

# presidents of the *United States of America*

"I was the 41st  
President of the  
United States, and  
I led America  
during the end of  
the Cold War."



**George H.W. Bush**





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# Become a Presidential Historian by Solving This Puzzle

In this book, you'll learn all sorts of facts about George H.W. Bush's amazing life and accomplishments. But there's still one last thing we need to know about him.

President Bush disliked a vegetable so much that he banned it from being served at the White House and on Air Force One, and we need to find out what it was. You can help us uncover the answer! Hidden in the text are bolded letters. Read this book carefully to find them, and fill the letters into the blanks below in the order they appear.

— — — — —  
Once you've solved this puzzle, you'll be a  
true PragerU Kids presidential historian!

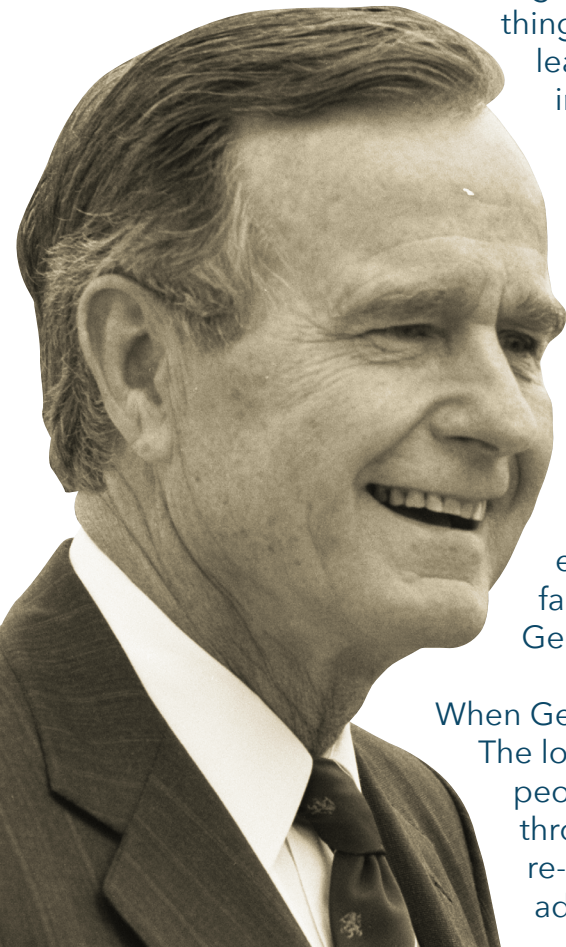
## Meet George H.W. Bush

Serving as President of the United States was just one of many interesting things that George H.W. Bush accomplished in his life. Few American leaders have had a more impressive resume. He held many important positions in government, such as **ambassador** and Vice President of the United States, before moving into the White House. Throughout his career, he was respected for his honor and integrity.

Bush came from an important and wealthy family that strongly believed in serving others. He believed in this so much that he fought for his country in World War II as a pilot for the Navy. Bush became a war hero when he survived getting shot down by the enemy.

After the war, he became a successful businessman and eventually entered politics. His top priority, however, was his family. He and his wife **B**arbara had six children. Their oldest son, George W. Bush, would also become President of the United States.

When George H.W. Bush was president, the world changed dramatically. The long Cold War between America and the Soviet Union ended, and people looked forward to an era of peace. Bush led the country through several new, unexpected challenges. Although Bush was not re-elected by the American people as president, they continued to admire him for being a man of character and wisdom.





# Young George

George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts. He came from a hardworking, successful family. Both of his grandfathers were wealthy businessmen, and his father, Prescott, was a well-known U.S. senator from Connecticut. George had four siblings, and he was the second oldest.

George was a very good athlete and student in school. He played baseball, basketball, and soccer, and his fellow students elected him senior class president.



Bush's Parents

## Interesting Facts

- He lived for 94 years, the second longest lifespan of any president in American history as of 2022.
- He was a member of the Republican Party.
- He and Barbara had six children and 17 grandchildren.
- He and Barbara were married for 73 years, the second longest of any presidential couple as of 2022.
- Bush is just one of two presidents to see his son also become president (the other being John Adams).
- In 1989, he "pardoned" a turkey so it wouldn't be slaughtered for Thanksgiving, starting the annual National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation at the White House.
- After he left the presidency, he sometimes celebrated his birthday by going skydiving.

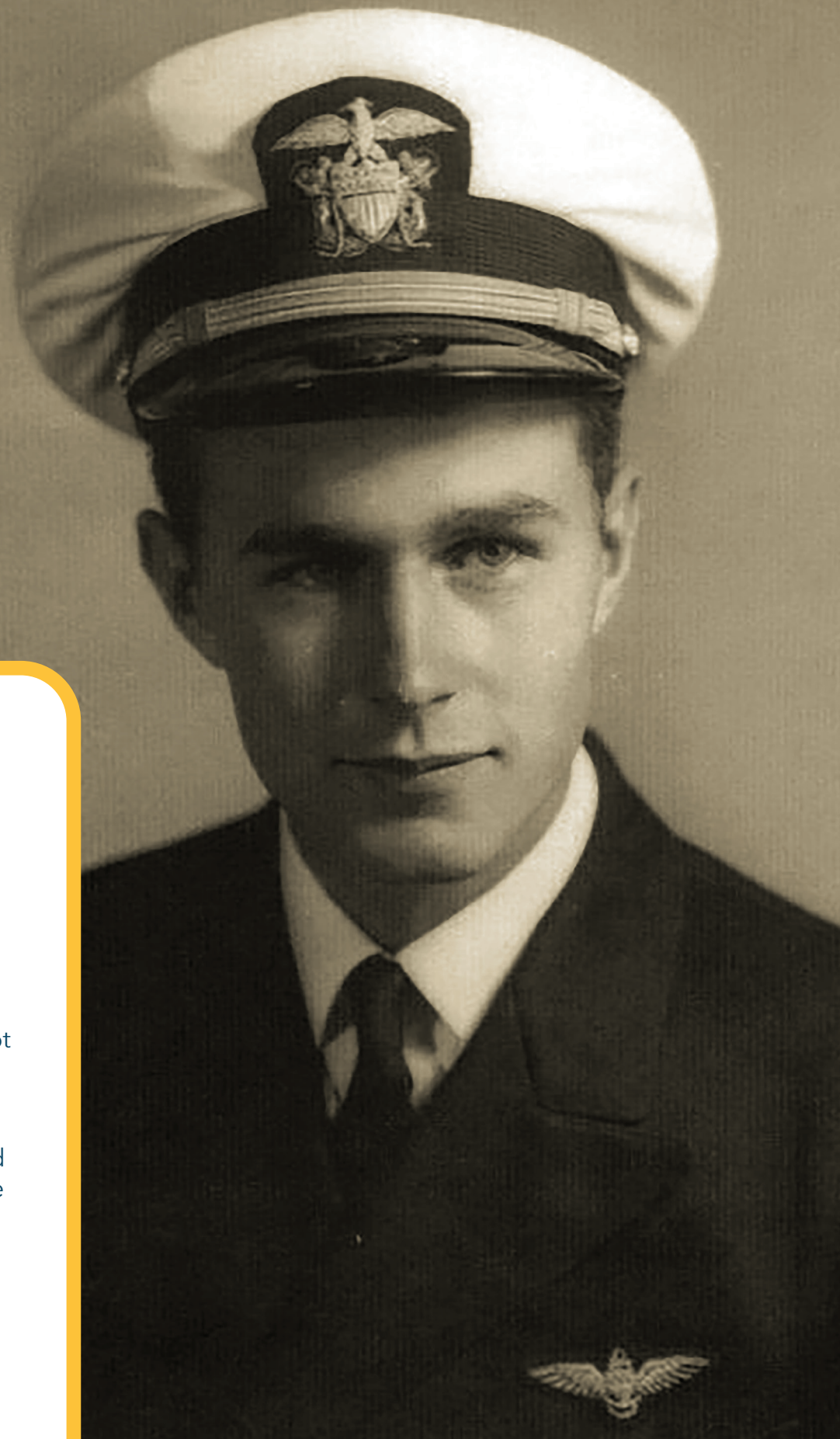






## War Hero

When America entered World War II, Bush joined the military at the age of 18, becoming the youngest pilot in the U.S. Navy. He flew 58 missions in the Pacific as a torpedo bomber. The flights were often dangerous, and during one mission in 1944, the enemy shot down his plane, killing two of his crewmates. Bush parachuted out of the plane into the ocean and was rescued by an American submarine. The military later awarded him several medals for bravery. Afterwards, Bush thought more about his relationship with God and often wondered, "Why had I been spared and what did God have for me?"







## A Long Rise to Power

In 1945, not long after he returned home, he married a woman named Barbara Pierce. They would eventually have six children, George W., Robin, John (nicknamed Jeb), Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. Sadly, Robin died of leukemia when she was just three years old. Bush and his wife were both heartbroken but gave each other support after she died.

Bush enrolled in Yale, the same university his father attended, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1948. Just like before, he was an excellent athlete at Yale. He was captain and the first baseman of the baseball team and even played in two College World Series. He also got to meet Babe Ruth, one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

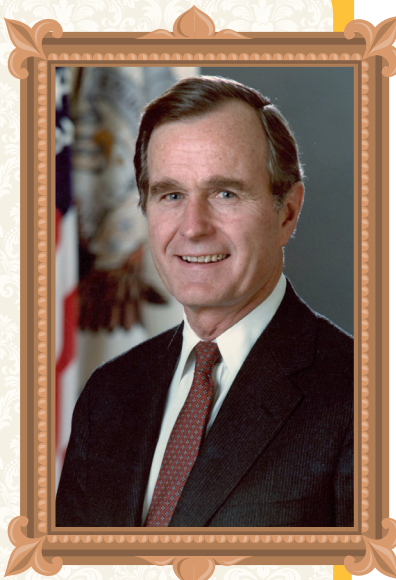
Bush and his family moved to Texas, where he became a businessman in the oil **industry**. After his father became a U.S. senator from **C**onnecticut, Bush decided to follow in his footsteps and enter politics. He, like his father, was a Republican and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966.

During the 1970s, Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford recognized his abilities and appointed him to several positions in their administration, such as Ambassador to the United Nations, Chief **Diplomat** to China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. These positions gave Bush a lot of knowledge about America's **foreign policy**.

Bush felt that, with all of this experience, he might be a good president, so he ran in the 1980 presidential election. He first had to win the Republican Party's nomination to be their **c**andidate for president, but he lost to California Governor Ronald Reagan. Although Bush lost, Reagan chose him to be his vice presidential **running mate**. In November 1980, the American people elected Reagan and Bush in a landslide.



Barbara Bush



George H.W. Bush





## Vice President

George H.W. Bush was now Vice President of the United States. He worked well with President Reagan and was very **loyal** to him. The country enjoyed great **prosperity** under their leadership. For many years, America had been fighting a **Cold War** against the **Soviet Union**, which was a **dictatorship**. Reagan and Bush fought hard to stop it from spreading **communism** around the world. Thanks to their efforts, Soviet leaders began to abandon communism and allow freedom for their people.

By 1988, Reagan was planning to leave the White House. Bush ran for president, promising to continue Reagan's **policies**. The American people were happy with the way things were going, so they elected Bush.



## Quote

*"A new breeze is blowing,  
and a nation refreshed  
by freedom stands ready  
to push on."*

*- Inaugural Address,  
January 1989*







## Quote

*"There is nothing more fulfilling than to serve your country and your fellow citizens and to do it well. And that's what our system of self-government depends on."*  
- January 1989

## Americans with Disabilities Act

In 1990, President Bush signed a major civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, that prohibited discrimination based on disability. The law enabled millions of Americans with disabilities to enjoy the same opportunities as everyone else.



## President

During Bush's presidency, the Soviet Union collapsed and changed back to its previous name, Russia. Freedom was spreading there and to many other countries. People hoped this would make the world more peaceful. Bush helped the leaders of Russia adjust to all of the new changes.

Although many people were happy that there was more freedom, some countries still misbehaved by breaking international laws and ruling as dictators. President Bush acted decisively to stop them and help their victims. In August 1990, the President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, invaded the small country of Kuwait to take over their oil supply. In January 1991, Bush sent the U.S. military to free Kuwait from Hussein in what was called the Persian Gulf War. When the war ended, it was clear Bush had led America to a great victory.

Although Bush was very popular after the war, the economy wasn't as prosperous as before. The American people wanted a change, so, when Bush ran for re-election in 1992, he lost to the Democratic Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.

## Quote

*"This will not stand, this aggression against Kuwait."*  
- August 1990



## Retirement

Even though he was disappointed about losing, many Americans still appreciated Bush for his leadership during the war. In his retirement, Bush was able to enjoy spending time with his family, especially his 17 grandchildren. His sons continued the Bush family tradition of public service. Their oldest son, George W., was elected Governor of Texas in 1994 and President of the United States in 2000. The second son, Jeb, was elected Governor of Florida in 1998. He and Barbara were proud of their sons' accomplishments. In April 2018, Barbara died at the age of 92. A few months later, on November 30, George H.W. Bush died at the age of 94.



## Skydiving

George H.W. Bush was no stranger to flying. He served in World War II as a pilot. His days in the air didn't end when he returned home. In fact, after he left the presidency, he went skydiving several times, including on his 90th birthday.







Many people who serve in government for a long time end up becoming corrupt. Bush, however, maintained his reputation for integrity throughout his career. Whatever his shortcomings, he always did his best to serve the nation he loved.

# Glossary

**Ambassador:** A person chosen by his or her country to be its sole representative to another country or an international organization.

**Industry:** A specific part of the economy, such as manufacturing, defense, or computers.

**Diplomat:** A person who represents his or her country in other countries or in international organizations.

**Foreign Policy:** The actions a country takes when dealing with other countries.

**Running Mate:** A candidate for a political position who runs closely with another candidate who is also running for a similar or related political position.

**Loyal:** Being someone that a person can count on for support at all times.

**Prosperity:** A period of time when the economy is strong, and people have a lot of money and good jobs.

**Cold War:** The conflict between America, which was free, and the Soviet Union, which was a communist dictatorship, that lasted from the 1940s to the 1980s.

**Soviet Union:** A country that existed from 1922 to 1991 which oppressed its people and tried to spread its communist system around the world.

**Dictatorship:** A system of government where one person or a small group has most or all political power. In dictatorships, the government has strong control over the people's lives.

**Communism:** A political and economic system where all property and resources are owned and controlled by the government. The result of this system is often dictatorship and government control of every aspect of people's lives.

**Policies:** The actions or laws of a government or political leader.

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## Answers

FOOD BUSH BANNED:  
BROCCOLI



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