## U.S. Presidential Facts

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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Birth: February 22, 1732  
Death¹: December 14, 1799  
Washington had no formal education and had only one tooth at his inauguration. He wore dentures made of human or animal teeth made of ivory or even lead at various times, but never wood. At a height of 6 feet and 2 inches, he weighed 200 pounds and wore size 13 shoes.²  
He was the only president to be elected unanimously and was inaugurated in two cities: New York and Philadelphia. Though he never lived in DC, he was interested in the construction of the city and bought property there.³ |

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<td>2</td>
<td>Adams, John</td>
<td>Birth: October 30, 1735</td>
<td>He was the first president whose son also became president. He died on the same day as his friend and political rival, Thomas Jefferson, on July 4, 1826. Then referred to as the Executive Mansion, the White House’s first resident president was John Adams. The Alien and Sedition Acts, which were designed to suppress political opposition, were passed during his administration.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jefferson, Thomas</td>
<td>Dates of Presidency: 3/4/1801 – 3/3/1809</td>
<td>Birth: April 13, 1743</td>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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Birth: March 16, 1751  
Death: June 28, 1836  
He was the first president who was a former congressman, and the first president to wear trousers rather than knee breeches. As the shortest president, he was 5 feet 4 inches tall, and weighed under 100 lbs. He was president during the War of 1812 which his critics dubbed “Mr. Madison’s War.” A central figure in the creation of the United States Constitution, Madison kept the most complete notes of anyone at the Constitutional Convention. Each of his two vice presidents died in office. |
Birth: April 28, 1758  
Death: July 4, 1831  
Monroe was the first U.S. Senator to become president, and the first to ride on a steam boat. His daughter was the first to be married in the White House. In 1819, he agreed to purchase Florida from Spain. In spite of a serious recession that same year, his time in the White House was dubbed “The Era of Good Feelings.” He received all but one electoral college vote in the election of 1820. |

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<td>6</td>
<td>Adams, John Quincy</td>
<td>Birth: July 11, 1767</td>
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<td>Death: February 23, 1848</td>
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|     |                 | When the weather permitted, Adams swam naked in the Potomac River every day. He was the first elected president without the most electoral college or popular votes.  

With the exception of Washington, all of his predecessors were alive during his inauguration. He served for 17 years as a congressman, and remains the only president to have served in the House after his presidency. He is the first, and George W. Bush is the second, of two presidents whose fathers were also presidents. |

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<td>7</td>
<td>Jackson, Andrew</td>
<td>Birth: March 15, 1767</td>
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<td>Death: June 8, 1845</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>He had no formal education and held no other political office. Establishing a “kitchen cabinet” of informal advisors, he placed two thousand of his political supporters in government jobs. He was the first president to be born in a log cabin, the first to be nominated by a political party, and the first to ride on a railroad train. He survived the first presidential assassination attempt. At age 13, he became a prisoner of war when he was captured by the British. He suffered permanent scarring to his face and hand when he was struck by a British officer with a sword. He had refused the officer’s order to clean his boots.</td>
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Birth: December 5, 1782  
Death: July 24, 1862  
At age 14, he was a law student, and won his first case at 16.  
He was the first president born as a United States citizen, and the penultimate vice president to be elected to succeed a sitting president.  
A sharp dresser, he was described as a “dandy,” and enjoyed good wine and rich food.  
At home, he spoke Dutch with his wife. |
Birth: February 9, 1773  
Death: April 4, 1841  
Harrison’s inaugural address lasted one hour and forty minutes, and was the longest in history.  
He was the only president who studied to become a doctor, but he was the clerk of Hamilton county in Ohio just before he became president.  
He served one month, the shortest term of any president.  
He was the first candidate to have a campaign slogan – “Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too,” and one of the first politicians in the United States to use false advertising in a political campaign.  
Harrison campaigned as a simpleton who lived in a log cabin, but he came from a wealthy Virginia plantation.  
His campaigning together with his reputation as a military leader won him the electoral vote. |
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| 10  | Tyler, John | Dates of Presidency: 4/6/1841 – 3/3/1845  
Birth: March 29, 1790  
Death: January 18, 1862  
First vice president to assume office after the death of President Harrison. He was a Whig, but his party disavowed him – “a president without a party” – after he vetoed banking bills supported by the Whigs. Harry S. Truman was his grand-nephew. He loved children and had 15 of them to show for it. He was nicknamed “His Accidency,” because of the manner in which he succeeded to the presidency. As president, the Whigs and the Democratic party threatened him with impeachment. As a political Robin Hood, he called his home “Sherwood Forest.” He remarried later as the first president widower. |
Birth: November 2, 1795  
Death: June 15, 1849  
He was president during the Mexican-American War. The first “dark horse” nominee of a party, he served as president during the gold rush of California, and helped settle the northwest boundary of the United States. Polk was the first president to serve the nation from one coast to the other. |

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Birth: November 24, 1784  
Death: July 9, 1850  
Taylor never voted for a President.  He was the second president to suffer from illness and die in the White House, and was the first never to have been previously elected to public office. Because he dressed “slovenly,” he was nicknamed “Old Rough and Ready.” He was considered a military hero after his participation in the Mexican-American War.  |
Birth: January 7, 1800  
Death: March 8, 1874  
The first president to have a White House with the comforts of a stove and running water.  As president, he authorized the trip of Matthew C. Perry to Japan, which helped open trade with that country. In 1856, he ran again on the “Know-Nothing” ticket. He signed the Compromise Measure of 1850, which included the Fugitive Slave Act, as an alternative to war; however, it alienated both sides nonetheless. But it did prevent war for another 10 years.  |
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Birth: November 23, 1804  
Death: October 8, 1869  
All of his three children died before adolescence and before he became president. He was the first president to commit to, and deliver from memory, his entire inaugural speech. Feelings in Congress were very intense during his presidency, with the occasional fist-fight breaking out on the floor. Because of the divisive issue of slavery within the state, Kansas was referred to as “Bloody Kansas” while Pierce was in office. |
Birth: April 23, 1791  
Death: June 1, 1868  
He was the only bachelor president, and his niece thus served as the White House hostess. During his term, the John Brown raid occurred on Harper’s Ferry, the Lincoln-Douglas debates were held in Illinois, and the States of the Confederacy declared independence. |

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Birth: February 12, 1809  
Death: April 15, 1865  
Lincoln had no formal education. He was the first president to wear a beard and the only president to receive a patent for a device for lifting boats over shoals. He was the first president born outside of the original thirteen colonies as well as the first to be assassinated. Just one month after his inauguration, the Civil War began. On January 23, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Five days after the end of the Civil War, he was shot. |
Birth: December 29, 1808  
Death: July 31, 1875  
The only president not to have any type of schooling. As president, he challenged the efforts of Congress to pass punitive restrictive acts over his veto. He was the first to be impeached as president and was acquitted by one vote in the Senate. After his death, he was buried with a copy of the Constitution and wrapped in an American flag. At 18, Johnson was the youngest president to get married. His bride, Eliza McCardle, was 16. |

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<td>18</td>
<td>Grant, Ulysses S.</td>
<td>Grant could not stand the sight of animal blood because he had witnessed bloodshed in battle. Thus, he was nauseated by rare steak. Because of his “lead feet,” he was arrested and fined $20 for driving his horse too fast as president. He said he knew only two songs, “One was Yankee Doodle and the other wasn’t.” When he volunteered to fight for the Union, he was already 39 years old. At the end of his presidency, he apologized “not for errors of intent but for errors in judgment.” He managed to complete his memoir while suffering from throat cancer. With the help of Mark Twain, he had them published.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Hayes, Rutherford Birchard</td>
<td>He was the first president to use a phone and his number was 1. Because of the alleged “stolen” election of 1876, he was nicknamed “His Fraudulency.” Ironically, he ran one of the most honest presidencies, which served as a source of anger for his political allies. He ended Reconstruction and withdrew federal troops from the South. He visited San Francisco on September 8, 1880, and became the first president to visit the West Coast. He was the first president to graduate from law school. His wife, Lucy, was called “Lemonade Lucy” because she did not serve alcohol in the White House.</td>
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| **20** | Garfield, James A. | Dates of Presidency: 3/4/1881 – 9/19/1881  
Birth: November 19, 1831  
Death: September 19, 1881  
Not only was he a great orator, he was the only preacher to become president. He was ambidextrous and entertained his friends by writing Latin with one hand and Greek with the other. He became the second president to be assassinated after serving a few months in office. He was the last president born in a log cabin.\(^{46,47}\) |
| **21** | Arthur, Chester Alan | Dates of Presidency: 9/20/1881 – 3/3/1885  
Birth: October 5, 1829  
Death: November 18, 1886  
Arthur loved to entertain lavishly, and he did it frequently. He loved to visit nightclubs. Once, he told a group of visitors to the White House, “I may be President of the United States, but my private life is my own damn business.” He destroyed all of his personal papers before his death.\(^{48}\) He would change his pants several times a day, which was not problematic because he owned 80 pairs of them.\(^{49}\) “Elegant Arthur” was his nickname because of his “dandy” dressing. He dedicated the Washington Monument on February 21, 1885. He was known for his honesty and efficiency as president.\(^{50}\) |

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Birth: March 18, 1837  
Death: June 24, 1908  
Though he got more popular votes, he lost the 1888 election to Benjamin Harrison. As the Sheriff of Erie County, New York, Cleveland also served as the public executioner and personally hanged two murderers. His daughter, Esther, was the only child of a president born in the White House. The Statue of Liberty was unveiled in New York Harbor when he was in office. When he left the White House in 1889, his wife told the staff to take care of the furniture because they would be back. She was correct. Thus, Cleveland is the only president to have served two non-consecutive terms in office. |
Birth: August 20, 1833  
Death: March 13, 1901  
He was an excellent extemporaneous speaker and made 140 totally different speeches in a month. A Christmas tree was installed in the White House during his term. As president, six states entered the United States during his term in office: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington. He did not win the popular vote but beat Grover Cleveland in the electoral college to become president. Electric lights were first installed in the White House when he was president. Interestingly, his wife was afraid of switches and never turned them on. He is the only president who is the grandson of another president, William Henry Harrison. |

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| No. | President          | Dates of Presidency: 3/4/1897 – 9/14/1901  
|     |                   | Birth: January 29, 1843  
|     |                   | Death: September 14, 1901  
| 25  | McKinley, William | He was the first president to use campaign buttons, and the first to run a “front porch” campaign – a campaign that was very limited in travel. The Spanish-American War was fought during his term. The United States received the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico from Spain. Though Cuba was free, it did not become a U.S. territory. McKinley was the third president to be assassinated. He asked his attendants to show tactfulness in telling his wife, Ida, an epileptic who had suffered a seizure during his second inaugural ball. On his death bed, he whispered his favorite hymn, “Nearer my God to Thee.” He is thought to hold the record for presidential handshaking - 2,500 per hour. |
|     |                   | Birth: October 27, 1858  
|     |                   | Death: January 6, 1919  
|     |                   | Roosevelt suffered from asthma and was too sickly to attend school as a child. At the White House, he lost sight in one eye while boxing. He was gifted with a photographic memory and he could read a page as fast as it took others to read a sentence. He was the first president to travel to a foreign country: Panama. Both his wife and mother died in the same house on the same day, February 14, 1884. Roosevelt was the first president to win the Nobel Peace Prize for arbitrating the Russo-Japanese Treaty. He received a stuffed toy bear in 1903 leading to the name of “teddy” bears. He led the Rough Riders, which was made up of football players, eastern polo players, and cowboys. |

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<td>27</td>
<td>Taft, William</td>
<td>He is the only person to serve as a President and later as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He started the presidential tradition of throwing the first pitch to start the baseball season. His wife planted the Japanese cherry blossom trees in Washington. A larger bathtub was ordered for the White House when Taft, weighing 332 pounds, got stuck in the old one when he first used it. Taft was the first to have a White House automobile. For a portly man, President Taft was considered a good dancer, a good tennis player, and an average golfer.</td>
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Wilson was the only president to earn a doctorate degree. The Federal Reserve and Federal Trade Commission were established during his tenure in the White House. Though he campaigned against the war, the United States fought in World War I when he was in office. He was the second president to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his commitment to peace and for his attempt to create the League of Nations. He held the first regular presidential press conference in 1913. Edith, his second wife, was a great-granddaughter of Pocahontas, seven times removed. He had dreamed of being a stage performer.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Dates of Presidency: 3/4/1921 – 8/2/1923</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Birth: November 2, 1865</td>
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<td>Death: August 2, 1923</td>
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<td>Harding, Warren Gamaliel</td>
<td>Harding’s father and mother were both doctors, and he was the first president to own a radio. 66 Before he became president, he was a newspaper editor in Marion, Ohio. He rode in an automobile to his inauguration, the first president to do so. He was also the first president to visit both Alaska and Canada during his term in office. Though personally popular, he allowed his cabinet to take over his presidency. 67 He is believed to have gambled away a set of china from the White House. 68</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Coolidge, Calvin</td>
<td>Birth: July 4, 1872</td>
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<td>Death: January 5, 1933</td>
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<td>Coolidge was the only president sworn into office by his father, a justice of the peace and a notary public. As Massachusetts Governor, the mayor of Boston punched him in the eye. He took about two- to four-hour afternoon naps and slept nightly for nine hours. 69 He was the only president born on the 4th of July. A young woman had bet at a dinner party she could get three words of conversation from Coolidge, to which he quietly replied, “You lose.” Notable events that happened during Coolidge’s presidency include Lindbergh’s famous flight, Babe Ruth hitting 60 home runs in a season, and Ku Klux Klan membership exceeding 4 million. 70</td>
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Birth: August 10, 1874  
Death: October 20, 1964  
Hoover was the youngest member of the first graduating class of Stanford University. The Hoovers dined alone only on three occasions – their wedding anniversary – during their first three years in the White House. Hoover received 84 honorary degrees, 78 medals and awards, and the keys to several cities as one of the most honored presidents. While in office, the Star Spangled Banner was adopted as the nation’s anthem, Hitler came to power in Nazi Germany, and the stock market crashed in 1929. He was the first president born west of the Mississippi. To keep his conversations with his wife private, they spoke Chinese.  
Prohibition was repealed during his administration. He died two weeks before Germany’s surrender in the Second World War. At age 39, he was stricken with infantile paralysis (polio). |
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| 31 | Hoover, Herbert Clark | Birth: January 30, 1882  
Death: April 12, 1945  
Roosevelt was the only president to serve more than 2 terms, and he was reelected to an unprecedented fourth term. As a formerly defeated vice presidential candidate, he was the first to be elected president. Roosevelt came from a family of presidents as he was related by blood or marriage to 11 former presidents. He was an avid stamp collector and received the first sheet of every new commemorative issue. He was the first president to appear on television in 1939. Prohibition was repealed during his administration. He died two weeks before Germany’s surrender in the Second World War. At age 39, he was stricken with infantile paralysis (polio). |
<p>| 32 | Roosevelt, Franklin Delano | |</p>
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<thead>
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<th>No.</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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| 33  | Truman, Harry S.           | Dates of Presidency: 4/12/1945 – 1/20/1953  
Birth: May 8, 1884  
Death: December 26, 1972  
At age 60, Truman was the oldest vice president to succeed to the presidency and the first president to travel by air within the country. His middle initial “S” is not an abbreviation and has no significant meaning.  
He started his career as a banker, and during World War II, he decided to use the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to the end of the war.  
He was president during the Korean War and was instrumental in NATO's creation. He is known to have read every book in his hometown library. |
| 34  | Eisenhower, Dwight David   | Dates of Presidency: 1/20/1953 – 1/20/1961  
Birth: October 14, 1890  
Death: March 28, 1969  
Eisenhower was the last president born in the nineteenth century and the only president to serve in World Wars I and II. He was the first president with a license to fly an airplane.  
He was a graduate of West Point, the United States Military Academy, and the Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II. He later served as President of Columbia University. As president, he was responsible for the formation of NASA. Eisenhower also signed the legislation for the creation of the 42,000-mile interstate highway system to make it easier to drive around the “lower 48” states. |

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| 35  | Kennedy, John Fitzgerald | Birth: May 29, 1917  
Death: November 22, 1963 | Kennedy was the first president to serve in the U.S. Navy, and the only one to appoint his brother to a position in his cabinet. He was a decorated naval officer in World War II and he received the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *Profiles in Courage*. He served exactly 1,000 days. He was the first president born in the 20th century and at age 43, the youngest president ever elected. At age 46, he was also the youngest to die in office. |

Birth: August 27, 1908  
Death: January 22, 1973 | Johnson was an auto mechanic and taught in rural Texas before becoming President. He and his wife were married with a Sears Roebuck ring that cost $2.50. He was the first president to take his oath of office from a female official, and was the first incumbent to meet with the pope. Rejecting his official portrait, he described it as the ugliest thing he had ever seen. Obsessed with the news, he carried a radio with him everywhere and saw the evening television news from the three networks simultaneously in his office or bedroom. He signed into law the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and Medicare. Despite nationwide anti-war protests, his administration was known as “The Great Society.” During his presidency, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were both assassinated. |
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<td>37</td>
<td>Nixon, Richard Milhous</td>
<td>Birth: January 9, 1913&lt;br&gt;Death: April 22, 1994</td>
<td>He recommended a play to the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl VI. Nixon was the first president to visit a country not recognized by the United States, Communist China, in 1972. He also visited the Soviet Union, and the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty) Agreement was passed while he was in the White House. Nixon was the first president to have visited all fifty states. He is the only president to have resigned voluntarily as a result of the Watergate Scandal. The first walk on the moon by astronauts occurred during his presidency.</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Ford, Gerald Rudolph</td>
<td>Dates of Presidency: 8/9/1974 – 1/20/1977</td>
<td>Birth: July 14, 1913&lt;br&gt;Death: December 26, 2006&lt;br&gt;Ford was the only president who was neither elected as vice president nor president. A star football player at the University of Michigan, he turned down offers to play professionally for the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears, and was an assistant football coach at Yale. He gave Nixon a presidential pardon for the latter’s role in the Watergate Scandal, and issued an amnesty to Vietnam War resisters. He was the first president to release his full medical records to the public, and the only president whose two assassination attempts against him were made by women. He hosted his daughter’s high school prom in the White House.</td>
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Birth: October 1, 1924  
Death: -  
Carter was the first president born in a hospital, the first to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy, and the first sworn into office with his nickname, “Jimmy.”  
He brought his preferred Southern meals to the White House: grits, peanut soup, country ham with red-eye gravy, corn bread, peach cobbler, and peanut brittle.  
Carter presided over the creation of the Energy Department, and signed the Panama Canal treaties and the Camp David Accord.  
Carter was the first president, since 1932, who did not win re-election. |
Birth: February 6, 1911  
Death: June 5, 2004  
At age 69, Reagan was the oldest man elected president, and the first Hollywood actor to occupy the White House.  
He appointed the first woman justice to the nation’s highest court, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.  
Reagan ordered U.S. soldiers sent into Grenada and commanded soldiers out of Lebanon.  
Reagan was the first president to have been divorced. |

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Birth: June 12, 1924  
Death: -  
He survived plane crashes during World War II. George Bush is the second president whose son also became president. At age 18, he was the youngest pilot to see action in World War II and was decorated with the Flying Cross for his heroism. He presided over the American invasion of Panama, and Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait. Bush was the first vice-president elected president since Martin Van Buren, and the first vice-president to lose re-election since Van Buren. |
Birth: August 19, 1946  
Death: -  
As a high school student, Bill Clinton shook hands with President John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden of the White House. This short meeting served as an inspiration for him to pursue a career in politics. Clinton played the saxophone in a jazz trio in high school. Calling themselves the “Three Blind Mice,” the trio wore dark glasses on stage during their performances. In 1978, at age 32, he was elected Governor of Arkansas, the youngest in the U.S. He was reelected Governor for five terms. He appointed several minorities and women to high-level positions. Warren Christopher and later Madeleine Albright served as his Secretaries of State. He was the second president to be impeached, but he was acquitted by the Senate. |
| No. | President          | Dates of Presidency: 1/20/2001 –
|     |                   | Birth: July 6, 1946
|     |                   | Death: -
|     | Bush, George W.   | Bush has a collection of over 250 signed baseballs. He, after John Quincy Adams, is the second president to have had his father also serve as president. The only president with an MBA, he served as managing partner and was part-owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team in 1989-1998. He was a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War, 1968-1973. Before he was elected president, he was the only two-term governor of the state of Texas.

*All Presidential portrait graphics courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov

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