree-

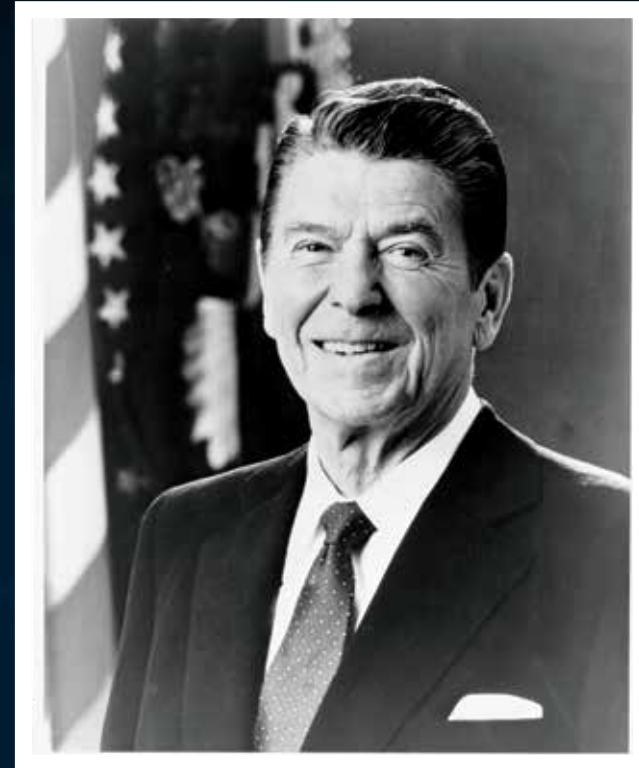
ment on immigration issues with Japan.

A focus of Roosevelt's presidency was conservation. He added to the national forests in the West, reserved lands for public use and spearheaded expansive irrigation projects.

Leaving the presidency in 1909, Roosevelt would eventually jump back into politics when he ran for president in 1912 on the Progressive ticket.

While campaigning in Milwaukee, Roosevelt was shot in the chest by a fanatic. He soon recovered.

Roosevelt died in 1919.



Ronald Reagan

President No.: 40
Born: 1911 **Died:** 2004
Term: 1981 to 1989

With the goal of achieving “peace through strength,” Ronald Reagan is regarded as one of the most highly respected presidents in American history. His background was unique to the presidency post, earning success in Hollywood before translating his talents into Washington success. The legacy he built during his eight-year term ending in 1989 lives on today.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

Upon graduating from Eureka College, Reagan became a radio sports announcer and impressed during a screen test in 1937 that won him a contract in Hollywood. He appeared in 53 films over the

next two decades.

Reagan eventually served as president of the Screen Actors Guild, taking hard lines against the issue of Communism in the film industry. He toured the country as a television host, gaining national notoriety for both his Hollywood career and his political views.

In 1966 he was elected governor of California by a margin of 1 million votes and was re-elected in 1970. His unique background and image as a popular celebrity helped pave the way into the White House.

MAJOR POLICY

The Reagan Revolution aimed to reinvigorate the American people

and reduce their reliance upon government, working in alignment with his 1980 campaign pledge to restore “the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism.”

Reagan was known for his skillful negotiations with Congress to get bills passed. His focus was on stimulating economic growth, curbing inflation, increasing employment and strengthening national defense. In 1986, he led an overhaul of the income tax code, which eliminated many deductions and exempted millions of people with low incomes.

In foreign policy, Reagan increased defense spending 35 percent and spearheaded dramatic

meetings with Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The men negotiated a treaty that would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

When peace couldn't be achieved, Reagan was not shy to act against terrorism. He sent American bombers against Libya after evidence surfaced that Libya was involved in an attack on American soldiers in a nightclub. He also ordered naval escorts in the Persian Gulf to maintain the free flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war.

These efforts were in line with the Reagan Doctrine, containing what some hail as the most influential policies in American history.



John F. Kennedy

President No.: 35
Born: 1917 **Died:** 1963
Term: 1961 to 1963



Time stood still on Nov. 22, 1963 — the date that still rings loudly in the ears of many Americans who were alive to experience the events that occurred. It was the day that John Fitzgerald Kennedy was killed by an assassin's bullets as his motorcade wound through Dallas, hardly 1,000 days into his presidency. Kennedy was the youngest man elected president. He also was the youngest to die.

For revelers of Kennedy history, a trip to Boston's John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum would be worth the trip. The newly updated museum features items from Kennedy's early years that have never before been displayed, including a set of his crutches and his old wooden school desk that still bears his initials.

The exhibition focuses on

Kennedy's military service and his years at boarding school. Taken from a time when Kennedy was known for his lack of discipline and troublemaking tendencies, the museum's pieces shed new light on the president's childhood.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

Kennedy was born in Brookline, Mass., on May 29, 1917. He graduated from Harvard in 1940 and served in the Navy before becoming a charismatic Democratic congressman and senator.

He married Jacqueline Bouvier in 1953 and wrote "Profiles in Courage" two years later while recuperating from a back operation. The publication won the Pulitzer Prize in history.

In 1956, Kennedy almost gained the Democratic nomination for vice-president, and four years later

was a first-ballot nominee for president. He beat out Republican candidate Richard Nixon to win the popular vote by a narrow margin, becoming the first Roman Catholic president.

MAJOR POLICY

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." This ethos became one of the most memorable phrases uttered by Kennedy when he spoke it at his inaugural address.

He would excite many Americans many more times through his policies, specifically ones focused on battling privation, poverty and the Communist challenge.

Shortly after his inauguration, Kennedy ordered a band of Cuban exiles to invade their homeland in an attempt to overthrow the regime

of Fidel Castro. The plan failed and even worsened the already fractured relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

Kennedy also set his sights on another communist power, the Soviet Union. When the country renewed its campaign against West Berlin, Kennedy replied by increasing the nation's military strength.

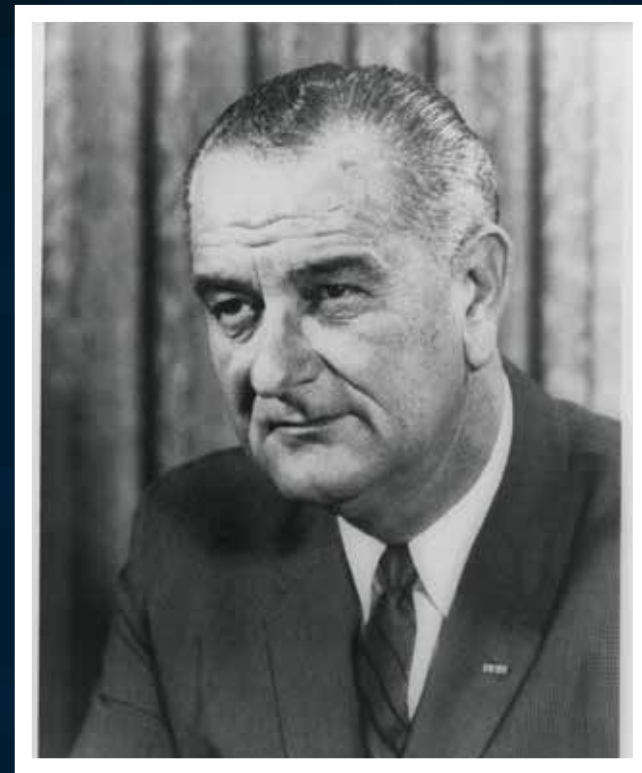
The Russians later sought to install nuclear missiles in Cuba, an effort that influenced Kennedy to impose a quarantine on all offensive weapons in Cuba. While nuclear war seemed possible, the Russians eventually agreed to take the missiles away.

Kennedy was successful in contending that both sides had a vital interest in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and slowing the arms race. These efforts led to the test ban treaty of 1963.



Lyndon B. Johnson

President No.: 36
Born: 1908 **Died:** 1973
Term: 1963 to 1969



Lyndon B. Johnson stepped into quite a presidential situation when he took over in 1963 after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The 36th president managed many of Kennedy's ongoing initiatives while also starting a few of his own. Overall, Johnson was respected by the American people for his leadership, so much so that he was elected to continue his work for a second term.

BEFORE HE WAS PRESIDENT

Johnson was the oldest of five children growing up in Stonewall,

Texas, right down the road from the town of Johnson City, named after the Johnson family. After graduating from what is now Texas State University in 1930, he briefly taught school before winning an appointment as legislative secretary to a Democratic Texas congressman.

Johnson was relocated to Washington, D.C., and quickly built strong relationships with aides to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Roosevelt helped Johnson win a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a lieutenant

commander.

Johnson was later elected as a senator for Texas in 1948 and became the youngest minority leader in Senate history in 1953. The next year, Johnson was elected majority leader.

MAJOR POLICY

Johnson was known for his persuasive communication skills and political knowledge. Many stories have emerged from his presidency that paint a picture of an imposing presence able to convince others to see his side of issues.

In his role as vice president to

Kennedy, Johnson headed the space program, oversaw negotiations on the nuclear test ban treaty and pushed through equal opportunity legislation for minorities.

During his administration, Johnson initiated the "Great Society" social service programs and signed the Civil Rights Act into law. These were major wins for a nation in a period of great transition, and Johnson was lauded for his efforts.

On the other hand, Johnson took much criticism for his role in vastly expanding America's involvement in the Vietnam War.