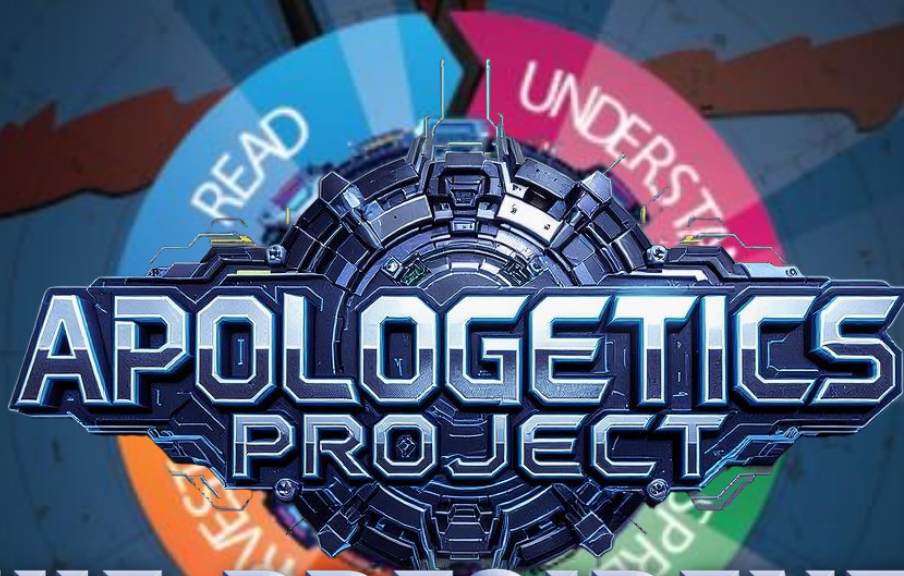


THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY POLITICS PART FOUR



THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



5 OF 5

JE SUIS CHARLIE
DAVID HOBARTH

35. JOHN F. KENNEDY | 1961-1963



"The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."

-John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961

"...here on earth God's work must surely be our own."

-John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, 1961

"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men."

-John F. Kennedy, Presidential Prayer Breakfast, 1963

On November 22, 1963, when he was hardly past his first thousand days in office, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot to death as his motorcade wound through Dallas, Texas. Kennedy was the youngest man elected president; he was the youngest to die. This event is this author's earliest childhood memory. I was 3.

Of Irish descent, he was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, son of financier Joseph Kennedy and his wife Rose, on May 29, 1917. Graduating from Harvard in 1940, he entered the Navy. In 1943, when his PT-109 boat was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, Kennedy, despite injuries, led the survivors through perilous waters to safety.

Back from the war, he became a Democratic congressman from Boston, advancing in 1953 to the Senate. He married Jacqueline Bouvier on September 12, 1953. They had a daughter, Caroline, a son, John Jr., and another son, Patrick, who died soon after birth. In 1955, while recuperating from a back operation, he wrote **Profiles in Courage**, which won the **Pulitzer Prize for history**.

In 1956 Kennedy almost gained the Democratic nomination for vice president, and four years later was a first-ballot nominee for president. Millions watched his television debates with the

Republican candidate, **Richard Nixon**. Winning by a narrow margin in the popular vote, Kennedy became the **first Roman Catholic** president.

His Inaugural Address offered the memorable injunction: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” As president, he set out to redeem his campaign pledge to get America moving again. After two years of temporizing, Kennedy in 1963 called on Congress to pass a civil rights bill that would desegregate hotels, restaurants, and other public accommodations.

His vision also extended to the quality of the national culture and the role of the arts in American society. Jacqueline Kennedy sought to make the White House a world-class museum, saved architectural treasures from the wrecker’s ball, and improved the appearance of Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Kennedy wanted America to resume its enduring mission as the first nation dedicated to the preservation of human rights. With the **Alliance for Progress** and the **Peace Corps**, he brought American idealism to the aid of developing nations. But the **Cold War** was still on with a vengeance.

Shortly after his inauguration, Kennedy permitted a band of Cuban exiles, already armed and trained, to invade their homeland. The attempt to overthrow the regime of Fidel Castro was a failure. Soon thereafter, the Soviet Union renewed its campaign against West Berlin. Kennedy replied by increasing the nation’s military strength, including new efforts in outer space. Confronted by this reaction, Moscow, after the creation of the Berlin Wall, relaxed its pressure in central Europe.

But in the summer of 1962, the Soviets secretly installed nuclear missiles in Cuba. When this was discovered by air reconnaissance in October, Kennedy imposed a quarantine on all offensive weapons bound for Cuba. While the world trembled on the brink of nuclear war, Kennedy initiated secret negotiations and persuaded the Kremlin to take the missiles out in exchange for certain American concessions.

Kennedy declared that both sides had a vital interest in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and slowing the arms race. This led to a partial **nuclear test ban treaty** in 1963.

That November, Kennedy was assassinated, and the world mourned. Americans still remember his charm, wit, bravery, glamour, intelligence, and above all, the potential for future leadership of which the nation was denied.

36. LYNDON B. JOHNSON | 1963-1969



"But we have no promise from God that our greatness will endure. We have been allowed by Him to seek greatness with the sweat of our hands and the strength of our spirit... the judgment of God is harshest on those who are most favored". -Lyndon B Johnson

"Above the pyramid on the great seal of the United States it says in Latin: 'God has favored our undertaking.' God will not favor everything that we do. It is rather our duty to divine His will". -Lyndon B Johnson

"So, it was in the beginning. So, it shall always be, while God is willing, and we are strong enough to keep the faith". -Lyndon B Johnson

The "**Great Society**" for the American people was the vision of Lyndon Johnson. As president, he obtained passage of one of the most significant legislative programs in the nation's history, but found his presidency overwhelmed by opposition to his war in Vietnam.

Johnson was born on August 27, 1908, in central Texas, not far from Johnson City, which his family had helped settle. He felt the pinch of rural poverty as he grew up, working his way through Southwest Texas State Teachers College. In 1937 he campaigned successfully for the House of Representatives on a **New Deal** platform, effectively aided by his wife, the former Claudia "Lady Bird" Taylor, whom he had married in 1934. During World War II, he served briefly in the Navy as a lieutenant commander, winning a Silver Star in the South Pacific.

After six terms in the House, Johnson was elected to the Senate in 1948. In 1953, he became the Senate minority leader, and in 1955, when the Democrats won control, majority leader.

In the 1960 campaign, Johnson, as John F. Kennedy's running mate, was elected vice president. On November 22, 1963, when Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson was sworn in as president.

First, he obtained enactment of measures President Kennedy had been urging at the time of his death — a major civil rights bill and a tax cut. Next, he urged the nation "to build a great society, a place where the meaning of man's life matches the marvels of man's labor." In 1964, Johnson won the presidency over Arizona senator **Barry Goldwater** by more than 15 million votes.

In 1965, with a heavily Democratic Congress, Johnson enacted legislation augmenting federal aid to education and the creation of **Medicare**. He advocated for urban renewal and conservation efforts. On August 6, 1965, Lyndon Johnson signed the **Voting Rights Act**, which removed legal obstacles preventing African Americans from exercising the right to vote.

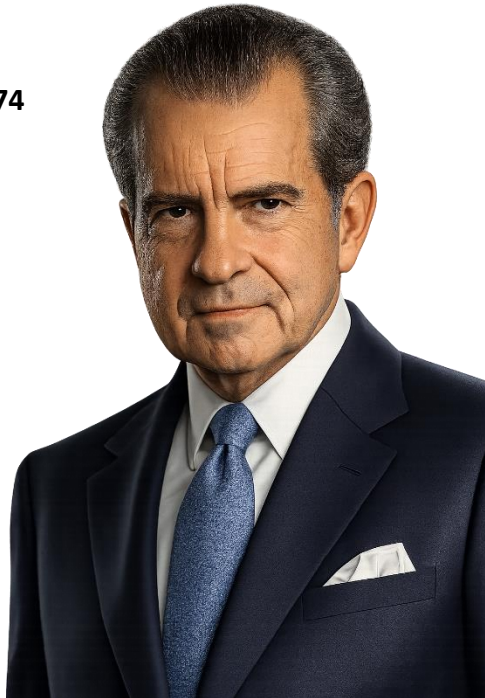
Under Johnson, the country made spectacular explorations of space in a program he had championed since its start. He strongly supported **NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)** as both a senator and president. In 1973, NASA's Center for Human Spaceflight was renamed the **Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**.

Like previous presidents, Johnson remained concerned about communist containment. Johnson's largely secret efforts to broker a settlement in the ongoing war in **Vietnam** were fruitless. Instead, the war escalated, increasing to 500,000 American troops involved in the conflict. Controversy over the war was acute by the end of March 1968, when he limited the bombing of North Vietnam in order to initiate formal negotiations. At the same time, he startled the world by withdrawing as a candidate for reelection. Some suspected that Johnson had dropped out to escape defeat. He insisted that he wished to devote his full energies to seeking peace.

Before Johnson died of a heart attack on his Texas ranch in January 1973, one of the last calls he received was from President Nixon, suggesting that a Vietnam peace agreement was about to be signed.

Later, Americans lauded Johnson for his herculean efforts to change American society for the better, while regretting his expansion of the country's military commitment in Southeast Asia. During his final appearance before Congress in 1969, he predicted that a century hence, "But I believe that at least it will be said that we tried."

37. RICHARD M. NIXON | 1969-1974



"Never be too proud to go onto your knees before God."-Richard M. Nixon

"God, of course, is the greatest philosopher of all."-Richard M. Nixon

"The Soviet Union began by banishing God. The United States began as a community of people who wanted to worship God as they chose... Communism was defeated by an alliance spearheaded by 'one nation under God.'" -Richard M. Nixon

"Before we become too arrogant with the most deadly of the seven deadly sins, the sin of pride, let us remember that the two great wars of this century, wars which cost twenty million dead, were fought between Christian nations praying to the same God."-Richard M. Nixon

When Richard Nixon was elected in 1968, he declared that his goal was “to bring the American people together.” The nation was divided, with turbulence in the cities and war overseas. During his presidency, Nixon ended American fighting in Vietnam, improved relations with the Soviet Union, and transformed American's relationship China. But the Watergate scandal brought fresh divisions to the country and ultimately led to his resignation.

Born in Yorba Linda, California, on January 9, 1913, Nixon studied at Whittier College and Duke University Law School before beginning the practice of law. In 1940, he married Thelma Catherine (Patricia) Ryan; they had two daughters, Patricia (Tricia) and Julie. During World War II, Nixon served as a Navy lieutenant commander in the Pacific.

On leaving the service, he was elected to Congress from his California district. In 1950, he won a Senate seat. Two years later, General Eisenhower selected Nixon, age 39, as his vice-presidential running mate.

Nominated for president by acclamation in 1960, he lost by such a narrow margin to John F. Kennedy that he privately wondered whether the election had been stolen. After a failed effort in 1962 to become governor of California, he went on in 1968 to defeat Vice **President Hubert Humphrey** and a third-party candidate, Alabama Governor **George Wallace**, to become president.

Nixon's accomplishments while in office included the **end of the draft**, new anticrime laws, and the creation of the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**. As he had promised, he appointed justices of conservative philosophy to the Supreme Court. In 1969, he welcomed back the astronauts who had executed the **first moon landing**.

In 1972, Nixon flew to Beijing and met with **Mao Zedong**. His summit meetings with Soviet Union **Leonid Brezhnev** produced a treaty to limit strategic nuclear weapons. In January 1973, he **announced an accord with North Vietnam that ended American involvement in Indochina**.

In 1972, dismissing his opponent as too far left, Nixon defeated South Dakota **Senator George McGovern** by one of the widest margins on record. But within a few months, his administration was embattled over what was soon called the **Watergate** scandal, stemming from a break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee during the 1972 campaign. The break-in was traced to Nixon campaign officials. Nixon denied any personal involvement, but the courts forced him to yield tape recordings he had made of his private Oval Office conversations, which indicated that he had, in fact, tried to divert the investigation and thus obstruct justice.

As a result of unrelated scandals in Maryland, **Vice President Spiro Agnew** had resigned in 1973. Nixon had nominated, and Congress approved, House Minority Leader **Gerald Ford** as vice president.

Faced with what seemed almost certain impeachment, Nixon announced on August 8, 1974, that he would resign the next day to begin "that process of healing which is so desperately needed in America."

A pardon by Nixon's successor spared him the ordeal of a criminal trial and possible prison sentence. Nixon spent the two decades before his death in 1994 trying to restore his reputation through books and speeches.

At Nixon's behest, his gravestone in Yorba Linda bears a quotation from his first Inaugural Address that he hoped would be accepted as his epitaph: "The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker."

38. GERALD R. FORD | 1974-1977



***"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life."
-Gerald R Ford***

***"There is a higher Power, by whatever name we honor Him, who ordains not only
righteousness but love, not only justice but mercy."
-Gerald R. Ford (From his address upon being sworn in as President on August 9, 1974)***

***"I do believe, with all my heart and mind and spirit, that I, not as President but as a humble
servant of God, will receive justice without mercy if I fail to show mercy."-Gerald R. Ford***

***"As we are a nation under God, so I am sworn to uphold our laws with the help of God." -
Gerald R. Ford (Referenced in his remarks regarding the pardon of Richard Nixon)***

When Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, he declared, "I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances.... This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts." He told Americans, "Our long national nightmare is over."

Ford was the first vice president chosen under the Twenty-fifth Amendment. In the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, he succeeded the first president to ever resign from the presidency.

Ford was born Leslie King Jr. in Omaha, Nebraska on July 14, 1913, to a businessman and his wife Dorothy. Escaping her husband Leslie King Sr.'s physical abuse and battery, Dorothy divorced King and was subsequently remarried to Gerald Ford of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who later gave his name to his stepson. The young Ford starred on the University of Michigan football team, then went to Yale, where he served as assistant coach while earning his law degree.

During World War II he attained the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy. After the war he returned to Grand Rapids, where he practiced law, and entered Republican politics. A few weeks before his election to Congress in 1948, he married Betty Bloomer. They had four children: Michael, Jack, Steven, and Susan.

Serving 25 years in the House, Ford had a reputation for integrity, openness, and comity that moved his Republican colleagues to elect him their leader in 1965. His popularity in Congress was the central reason Richard Nixon chose him to succeed the resigned Vice President Spiro Agnew.

After succeeding to the presidency after Nixon's resignation, Ford focused on the rising inflation, reviving a depressed economy, solving chronic energy shortages, and U.S. relationships with key global partners.

He tried to calm the continuing traumas of Watergate by granting former President Nixon a full **pardon**. His nominee for vice president, former Governor **Nelson Rockefeller** of New York, was the second person to fill that office by appointment.

With a Democratic Congress, Ford made vigorous use of the veto. Fearing inflation, he vetoed a number of nonmilitary appropriations bills that would have further increased the budgetary deficit. During his first 14 months as president he vetoed 39 measures. His vetoes were usually sustained.

As in his congressional days, Ford viewed himself as “a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs.” Ford was eager to revive U.S. power and prestige after the collapse of Cambodia and South Vietnam. Preventing a new war in the Middle East remained a major objective; by providing aid to both Israel and Egypt, the Ford administration helped persuade the two countries to accept an interim truce. Detente with the Soviet Union continued as President Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev set new limitations upon nuclear weapons.

Weakened by a serious primary challenge from former California Governor Ronald Reagan, Ford in 1976 lost narrowly to Jimmy Carter. He and Betty retired to California, where Mrs. Ford obtained treatment for drug and alcohol problems. After her recovery, she opened the Betty Ford Center to provide similar help for others.

Ford died on December 26, 2006, at the age of 93. Americans remembered the words spoken by President Carter when he took power from Ford in 1977, “For myself and for our nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land.”

39. JIMMY CARTER | 1977-1981



"God always answers prayer, sometimes with a yes, sometimes with a no and sometimes with 'You've got to be kidding!'" -Jimmy Carter

"God is not my personal valet. God does not build a protective fence around my life... However, through prayer God offers me comfort, reassurance, satisfaction, courage, hope, and peace." -Jimmy Carter

On salvation: "I believe that we are saved by the grace of God because he loves us provided that we have faith in Jesus Christ." -Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter promised a government “as competent, as compassionate, as good” as the American people. His achievements were not so notable. In an era of rising energy costs, mounting inflation, and increasing world crises, he found it difficult to meet Americans’ high expectations. He was out of his league, and made mistakes the whole world is still paying for with no light at the end of the tunnel.

James Earl Carter Jr. was born October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. Peanut farming, talk of politics, and the Baptist faith were mainstays of his upbringing. Upon graduation in 1946 from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter married Rosalynn Smith. The Carters had three sons, John William (Jack), James Earl III (Chip), Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff), and a daughter, Amy Lynn.

After seven years’ service as a naval officer, Carter returned to Plains. In 1962 he was elected a state senator and eight years later he was elected governor of Georgia. Among the new young southern governors, he attracted attention by emphasizing efficiency in government and the removal of racial discrimination.

When Carter announced his candidacy for president in December 1974, he was virtually unknown, but in the wake of national disappointments over Vietnam and Watergate, Democratic voters welcomed a fresh choice. He chose Minnesota Senator Walter Mondale as his running mate. Carter debated against President Gerald Ford three times and won with 297 electoral votes to 241 for Ford.

Carter worked to combat the continuing economic woes of inflation and unemployment, largely due to his own poorly thought-out policies. By the end of his administration, he could claim an increase of nearly eight million jobs but lower paying jobs, and a decrease in the budget deficit, measured in percentage of the gross national product. But inflation and interest rates were at near record highs, and efforts to reduce them caused a recession.

Carter dealt with the energy shortage by proclaiming a national energy policy and by deregulating domestic petroleum prices to stimulate production. He prompted government efficiency through civil service reform and demanded deregulation of the trucking and airline industries. His expansion of the national park system included protection of 103 million acres of Alaskan lands. He created the **Department of Education** and **Department of Energy**. He also appointed record numbers of women, African Americans, and Hispanics to federal positions. This beginning of DEI encroachment into politics is still spreading like cancer.

Carter's championship of human rights was coldly received by the leaders of the Soviet Union, but it inspired dissidents throughout the Soviet empire. He prevailed in a tough fight to win Senate ratification of the **Panama Canal treaties**. He also established full diplomatic relations with China and completed negotiation of the **SALT II nuclear limitation treaty with the Soviet Union**. Through 12 days of talks between Egyptian and Israeli leaders at Camp David in 1978, he achieved a peace agreement between the two countries called the **Camp David Accords**.

But during Carter's final year in office, events seemed to conspire against him. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan. The revolutionary government of Iran refused to surrender **52 American hostages**. (They were only released the day Carter left office thanks to Ronald Reagan winning the election.) Americans suffered from brutal inflation and unemployment. The national frustration culminated with Carter's landslide defeat by Ronald Reagan in November 1980.

Although stung by his loss, Carter became what many have called "**the best former president in history**," building in Atlanta not only a presidential library but a center devoted to conflict resolution, supervising democratic elections abroad, and combating disease. For such efforts in 2002, Carter became the third American president (after Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson) to win the **Nobel Peace Prize**. Carter continued to devote his life to service through his nineties, building homes through **Habitat for Humanity**.

His greatest failure was deposing the Shah of Iran. Islam is not a religion. It is a very religious system. His failure to recognize this allowed Islam to explode in the middle-east and has cost the planet millions of lives. His excuse? Religious freedom. The result? Religious torture, war and slaughter. Still today Christians world-wide are murdered everyday under Islam all because one man called a political system a religion. Big mistake.

Carter passed away on December 29, 2024.

40. RONALD REAGAN | 1981-1989



"I believe that America is standing before the brightest future the world has ever known, and that future is yours." -Ronald Reagan

"God's love shines through every word. His truth is the ultimate power source, and it's always there. It's available to ministers of the Gospel, Presidents, and the local grocery clerk. His comforting hand -- well, I could never carry the responsibilities of this high office without it."
-Ronald Reagan

"Our forefathers drew on the wisdom and strength of God when they turned a vast wilderness into a blessed land of plenty called the United States of America." -Ronald Reagan

"Sometimes when I'm faced with an unbeliever, an atheist, I am tempted to invite him to the greatest gourmet dinner that one could ever serve and, when we finished eating that magnificent dinner, to ask him if he believes there's a cook." -Ronald Reagan

Through Ronald Reagan's eight years in office, the cold war came to an end, the country seemed to regain its morale, and Americans enjoyed an extended economic boom. Ronald Wilson Reagan was born to John Reagan, a shoe salesman, and his wife Nelle in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911. He worked his way through Eureka College.

There, he played on the football team and acted in school plays. Upon graduation, he became a radio sports announcer. A screen test in 1937 won him a contract with Warner Brothers in Hollywood. During the next two decades, he appeared in 53 films, including "Kings Row" and "Knute Rockne, All American." During a first marriage to actress Jane Wyman, he had two children, Maureen and Michael.

After World War II, his marriage failed, and in 1952, he married actress Nancy Davis, who brought him children Patti and Ronald. Elected president of the Screen Actors Guild, Reagan fought

communism in the film industry and grew more conservative. As host of "GE Theater," he toured the country and became a spokesman for conservatism. In 1966, he defeated incumbent Pat Brown to become **governor of California**, and was reelected in 1970.

In 1976, he narrowly missed taking the Republican nomination away from President Ford, but prevailed in the 1980 primaries. For most of the fall campaign, Reagan ran close to President Carter. Voters were troubled by high inflation and unemployment, America's failure to prevent the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the year-long confinement of American hostages in Iran, but they were nervous about Reagan's lack of foreign policy experience and what some found his excessive hostility towards the Soviet Union. But 10 days before the election, debating with Carter, Reagan resolved those doubts in a bravura performance, asking Americans, "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" The result was a landslide of **489** electoral votes to **49** for Carter.

During his first months in office, Reagan persuaded Congress to expand the defense budget, cut taxes, and take other measures to fight the recession. He challenged the Soviet Union aggressively, hoping to show the Soviets that the United States had regained its will and compel them to enter serious negotiations.

Seventy days after taking office, Reagan was shot by John Hinckley, who suffered from mental illness.

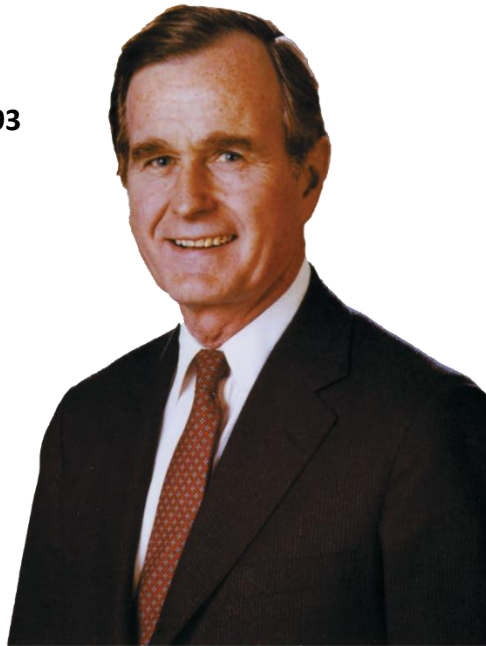
His grace and wit during a near-death experience (writing his wife, "Honey, I forgot to duck") caused his popularity to soar. Later, when his poll ratings dropped, he privately joked, "I'll just get shot again!" Renewed national self-confidence and restored prosperity helped Reagan and Vice President George Bush win a second term (under the slogan "Bringing America Back Stronger, Prouder, Better") by a landslide over Carter's vice president, Walter Mondale, and New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro.

In 1986, Reagan pushed an income tax reform bill through Congress but found that his dream of reducing the national deficit and the size of government was beyond his grasp. That November, Congress and the courts investigated what became known as the **Iran-Contra scandal**. High officials of his administration had secretly approved the sale of weaponry to Iran and illegally diverted the proceeds to anti-government "freedom-fighters" in Nicaragua. But Congress and the appointed **Tower Commission** concluded that there was no evidence to prove that Reagan knew personally about the transactions, and he remained in office.

Reagan's second term also saw partnership with the new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to ease Cold War tensions. Through five dramatic summit meetings, the two men agreed on a treaty banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles and other joint steps to end American-Soviet hostility.

In 1989, Reagan and Nancy returned to Los Angeles, where he wrote his memoirs. Ten years before his death in 2004, he wrote a letter to Americans explaining that he had been diagnosed with **Alzheimer's** disease and thanking them "for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your president. . . . I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

41. GEORGE H.W. BUSH | 1989-1993



"There is a God and He is good, and his love, while free, has a self-imposed cost: We must be good to one another." -George HW Bush

"I believe with all my heart that one cannot be America's president without a belief in God, without the strength that your faith gives you." -George HW Bush

"But the biggest thing that has happened in the world in my life, in our lives, is this: By the grace of God, America won the Cold War." -George HW Bush

George H. W. Bush brought to the White House a wish to make the United States "a kinder and gentler nation." Coming from a family with a tradition of public service, George Herbert Walker Bush felt the responsibility to make his contribution both in time of war and in peace.

Born in Milton, Massachusetts, on June 12, 1924, he became a student leader at Phillips Academy. On his 18th birthday he enlisted in the armed forces. **The youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings, he flew 58 combat missions during World War II.** On one mission over the Pacific as a torpedo bomber pilot he was shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire and then rescued from the water by a U.S. submarine. He was awarded the **Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in action.**

In January 1945 Bush married Barbara Pierce. They had six children: George, Robin (who died at three), Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. After graduation from **Yale**, Bush embarked on a career in the Texas oil industry.

Like his father, **Prescott Bush**, who was elected a senator from Connecticut in 1952, George was interested in politics. He served two terms as a representative to Congress from Texas. Twice he

ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Then he was appointed to a series of important positions: **ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican National Committee, chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, and director of the Central Intelligence Agency.**

In 1980 Bush campaigned for the Republican nomination for president. He lost, but Ronald Reagan chose Bush as his running mate. In 1988 Bush won the Republican nomination for president and defeated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in the general election.

Bush faced a fundamentally changing world as the **Cold War ended**. The communist empire broke up, and the **Berlin Wall fell. The Soviet Union ceased to exist**. With his considerable foreign policy experience and his gift for personal diplomacy, Bush developed a relationship with Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev** that enabled collaboration and a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons.

President Bush also sent American troops into Panama to overthrow the corrupt regime of **General Manuel Noriega**. In 1990 Iraqi **dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait**, then threatened to move into Saudi Arabia. Vowing to free Kuwait, Bush rallied the United Nations and sent 425,000 American troops to the area as part of an international coalition poised to wage **"Operation Desert Storm."** After weeks of air and missile bombardment, a 100-hour land battle routed Iraq's million-man army.

Despite soaring popularity from the Desert Storm victory, Bush was unable to surmount uncertainty about the economy and the urge for change after 12 Republican years in the White House. In 1992 he lost his bid for reelection to Democrat Bill Clinton.

Nevertheless his sons George and Jeb became governors of Texas and Florida. When son George ran for president in 2000, his father told voters, "This boy—this son of ours—is not going to let you down." George W. Bush's election made his father the second president in history, after John Adams, to witness a son elected president. Years later, when the latter President Bush was criticized, family members noted that the proud patriarch took the barbs more emotionally than the criticism once directed at himself.

George H.W. Bush passed away on November 30, 2018 at the age of 94. He was a good man.

42. BILL CLINTON | 1993-2001



"Sharing in God's blessings is at the heart of Thanksgiving and at the core of the American spirit". -Bill Clinton

***"Let us teach our children that the God of comfort is also the God of righteousness".
-Bill Clinton (Oklahoma City Memorial Address)***

***"...each in our way, and with God's help, we must answer the call".
-Bill Clinton (First Inaugural Address)***

"Part of our essential humanity is paying respect to what God gave us and what will be here a long time after we're gone".-Bill Clinton

During his two presidential terms, Bill Clinton presided over economic expansion and achieved the first budget surplus in decades thanks to Newt Gingrich's contract with America and Republican control of the House and Senate. Unemployment, inflation, and the crime rate decreased during his administration.

After attempting a major reform of the health care system, Clinton shifted his policy focus, declaring that "the era of big government is over."

The son of a nurse, Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe III in 1946 in Hope, Arkansas, three months after his father died in a car accident. (He later took his stepfather's family name.) Clinton made his way to Georgetown University and won a **Rhodes scholarship to Oxford**. After **Yale Law School**, he returned to Arkansas, and came close to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. The following year, he married his fellow Yale Law graduate Hillary Rodham, and in 1980, their daughter Chelsea was born.

Clinton was elected the state's attorney general at age 30 and governor at 32. But in 1980, he was defeated for a second term by voters who feared that he had become too liberal for Arkansas.

When they restored him to power two years later, he thanked them for giving him a “second chance.”

Eschewing a presidential race in 1988, he ran in 1992 and won the Democratic nomination. With the Cold War just over, he argued that President Bush had not done enough about domestic problems such as the recession that afflicted the nation. Political independent **Ross Perot** entered the presidential race. Clinton won the three-way election with only 43 percent of the popular vote, but an overwhelming majority of Electoral College votes.

In his first two years in office, Clinton moved aggressively on health care reform, the budget, and the **North American Free Trade Agreement**. NAFTA as it became known as may be the worst trade agreement ever negotiated. Reacting to Clinton’s policy overreach, the Republicans in 1994 won a majority in both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Consequently, Clinton adjusted his posture and moved to the political center. He won reelection in 1996, defeating former Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole despite a string of sexual scandals that plagued both of his terms. He was an international embarrassment.

Confronted with continued Republican control of Congress, Clinton turned to foreign policy. He championed NATO bombing to stop ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, approved the bombing of Iraq to “deny” **Saddam Hussein** the “capacity” to use weapons of mass destruction, and worked hard to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians, to no avail. He also allowed Osama Bin Laden to escape, we literally had a sniper aimed at him, and he wouldn’t make the call. Eventually resulting in Islamic terrorists executing an attack on American soil killing thousands.

In 1998, while questioned under oath, Clinton falsely denied a **sexual relationship** with a woman who worked as a White House intern. His belated apology and admission that **he had lied under oath** did not stop demands that he resign or be impeached. The House of Representatives approved **two articles of impeachment** on the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. However, the Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both counts in 1999.

An important element of Clinton’s political survival was the steadfast public support of his wife, Hillary. In 2000, the couple established residence in Chappaqua, New York, and she won election from that state to the U.S. Senate.

Following his years as president, Clinton built a foundation, wrote his memoirs, and oversaw the creation of his presidential library in Little Rock, Arkansas. He also supported Hillary Clinton’s political career during her tenure in the Senate and as secretary of state, and her 2008 and 2016 presidential campaigns. He remains actively involved with the work of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and the initiatives of the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation. I waffle back and forth between calling the Clinton Foundation a “bag of wet cats” and a “bag of hammers”. It depends on my mood.

43. GEORGE W. BUSH | 2001-2009



"I believe that God has planted in every human heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again." -George W Bush

"Pray as if it all depends upon God, for it does. But work as if it all depends upon us, for it does."-George W Bush

"Prayer and religion sustain me. I receive calmness in the storms of the presidency." -George W Bush

George W. Bush became the second presidential son (after John Quincy Adams) to assume office. Although initially focused on tax cuts and education reform, Bush's two terms became defined by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Bush was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on July 6, 1946 where his father was attending Yale. When George H.W. Bush entered the oil business, the family moved to Midland, Texas. George followed in his father's footsteps, attending prep school at the Phillips Academy and graduating from Yale in 1968.

He served in the Texas Air National Guard, went to Harvard Business School, and then returned to Midland, where he entered the oil industry. In 1977 he married Laura Welch, a teacher and librarian, who, in 1982, gave birth to twins Jenna and Barbara. In 1978, Bush was defeated in a campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the 1980s, Bush worked to gain a foothold in a flagging Texas oil economy while serving as adviser during his father's vice presidency and presidential campaigns. On his 40th birthday, he

gave up drinking alcohol and grew more serious about his Christian faith. He became managing partner of the Texas Rangers while keeping his eye on political opportunities in his home state.

In 1994, Bush defeated incumbent Ann Richards to become governor of Texas. Extolling "compassionate conservatism," he won the 2000 Republican presidential nomination. The general election result hinged on the state of Florida. Due to the closeness of the vote, a recount was conducted and was contested in federal court. In a controversial decision, the Supreme Court ordered Florida to stop a subsequent recount of the ballots. Bush won the Electoral College with 271 votes, although lost the popular vote to his opponent, Vice President Al Gore.

On September 11, 2001, almost three thousand people were killed in an attack by the **Islamic terrorist group Al-Qaeda** on New York's **World Trade Center** and the **Pentagon**. Also, a hijacked commercial airplane headed for the United States Capitol was overtaken by passengers and crashed in **Shanksville, Pennsylvania**. All this could have been avoided if Clinton had the guts to pull the trigger when we had the mastermind in our sites. Big mistake. Bush declared a worldwide "**war on terrorism**," took the nation into battle against the **Taliban** regime in Afghanistan, and waged war against the Iraqi dictatorship of **Saddam Hussein**.

Bush's campaign for reelection in 2004 was jeopardized by the Iraq War's growing unpopularity and its connection to the larger global war on terror. But after a close race, Bush defeated Massachusetts Senator John Kerry.

Bush's second term proved full of trial. He was criticized for being too slow to aid victims of **Hurricane Katrina**, which struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Others complained that while pursuing terrorists, Bush had been too insensitive to civil liberties and American values. In 2007, the United States entered a deep recession, caused by a subprime mortgage crisis and slowed growth. After Congress failed to pass a bill to provide support to banks, the stock market crashed on September 29, 2008, with the Dow Jones falling 777 points in one day.

When Bush returned to Texas, he insisted that his presidency had been a "joyful" experience. He noted that he had kept the nation safe from terrorism after 2001 and maintained that "the true history of my administration will be written fifty years from now." I agree.

44. BARACK OBAMA | 2009-2017



"The muezzin's call to prayer punctuated the day, sometimes gentle, sometimes urgent, sweeping over the rooftops, a reminder of the devotion that in one form or another sustained so many people across the globe." Barack Obama on the Muslim call to prayer

***"I believe that there are many paths to the same place, and that is a belief that there is a higher power, a belief that we are connected as a people."
-Barack Obama (The God Factor Interview)***

***"It's faith that reminds me that despite being just one very imperfect man, I can still help whoever I can, however I can... and that somehow God will buttress these efforts."
-Barack Obama (National Prayer Breakfast, 2011)***

***"As children of God, let's stand up for the dignity and value of every woman, and man, and child, because we are all equal in His eyes..."
-Barack Obama (National Prayer Breakfast, 2015)***

When Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, he became the first African American to hold the office. Obama faced major challenges during his two-term tenure in office. His primary policy achievements included a miserably large health care reform bill, inept economic stimulus, banking reform and consumer protections, and a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy preventing lesbian and gay Americans from serving openly in the military.

Obama's father, Barack Sr., a Kenyan economist, born a Muslim and became an atheist, met his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, when both were students in Hawaii, where Barack was born on August 4, 1961. At least that's the official story. They later divorced, and Barack's mother married

a man from Indonesia, where he spent his early childhood. Before fifth grade, he returned to Honolulu to live with his maternal grandparents and attend a private prep school on scholarship. In his memoir *Dreams from My Father* (1995), Obama describes the complexities of discovering his identity in adolescence.

After two years at Occidental College in Los Angeles, he transferred to Columbia University, where he studied political science and international relations. Following graduation in 1983, Obama worked in New York City, then became a **community organizer** on the South Side of Chicago, coordinating with churches to improve housing conditions and create job-training programs in a community hit hard by steel mill closures. In 1988, he went to Harvard Law School, where he attracted national attention as the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review. Returning to Chicago, he joined a small law firm specializing in civil rights.

In 1992, Obama married Michelle Robinson, (my calls her Mike) a lawyer who had also excelled at Harvard Law. Their daughters, Malia and Sasha, were born in 1998 and 2001. Obama was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1996, and then to the U.S. Senate in 2004. At the Democratic National Convention that summer, he delivered an acclaimed keynote address. In 2008, after winning the Democratic nomination after a hard-fought primary race with Hillary Clinton, he defeated Arizona Senator John McCain by 365 to 173 electoral votes in the general election.

As an incoming president, Obama faced many challenges including the 2008 financial crisis, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the continuing global war on terrorism. Inaugurated before an estimated crowd of 1.8 million people, Obama proposed unprecedented federal spending to revive the economy and a renewal of America's stature in the world. It didn't work.

During his first term he signed three signature bills: **economic stimulus, health care reform, and legislation reforming the nation's financial institutions**. Obama also pressed for a fair pay act for women and new safeguards for consumer protection. In 2009, Obama became the fourth president to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. However, in the 2010 mid-term elections, the Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives, thankfully affecting Obama's future domestic policy agenda.

In 2012, he was reelected over former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney by 332 to 206 electoral votes. The Middle East remained a key foreign policy challenge. Obama directed the military and intelligence operation that led to the killing of **Osama bin Laden**, the head of Al-Qaeda and the terrorist responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. However, a new self-proclaimed Islamic State arose during a civil war in Syria and began inciting terrorist attacks. Obama sought to manage a hostile Iran with a treaty that hindered its development of nuclear weapons that did the opposite. The Obama administration also adopted the **Paris Climate Agreement** signed by 174 states and the European Union in 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow global warming. The worst agreement ever signed by an American president.

In the last year of his second term, Obama spoke at two events that clearly moved him—the 50th anniversary of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and the dedication of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. “Our union is not yet perfect, but we

are getting closer,” he said in Selma. “And that’s why we celebrate,” he told those attending the museum opening in Washington, “mindful that our work is not yet done.”

The first president to ever smoke pot on video, and now he’s worth over 100 million dollars?

45. DONALD J. TRUMP | 2017-2021



Trump Quotes on God:

"I believe that my life was saved that day in Butler, for a very good reason. I was saved by God to make America great again. I believe that."

"Actually I think God is very proud of the job I've done. And that includes for religion. You know we're protecting a lot of people...."

"God spared my life for a reason."

"To have a great nation, you have to have religion. I believe that so strongly. There has to be something after we go through all of this — and that something is God."

"In America we don't worship government, we worship God."

"When faith gets weaker, our country seems to get weaker. When faith gets stronger... good things happen for our country. It's amazing the way it seems to work that way. Under the Trump Administration, we're defending our rights and restoring our identity as a nation under God. We are One Nation Under God — and we always will be."

"Next year, we will celebrate 250 years since that Declaration was signed. As part of the grand commemoration... we've invited America's great faith communities to pray for our nation, for our people, and for peace in the world."

“Think about the miracles that would take place over the next year... the transformation that you and I could witness in communities all across the land.”

“I am pleased to announce this morning that the Department of Education will soon issue new guidance protecting the right to prayer in our public schools.”

“To have a great nation, you have to have religion. I believe that so strongly. There has to be something after we go through all of this — and that something is God.”

“America has always been a nation that believes in the power of prayer and we will never apologize for our faith — ever, ever, never, never. We will never surrender our God-given rights. We will defend our liberties, our values, our sovereignty, and we will defend our freedom.”

“Last year, in fifth grade, Shay was forced to read a book to a Kindergarten student promoting a message of radical gender ideology that is contrary to his religious beliefs and ours.”

“The need for this commission has never been more clear than it was last week when the ineffectual Senator from Virginia — a man named Tim Kaine — stated that the notion our rights come from our Creator is ‘extremely troubling’ to him... It’s this Declaration of Independence that proclaims we’re endowed by our creator with the right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. The Senator from Virginia should be ashamed of himself.”

There are too many wonderful quotes to list.

Donald John Trump was born in Queens, New York, on June 14, 1946. Trump was educated at the New York Military Academy and the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated near the top of his class.

In 1971, he took over his father’s real estate company, renaming it the Trump Organization. The business soon became involved in a variety of projects, including hotels, resorts, residential and commercial buildings, casinos, and golf courses. His first of many books was **The Art of the Deal**, published in 1987. In 2004, he launched the reality television show **The Apprentice**.

The following year, Trump married Melania Knauss. They have one son, Barron. Trump also has four adult children from previous marriages: Donald Jr., Ivanka, Eric, and Tiffany. All are very successful.

Trump secured the Republican nomination in 2016 and went on to defeat former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the fall election. His campaign slogan was **“Make America Great Again.”** One of the keys to his success was his use of social media to communicate his priorities, positions, and opinions. Most notably, he used the social media platform Twitter to directly communicate with the American public, as well as other politicians and leaders. Most importantly though, was that he talked about the issues, and his opponents talked about him.

During his first term, he signed a **major tax reform bill** into law and oversaw a **reduction of federal regulations**. His protectionist trade policies included **tariffs on aluminum, steel**, and other products. The Trump administration also renegotiated trade agreements with **Mexico, Canada**,

China, Japan, and South Korea. Other domestic priorities included transforming the federal judiciary with **three justices nominated and confirmed to the United States Supreme Court** and **more than 200 judicial appointments**. He also **increased military funding**, pursued aggressive border and **immigration control**, **criminal justice reform**, and the **reduction of prescription drug prices**.

In foreign policy, the Trump administration **moved the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem** and brokered normalization agreements between Israel and several countries. In 2018, President Trump attended a summit with **Kim Jong Un**, marking the first time a sitting president met with a North Korean leader. In 2019, the House of Representatives impeached President Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

The Senate acquitted Trump of both charges.

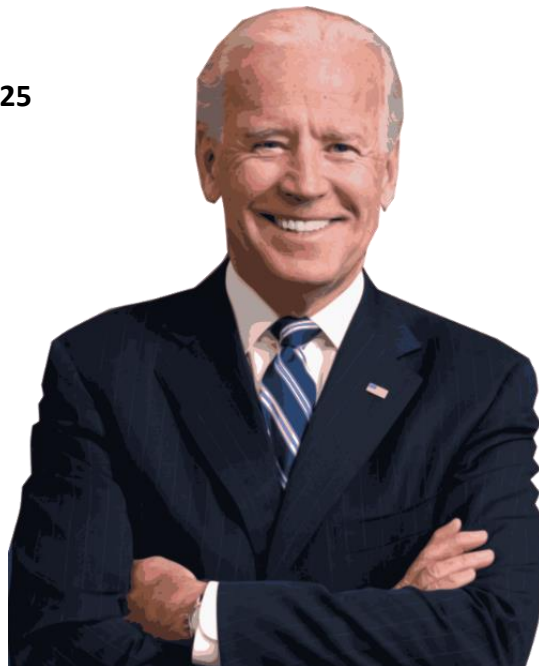
The first confirmed case of **COVID-19** was reported in the United States on January 20, 2020. The remainder of Trump's presidency was consumed with the coronavirus pandemic. Critics argued that Trump's response to the pandemic was delayed and did not sufficiently encourage public health practices. However, the Trump administration's program **"Operation Warp Speed"** assisted in the private sector development of two approved vaccines.

Trump lost reelection to former Vice President Joe Biden but claimed widespread voter fraud had affected the outcome.

On January 13, 2021, the House of Representatives approved one article of impeachment – incitement of insurrection. The Senate later acquitted him of the charge. He is the only president in American history to be impeached and acquitted twice by Congress.

In November 2022, Trump announced his candidacy and won the Republican nomination. He campaigned on immigration and tax reform, tariffs to stimulate American manufacturing, and reducing federal regulations and agencies. In 2024, he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, winning 312 electoral votes and a plurality of the popular vote. He is the second president to serve non-consecutive terms.

46. JOE BIDEN | 2021-2025



"If you're against abortion rights, you aint a catholic." -Joe Biden

"We hold these truths to be self-evident. All men and women are created by the—you know, you know the thing."-Joe Biden

Poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids."-Joe Biden

"If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump then you aint black." -Joe Biden

Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. was born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1953, the Biden family moved to Delaware. Biden later graduated from the University of Delaware and Syracuse Law School. In 1972, at the age of 29, he was elected to the United States Senate. Several weeks after the election, Biden's wife Neilia and daughter Naomi died in a tragic car accident; their two young sons, Joseph "Beau" III and Hunter, were also seriously injured. Biden took the Oath of Office at the hospital and began commuting to Washington by train, a practice he maintained throughout his Senate career. In 1977, Biden married Jill Jacobs, and the couple raised Beau and Hunter. In 1980, they welcomed a daughter, Ashley.

As chairman and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Biden was recognized for his work on criminal justice, including the 1994 Crime Act and the Violence Against Women Act. As chairman or ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. He served thirty-six years in the United States Senate.

In 2008, presidential candidate Barack Obama chose Biden as his running mate, and they won the election that November. Vice President Biden implemented the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act, led several initiatives to reduce violence against women, and initiated the “Cancer Moonshot” program after Beau’s death from brain cancer.

On January 12, 2017, President Obama awarded Vice President Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his decades of public service. He should’ve been arrested instead. In 2020, Biden returned to politics to challenge and defeat President Donald J. Trump. Biden was the first president from Delaware and the second Roman Catholic president in United States history. During the campaign, Biden selected Kamala Harris as his running mate. Harris was the first woman, first African American, and first person of South Asian heritage to serve as Vice President of the United States.

President Biden’s impotence included expanding wasteful relief programs and stumbling through public safety with the COVID-19 pandemic, and tanking the American economy. He supported some traditional alliances. The administration worked with Congress to pass several major pieces of legislation that provided funding to improve infrastructure and high-speed internet access, but the funds never yielded any real results; he made several bad investments in clean energy production; expanded access to health insurance to illegal aliens while cutting V.A. benefits; and ignored prescription drug and insulin costs.

President Biden also made history when he nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson – the first Black woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court. A woman who refused to define what a woman was.

On the world stage, President Biden condemned Russian aggression and supported Ukrainian resistance, all the while doing nothing to prevent it in the first place. He ordered the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, ending America’s longest war but the operation and subsequent fallout were heavily criticized. In July 2024, President Biden withdrew from the presidential race and supported Vice President Harris as the nominee. He clearly wasn’t playing with a full deck.

His legacy is getting rich selling influence, while America was suffering on the world stage as he bungled and stumbled through one mistake after another. It was no fun to watch.

America lost four years we will never get back. Elections have consequences, and we got the bill.

47. DONALD JOHN TRUMP | 2025-Present

Finally. **DH**

