

# PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES



# Presidential Pets

There is something about animals that make presidents seem more human.

Maybe that's why almost all the presidents have had pets while in office. Only three have not — but one of those three, Andrew Johnson, did feed and care for the mice who shared the White House with him.

Some presidents had more animals than others. Teddy Roosevelt may hold the record as each of his six children had pets. Not only were there the usual dogs, cats, birds and guinea pigs, but they also owned snakes, a badger, a pony, a hen, a lizard, a small black bear, a rat, a pig, a rabbit, a barn owl, a lion and a one-legged rooster.

Acting as both a pet and livestock, Pauline Wayne was the last cow to live at the White House. She belonged to William Howard Taft and his family and was a gift from a senator after their first cow died suddenly. She gained notoriety when she once went missing for two days. She was being shipped to the International Dairymen's Exposition in Milwaukee in a private train car. The other cars in the train were headed for slaughter at the Chicago stock yards. The train switch crew accidentally switched Pauline's car and she narrowly avoided being put to death.

The next president, Woodrow Wilson, kept a flock of as many as 48 sheep, led by



President George H.W. Bush with his dogs Millie and Ranger at Camp David in 1991.

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the ram Old Ike. They were a cost-cutting measure used to keep the White House lawn trimmed and the wool was sold to benefit the Red Cross. He wasn't, though, the first president to keep sheep as pets.

Thomas Jefferson bred them, after being introduced to their possibilities by George Washington. One of his rams, according to his friend's diary, killed a little boy.

According to the Presidential

Pet Museum, which opened in 1999, there were two presidents who owned alligators. President John Quincy Adams was given an alligator by Marquis de Lafayette and Herbert Hoover's son owned

two alligators who frequented the White House. The Adams alligator lived in the bathtub while the Hoover ones were banished to the grounds.

Benjamin Harrison had a pet Billy goat that he tried to put to good use. He'd put a harness on "Old Whiskers" so it could give his grandchildren rides around the White House grounds. Once, according to the Washington Evening Star, the goat decided to take off with his passenger and headed toward an excavation site. The president had to go chasing after the racing goat to rescue his grandson.

Rutherford Hayes wasn't the first president to have a cat, but he was the first person in the United States to have a Siamese cat, a gift from the American consul in Bangkok. She traveled from Hong Kong to San Francisco and then to Washington. While much beloved, she lived only a short time in presidential splendor. After several months, she became sick and died — despite the president asking his personal doctor to treat her. There are records showing that her body was to be preserved, but no one has ever found a stuffed Siamese.

Most modern presidents have limited themselves to dogs and cats, however, many of the pets have gained literary fame, appearing in books by the presidents and their wives.

Aside from the mice-loving Johnson, the only other presidents who have not owned pets? James K. Polk and Donald Trump.

# Slogans & Songs

Long before the Twitter-limited word counts made presidential missives compact or sound bites ruled the airwaves, presidents used slogans and songs to carry them to the Oval Office and capture the imagination of the public.

## SLOGANS

The first recorded use of a campaign slogan was in 1840 by William Henry Harrison. Harrison had famously defeated Tecumseh in 1811 at the battle of Tippecanoe and his running mate was John Tyler. They popularized the slogan “Tippecanoe and Tyler Too.”

Since then, nearly everyone who has run for president has had some sort of slogan, ones that often reflected the personality of the candidate.

Abraham Lincoln used “Vote Yourself a Farm” for his first term and “Don’t Swap Horses in the Middle of the Stream” for his second.

Grover Cleveland and James Blaine used nursery rhyme-like slogans attacking each other with Blaine’s being “Ma, Ma, Where’s My Pa, Gone to the White House, ha ha ha” and Cleveland’s being “Blaine, Blaine, James G. Blaine, The



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Continental Liar from the State of Maine.” The first made reference to Cleveland having an out-of-wedlock child and the second referred to Blaine being involved in unethical railroad dealings.

Warren Harding is sometimes blamed for creating a new word with “Return to Normalcy.”

Herbert Hoover’s 1928 slogan “A Chicken in Every Pot and a Car in Every Garage” backfired on him the following year with the stock market crash and the start of the Great Depression. Angry street people in the musical “Annie” sang, “In ev’ry pot he said ‘a chicken,’ but Herbert Hoover he forgot, not only

don’t we have the chicken, we ain’t got the pot!”

Ronald Reagan asked a question with his first presidential run, “Are you better off than you were four years ago?” and then followed it up with “It’s Morning Again in America.”

A few presidential candidates went for rhymes — “I like Ike” was a popular slogan for

Dwight “Ike” Eisenhower and third-party candidate Ross Perot tried “Ross for Boss.”

Donald Trump’s slogan, “Make America Great Again,” not only became a favorite for red hats, but it was abbreviated to MAGA as a part of the president’s brand.

## SONGS

While modern-day presidential candidates have gotten in trouble for using artists’ songs without their permission, in bygone days, campaigns had songs written for the candidates.

In 1904, three candidates sent out competing songs, according to the Library of Congress. Theodore Roosevelt celebrated his role in the Spanish-American War with “The Hero of San Juan Hill.” Alton Parker criticized the song’s jingoism with his own song, “Pull Together Boys.” The third candidate, Eugene V. Debs, ignored the other two candidates in his song, “The Dawning Day,” that promised the dawn of a new political age.

William Howard Taft rode to victory over William Jennings Bryant while turning his slogan into the song, “Get on the Raft with Taft.”

A Civil War hero, Ulysses Grant turned that popularity into a song with “The Man Who Saved the Nation.”

The singer, comedian and actor Al Jolson was a big supporter of Warren Harding and used his star power by writing and performing “Harding You’re the Man for Us.”

# Running Afoul of the Law

Presidents are tasked with executing the law and upholding the constitution, but that hasn't kept some of them from having tangles with the law.

Perhaps the most famous is Richard Nixon, who resigned as president when it became clear he was going to be impeached and removed from office for covering up the burglary of the Democratic presidential campaign headquarters. But he was neither the first nor the last to get in legal hot water.

Some presidents even managed to get themselves arrested while in office.

The 14th president was known for having a drinking problem. In fact, Franklin Pierce drank so much that he developed cirrhosis of the liver and died from it. Before that, though, he took a drunken ride on his horse through town and ran down an old woman. He was arrested and served for the incident, but never convicted. The courts claimed there was insufficient evidence.

A good horseman, Ulysses S. Grant liked to speed when driving his horse-drawn carriage. The first time he was pulled over in 1872, the officer gave him a warning. While he promised to slow down, he didn't. The next day, he was



President Richard Nixon in the Oval Office. Nixon was the first president to resign the presidency.

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arrested for speeding and taken to the police station. He was released on a \$20 bond which was later forfeited when he didn't show up for his court date. He apparently was good-humored about it and respected the officer, William Henry West, an African American soldier and police officer, for doing his job.

While Nixon resigned to avoid being impeached, three other presidents have been impeached by the House of Representatives and then acquitted by the Senate.

President Andrew Johnson

was unpopular because of his post-Civil War policies and after he fired the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, he became the first president to be impeached, in 1868.

Exactly 130 years later, in 1998, Bill Clinton was impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice for trying to cover up his sexual relationship with a former White House intern.

Donald Trump is the only president to have been impeached twice, and both times he was cleared by the Senate. The first was for withholding military aid to

Ukraine when Volodymyr Zelenskyy refused his demands to harm Trump's opponent. The second was for inciting insurrection when a mob overran the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, where Congress was ratifying the results of the 2020 election.

While neither was impeached nor arrested, Warren Harding is considered the most corrupt president. A man who preferred to spend his time womanizing and playing poker, he let his cronies dictate most decisions.

In 2012, the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission

found George W. Bush and seven members of his administration guilty of war crimes for torture that occurred during the Iraq War. While never convicted or even charged, many claimed that Harry Truman committed war crimes by authorizing the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Barack Obama was accused of war crimes over drone use in the Middle East.

Ronald Reagan was investigated in the Iran-Contra scandal, where officials illegally sold arms to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages.

# Final Resting Places

If you want to visit the graves of U.S. presidents, you'll have to plan a trip that traverses the entire country.

Unlike countries that have royal graveyards or mausoleums, America's presidents are often buried in their home states, though at least one president had his remains moved several times.

## GRAVE ROBBERS

George Washington set precedents in both life and death as the country's first president. After he died, Congress wanted to bury him below the U.S. Capitol, which was then under construction. To allow for time to build the tomb, the family temporarily buried Washington in the family crypt.

While Congress argued about the tomb, a grave robber broke into the Mt. Vernon crypt to try to steal Washington's skull. However, the disgruntled employee of the estate accidentally stole a different person's head.

Congress tried to demand Washington's bones after this incident, but the family was having none of it. They built a new family crypt on Mt. Vernon and that is where the first president's bones remain. The "Washington's Tomb" under the Capitol Rotunda remains empty of remains.

The other president whose bones were at risk were



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The graves of President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Abraham Lincoln. Buried in an unguarded Illinois cemetery, two Chicago counterfeiters cooked up a plot to steal Lincoln's body in 1876 and hold it for ransom. However, they made the mistake of asking for advice from someone they thought was an expert grave robber, but was really a Secret Service informant. After that attempt, his body was moved

to a shallow, unmarked grave in the tomb's basement. Then, finally, in 1901, his remains were moved again, this time to a steel cage covered with 10 feet of concrete to protect it against future theft attempts.

## GRAVE SITES SPREAD ACROSS STATES

The most common burial place for the 39 presidents

who have died is Virginia with seven presidents buried there. The next is New York with six, Ohio with five and Tennessee with three. Two presidents each are buried in Massachusetts, Texas and California. Eleven more presidents are their state's sole claim to fame.

Woodrow Wilson is the one whose remains can be found

in Washington D.C.'s National Cathedral, the only president buried in the national capital.

## TOGETHER IN DEATH

Two presidents share a crypt — the father-son duo John Adams and John Quincy Adams are buried with their wives in the United First Parish Church in Massachusetts.

William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy are also buried in the same location — Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, hundreds of feet apart. Kennedy's grave is a popular tourist site with the eternal flame burning above it. Rumors floated about Taft's burial that have been proven untrue. A large man, it was said he was buried in a piano box.

## TRAVELING REMAINS

James Polk has had trouble resting in peace. He died of cholera and had to be buried for a year in a mass grave in the city cemetery because of laws surrounding infectious diseases.

After a year, his relatives moved his body to the Polk Place grounds, as his will dictated. However, the family sold that land in 1893. The president's body, and that of his wife, were exhumed and moved to the Tennessee Capitol.

While that looked to be permanent, in 2017 there were political arguments about relocating his body to the James K. Polk Home and Museum.

# Making History

Historians love to record “firsts,” whether it is the first president to be married three times (Donald Trump) or the first president to be assigned a presidential code name (Harry Truman).

## EARLY PRESIDENTS

When it comes to George Washington, everything he did was a first. Some firsts were personal. He was the first president to own slaves, to not have any biological children and the first to be a Freemason.

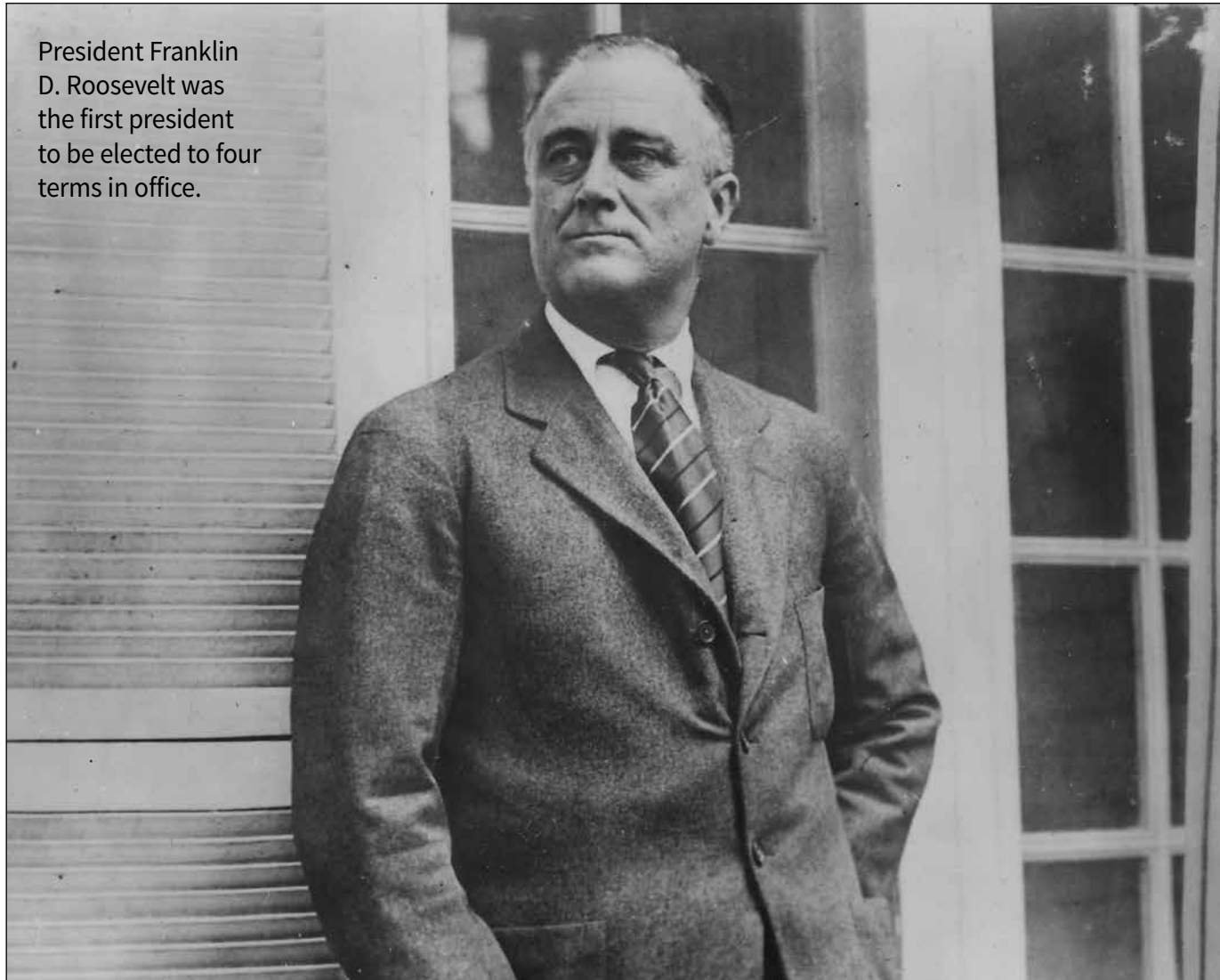
John Adams, became the first president to live in the White House and the first to be defeated for his second term in office.

Thomas Jefferson was the first president whose inauguration was not attended by his predecessor. James Madison was the first to ask Congress for a declaration of war.

## FAMILY FIRSTS

James Monroe was the first to have a child get married at the White House. Andrew Jackson was the first president to be born in a log cabin and to be born to immigrant parents. Martin van Buren was the first non-native speaker of English, but also the first president to be born a U.S. citizen.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to be elected to four terms in office.



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James Buchanan was the first president to be a bachelor and may have been the first gay president. Grover Cleveland was the first to get married at the White House and have a child while in office.

Herbert Hoover was the first president who was a Quaker.

## POLITICAL FIRSTS

William Henry Harrison was the first president to die while in office. John Tyler was the first president to have a veto overturned and to face a vote of impeachment. Andrew

Johnson was the first to be impeached.

Ulysses Grant was the first president to establish a National Park. Warren Harding was the first president elected after women had the right to vote.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to appoint a woman to the cabinet and the only one to be elected to four terms. Dwight Eisenhower was the first president to preside over all 50 states.

Lyndon B. Johnson was the first to appoint a Black person to the Supreme Court.

Richard Nixon was the first to resign from the presidency and the first to visit all 50 states. Gerald Ford was the first to release his medical records to the public.

Bill Clinton was the first president to have his inauguration streamed on the internet and was the first president to send an email. George W. Bush was the first president to have a 90% approval rating in the polls.

Joe Biden was the first president to have a female vice president and to appoint an openly transgender person to

federal office and have that person confirmed.

## UNUSUAL FIRSTS

James Polk was the first president to not keep a pet in office. Zachary Taylor was the first president who used the term “first lady.” Millard Fillmore was the first president to install a kitchen stove in the White House. Franklin Pierce was the first to have a Christmas tree in the White House.

Abraham Lincoln had a lot of firsts — from famously being the first to be assassinated to the first to wear a beard, the first to hold a patent and the first to be born outside the original 13 colonies.

Rutherford Hayes was the first to install a typewriter and a telephone in the White House. James Garfield was the first to be left-handed and to serve as a college president, despite dying before reaching the age of 50 (another first).

Theodore Roosevelt was the first president and American to win a Nobel peace prize as well as being the first president to ride in a submarine and an airplane. Woodrow Wilson was the first president to have a PhD.

John F. Kennedy was the first president to have been a Boy Scout and to win a Pulitzer Prize. Jimmy Carter was the first president to be born in a hospital and is the longest-lived president.

Ronald Reagan was the first president to have been the head of a union. Barack Obama was the first to publicly endorse same-sex marriage.

# Nicknames and Code Names

Ever a country that leans toward informality, the United States has a long history of assigning nicknames to its presidents — some honorary, some derogatory. The Secret Service has code names for each modern president and all his family members.

Nearly everyone knows that the Father of His Country is George Washington and the Sage of Monticello is Thomas Jefferson. Andrew Jackson was known affectionately as Old Hickory and less affectionately as Jackass — which did, however, lead to the donkey becoming the symbol of the Democratic Party.

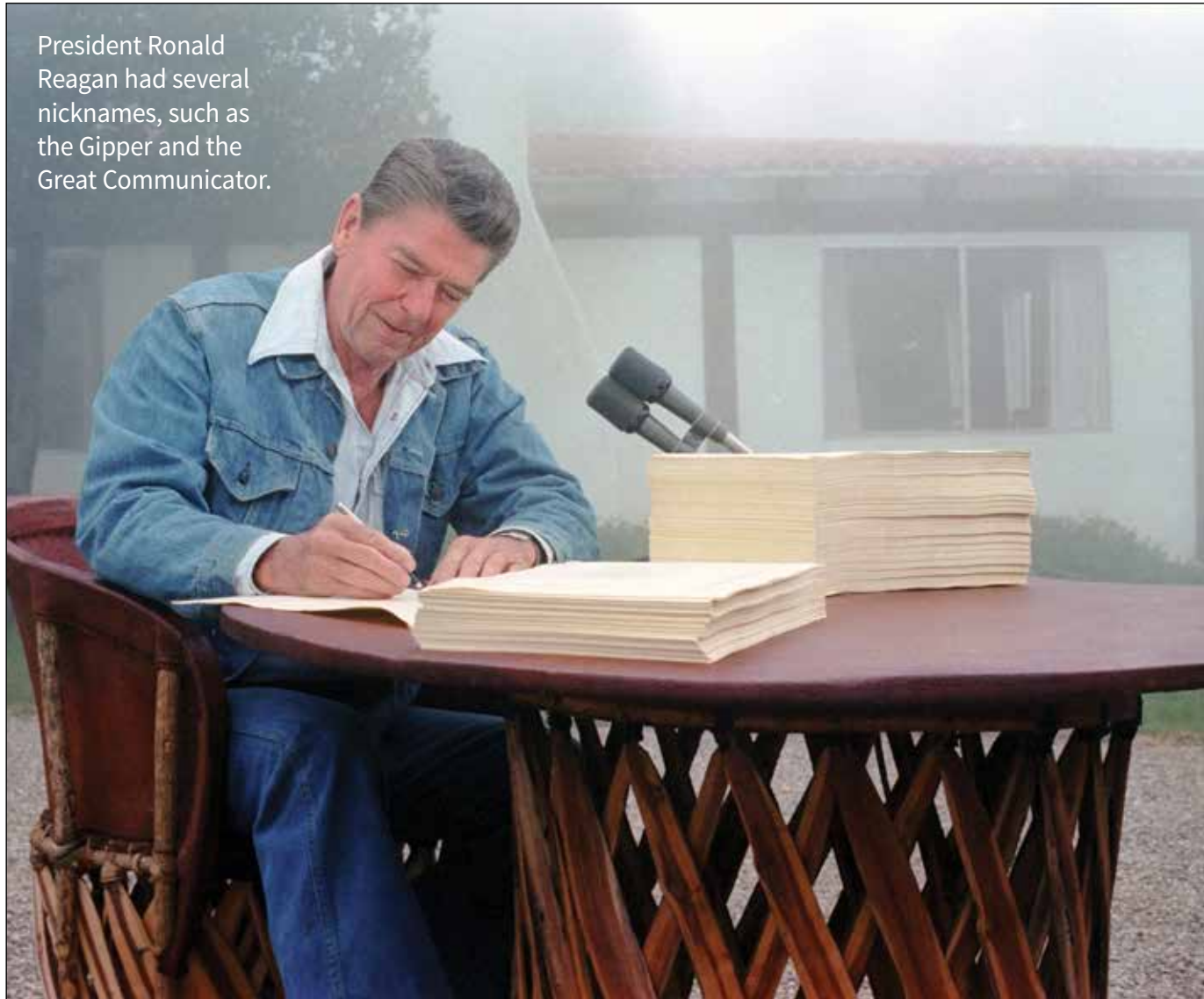
Abraham Lincoln earned several nicknames with the Great Emancipator and Honest Abe being the ones that have stuck through the years.

When Democrats disputed the results of the 1876 election, they afterward referred to Rutherford Hayes as either Rutherfraud or His Fraudulency.

Chester Arthur loved luxuries, which earned him the moniker The Dude President.

Theodore Roosevelt hated

President Ronald Reagan had several nicknames, such as the Gipper and the Great Communicator.



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the nickname that the New York Times gave him — Teddy. He much preferred the Hero of San Juan Hill or The Colonel.

Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower gained nicknames from their campaign slogans — “Give ‘Em Hell Harry” and “Ike” respectively.

John F. Kennedy and his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson were both known by their initials.

Richard Nixon was known as Tricky Dick while his vice president and the next presi-

dent Gerald Ford was known as Mr. Nice Guy.

Jimmy Carter rejected “James” and went entirely by Jimmy in all official capacities. Ronald Reagan picked up several nicknames from the Great Communicator to the Gipper and the Teflon President.

George H.W. Bush was called Poppy from his youth, but after his son became president, he picked up a few more nicknames to distinguish the two. He became 41, Papa Bush and Bush Senior.

Bill Clinton was called Bubba and Slick Willie before becoming president. Later he would be called The Comeback Kid and the First Black President.

George W. Bush was often called Dubya, because it matched the Texas pronunciation of his middle initial.

Barack Obama had few nicknames, though one was No Drama Obama. The next president, Donald Trump picked up several nicknames, including The Donald from his first wife, Ivana Trump. He

was also known as 45 as he was the 45th president.

The current president has been known as Amtrack Joe, Diamond Joe and Uncle-in-Chief.

## SECRET SERVICE CODE NAMES

The Secret Service uses code names to refer to the presidents and their families they protect. Originally, those names were used for security purposes over unencrypted communication lines. Today, they are more for reasons of tradition and brevity.

The Secret Service doesn't, though, get to choose the code names. The names have to meet certain conditions — they have to be unambiguous words that are easy to pronounce. Usually family member code names start with the same letter. The White House Communications Agency maintains a list of potential names and the presidential candidates get to pick ones that they like.

Harry Truman was the first president to be given a code name — General, though before him, two first ladies had code names, Grandma for Edna Wilson and Rover for Eleanor Roosevelt.

Since then, some code names have been Lancer for John F. Kennedy, Searchlight for Richard Nixon, Deacon for Jimmy Carter, Timberwolf for George H.W. Bush, Eagle for Bill Clinton, Renegade for Barack Obama, Mogul for Donald Trump and Celtic for Joe Biden.

# Presidential First Jobs

No one starts their career as president, or likely even knowing that's in their future. Presidents drew from widely different fields when it came to their first jobs.

George Washington got his first job through family connections, being hired as a land surveyor when he was 17. Thomas Jefferson inherited 5,000 acres of land at age 14 when his father died, but instead he went and cleared land on a mountain, designing and building what would become Monticello.

For many presidents, the military was their first job, these included James Madison, Zachary Taylor, John F. Kennedy, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. James Monroe helped to loot the governor's arsenal in Virginia and then turned the weapons over to the state militia, which he would later join. Andrew Jackson was a Revolutionary War courier and William Henry Harrison served as an aide-de-camp.

Perhaps the most popular first career for presidents has been lawyer. Martin van Buren started his career as a legal clerk whereas John Tyler became a lawyer at age 19. Other presidential lawyers included Franklin Pierce,



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President Jimmy Carter was a Navy officer and ran a peanut farm in Georgia before entering politics.

James Buchanan, Rutherford Hayes, William Henry Harrison, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Richard Nixon and Joe Biden.

John Quincy Adams was the son of a president and was practically his father's apprentice. By the time he was 14, he was serving in the U.S. diplo-

matic corps. Two other presidents also dove into politics at a very young age. James Polk's first job was serving in the House of Representatives and Teddy Roosevelt was elected as a New York State Assembly member.

Others had more humble beginnings, either born into

poverty or taking jobs more akin to menial labor. Millard Fillmore was a wool carder. Abraham Lincoln loaded freight onto boats and served as a general store clerk. Andrew Johnson ran away from an apprenticeship as a tailor, but would eventually own his own tailoring shop

Ulysses S. Grant was very talented with horses, so his father hired him to drive teams to haul wood and do the plowing. Warren Harding was a printer and Herbert Hoover founded a student laundry service while at college. Harry Truman started as a farmer on his family farm and would later get hired as a timekeeper for a railroad company. Dwight Eisenhower sold vegetables and Lyndon B. Johnson was a shoe shiner.

Both Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter worked in family businesses, the first as a painter and the second as a peanut farmer.

Going to high school during the Depression, Ronald Reagan worked a number of jobs, from cooking hamburgers and washing tables to serving as a lifeguard for seven summers.

Bill Clinton got his first job as a grocery store clerk selling comic books when he was 13 years old and Barack Obama was an ice cream scooper. Donald Trump said he and his brother were tasked with collecting bottles for deposit money on his father's business properties.

Several presidents were teachers, including John Adams, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland and William McKinley.

For two presidents, journalism was their calling. William Howard Taft served as a newspaper's court reporter and Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the editor of the Harvard school paper.