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COLLECTION NUMBER: -01091913-009-092004

NUMBER:

**03338**

OF 10,000 ISSUED

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# The Road to the Richard M. Nixon Presidency

★ *The 37th President* ★

*Richard Milhous Nixon : The Time Line*

**1934-1937**

**1913** Born January 9th to Hannah Milhous and Francis (Frank) Nixon

**1925** Brother, Arthur Burdick Nixon died at age 7 of tubercular encephalitis

**1933** Brother, Harold Samuel died at age 23 from Tuberculosis



Front porch of Nixon home on Saint Gertrudes Ave. Richard Nixon, Hannah Nixon and Donald Nixon, ca.1926-27\*

**1922** Family lemon farm failed and family moved to Whittier, California



Richard Nixon, Hannah Nixon, Harold Nixon and F. Donald Nixon, ca.1930\*

**1930-1934**

Attended Whittier College  
Worked for family store picking up and delivering vegetables  
Won a college public-speaking contest



Whittier college football  
Richard Nixon.\*

**1934** Graduated second in his class  
Received a scholarship to Duquesne University

Attended Duke University and worked part-time in a National Youth Administration job

**1937-1941** Practiced law in Whittier, California

**1940** Married Thelma Catherine Ryan (Patricia or Pat) June 21st

**1942** Received a Navy commission and served



ball, #12

**1937** Received law degree from Duke University  
Elected president of the Duke Bar Association  
Admitted into the Order of the Coif  
Joined a law firm in Whittier, California

**1939** Became a partner in his law firm

from Whittier College with a degree in history  
a University Law School



Richard Nixon as lieutenant commander  
in Navy during WWII, ca.1945\*

**1946-1950** Served in the

**1941** Served in Washington, D.C. as a lawyer with the Office of Price Administration  
America entered WWII

**1946**

Won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives  
Received honorable discharge from Navy

In air-transport units in the South Pacific

**1948**

Reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives

**1952**

Selected as Dwight Eisenhower's Vice President



Freshmen Congressmen of the 80th Congress (left to right) Unidentified, Thurston Morton, Unidentified, George Smathers, Olin Teague, John F. Kennedy, Donald L. Jackson, Richard Nixon, January 1947\*



Nixon in Speaker's Chair presiding over House of Representatives, July 14, 1947\*



Nixon as Senator. Pictured Welker, Butler, Nixon and Taft, Washington DC, January 23, 1951\*

**1952-1960**

**1950**

Ran and won the Senate in California



**1960**

Gained Republican nomination for president and lost to Democrat John F. Kennedy

**1966**

Campaigned for Republican members of Congress

**1968**

President Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek re-election. Nixon was Nominated as the Republican candidate for president.

**1969**

Inaugurated

**1962**

Ran unsuccessful bid for Governor of California

**1962-1968**

Served as Vice President

Practiced law with Mudge, Ross, Guthrie and Alexander New York law firm; wrote, and traveled extensively in Europe



Richard M. Nixon campaign, 1968; Photograph No. C0867\*\*



Richard M. Nixon during Cambodia, April 30, 1970

**1968-1974**

Served as the 37th President of the United States of America.

ek another term  
nd won

d into office as the 37th President of the United States on January 20

**1976**

New York State Court found he obstructed justice and he was d

**1977**

U.S. \$  
contr  
Gave



g a press conference on Vietnam and  
O; Photograph No. 3448(21A)\*\*

nd Asia



Richard M. Nixon meeting with the Apollo 13 Astronauts in Hawaii,  
and awarding them the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, April  
19, 1970; Photograph No. C3386(28)\*\*



President and Mrs. Nixon at the Great Wall of China, February 24, 1972;  
Photograph No. C8549(14)\*\*

**1972**

Won re-election for president

**1974**

Moved to San Clemente

## Richard Milhous Nixon : The Time Line

**1979-1989**

Moved to New York

Served as foreign policy consultant

Worked to establish self as a statesman

Authored several books: *The Real War* (1980); *Leaders* (1982); *Real Peace* (1983); *No More Vietnams* (1985); *Nineteen Ninety-Nine* (1989)

Spurred in New York

Supreme Court upheld a 1974 law giving the government

Access over Nixon's presidential papers and recordings

Gave a television interview on Watergate Scandal

**1993**

Wife, Thelma Catherine "Pat" Ryan died June 22 in New Jersey

**1994**

Wrote *Beyond Peace*

Died April 22, 1994 in New York City

**1990**

Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace opened in Yorba Linda, California,

established with funds he raised along with his own personal contribution

Gave a television interview on Watergate Scandal

**1978**

Published *RN: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon*

California

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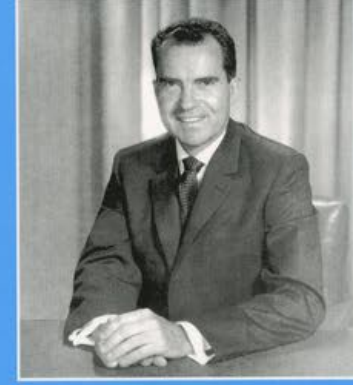
Richard Nixon birthplace, ca 1950; Yorba Linda, California\*



Francis Anthony Nixon family, ca 1915<sup>\*1</sup>



Nixon boys: Harold, Richard, Arthur and Donald, ca 1922, Whittier, Ca\*



Richard Nixon campaign portrait, December, 1959\*

*"We extend the hand of friendship to all people... To all the people of the world. And we work t*

The 37th President of the United States of America, Richard Milhous Nixon, was born in Yorba Linda, California on January 9, 1913 to Hannah Milhous and Francis (Frank) Nixon, Quakers who ran a small lemon farm. Nixon was the second oldest of five sons—Harold Samuel, Francis Donald, Arthur Burd, and Edward Calvert. At age 9, the lemon farm failed and the Nixon family moved to Whittier, California to run a general store/gas station. At a young age, Nixon and his brothers worked in the family business doing various jobs. Three years later, in 1933, Nixon lost seven-year old brother Arthur to tubercular encephalitis. Despite putting in long hours at the family store and the loss of his brother, Nixon excelled in school. Nixon attended local public schools throughout his younger years, and although his high school success gained him scholarships from both Harvard and Yale; his older brother Harold's fight with tuberculosis and tight finances led Nixon to attend Whittier College, a small Quaker institution.

Attending close to home and working with the family store helped to meet his college expenses. At Whittier College, Nixon majored in history, excelled in debate, and gained success in student

politics winning freshman class president, junior vice president, and senior president. Nixon also became active in drama and gained a spot on the football team. Upon the Franklin Club (an elite society) denying his admittance, he helped found the Orthogonians, an organization for working-class students. Graduating second in his class in 1934, Nixon gained a scholarship to Duke University Law School. Nixon worked part-time in a National Youth Administration job and did not engage in student politics. With focusing on academics, he gained admission to an honorary legal fraternity—Order of the Coif—and was elected president of the Duke Bar Association. Once again, Nixon excelled academically, graduating third in the class of 1937. Despite his academic success, Nixon did not gain opportunities as he hoped with the FBI in Washington, D.C., nor with any of the prestigious law firms in the East; instead he gained a position back home with Whittier's oldest law firm. Nixon was a successful trial lawyer and gained a partnership with his firm in 1939. When his firm opened a branch in La Habra, Nixon gained experience as a small-town police prosecutor while concurrently litigating corporation and tax

\*Courtesy of The Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation

<sup>\*1</sup> Harold Samuel Nixon, (approx 7yrs old) Frank Nixon (approx 38), Hannah Milhous Nixon (approx 31) Francis Donald Nixon (on mother's knee- 1 1/2 yrs. old) and Richard Milhous Nixon (approx 3 1/2 yrs. old), ca. 1915: Yorba Linda, CA





President and Mrs. Nixon in the inaugural motorcade, January 20, 1973; Photograph No. E0015C(16).\*\*



Richard M. Nixon at his desk in the oval office, June 23, 1972; Photograph No. C9461(18).\*\*



Richard M. Nixon shaking hands with armed forces in Vietnam, July 30, 1969; Photograph No. 1631(12).\*\*



Richard M. Nixon at the Vatican meeting with Pope Paul VI, September 29, 1970; Photograph No. C4584(14).\*\*

*oward the goal of an open world, open sky, open cities, open hearts, open minds.”—Richard Nixon*

cases. Nixon stayed active with community activities, involving himself with the Whittier College alumni association and an amateur theatre group. At a community theater tryout, he met Thelma Catherine Ryan (known as Patricia or Pat), whom he married on June 21, 1940. The couple shared the birth of two daughters, Patricia (Tricia) and Julie.

With the United States entry into World War II in 1941, Nixon served in Washington D.C. as a lawyer with Franklin Roosevelt's Office of Price Administration in January 1942, before joining the Navy as a lieutenant in August 1942. He served in New Caledonia with Naval Air Transport until the war's end in 1945. After an offer to get into politics in 1946, Nixon received an honorable discharge from the Navy as lieutenant commander.

Nixon's political career began in 1946 when a group of Republican business leaders from Southern California offered to finance his campaign for the 12th district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Nixon defeated his Democratic opponent, Jerry Voorhees, using aggressive campaign tactics that he later continued to utilize in future political elections. As congressional

\*\*White House Photo Collection; Nixon Presidential Materials Staff (NLNS), National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

representative, he gained a seat on the House Committee on Education and Labor and served as a foreign policy committee member. Nixon gained reelection in 1948, and consequently received an appointment to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAAC)—a committee that was set up to investigate communist influences in America, a national concern during the Cold War climate of the 1940s. While working on this committee, Nixon gained national recognition with an investigation that ultimately led to the conviction of former State Department official and president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Alger Hiss, for evidence indicating him as a spy for the Soviets.<sup>1</sup>

With gaining notability from the Hiss case and two terms in the House under his belt, Nixon ran for the U.S. Senate in 1950 against Democratic Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas. A popular liberal Democrat, Douglas spoke out against anti-Communist scare tactics, notably the HUAC. Nixon used this to his advantage, referring to Douglas as the "pink lady" who was soft toward communism. Douglas fought back calling Nixon "Tricky Dick," stating that Nixon misrepresents

1. Although, Hiss denied being a spy, later documents released in the 1990s proved he had indeed been a spy for the Soviets.





Richard M. Nixon bowling at the White House bowling alley, March 10, 1970; Photograph No. 3124(02).\*\*



Richard M. Nixon meeting with Elvis Presely, December 21, 1970; Photograph No. 5364(19).\*\*



Mr. and Mrs. Nixon on the beach in San Clemente, January 13, 1971; Photograph No. C5484(17).\*\*



Nixon Family in the private residence of the White House following the President's decision to resign, August 9, 1974; Photo # E3359 (05A)\*\*

facts. Despite Douglas's rebuttal, Nixon's aggressive campaign tactics once again gained him victory and he became the Senator of California with 59% of the vote.

Two years later, Nixon's political career rose to the Vice Presidency when he caught the attention of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey (one of the leaders of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's presidential campaign) while giving a speech at a New York state Republican dinner in May 1952. When Eisenhower won the presidential nomination two months later, Dewey and his allies proposed Nixon to run as Vice President, and Eisenhower acknowledged Nixon as his running mate. However, only two months after the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket had been firmly established as a platform to help "clean out greedy opportunists in Washington," their credibility was threatened with an article that ran in the New York Post accusing Nixon of profiting from a campaign fund that was set up to underwrite his political expenses during his Senate term. Many republican leaders urged Nixon to resign his post, and instead Nixon spoke out against these allegations with his famous "Checkers Speech" on National television. Nixon proclaimed his innocence stating that he gained nothing monetarily,

yet did receive just 'one' gift—a cocker spaniel dog they named Checkers—from a man in Texas who had heard Pat say that their two daughters wanted a dog. He went on to further say, "And you know the kids love that dog and I just want to say this right now—that regardless of what they say about it, we're going to keep it." In closing, he invited the public to decide on whether he should withdraw from running as Vice President by contacting the Republican National Committee. Telegrams from the American people reflected their support 100:1 that he continue running as Vice President. Thus, in November 1952 Nixon became the second-youngest vice president in history at the age of 39. During Nixon's eight years as Vice President, he remained active in presidential affairs. He traveled to fifty-four countries in support of Eisenhower's foreign policy, chaired a presidential council on civil-rights and federal-state issues, served as an effective lobbyist on political issues in the House and Senate, and served as "acting" president during President Eisenhower's three illnesses. Despite his contributions, Nixon did not escape scrutiny during his term. In 1956, Harold Stassen, Eisenhower's cabinet and National Security Council member,



made an unsuccessful attempt to replace Nixon with Governor Christian Herter of Massachusetts as Vice President. Nixon fought for re-nomination, and ultimately won Eisenhower's support. Nixon began his campaign for the 1960 presidential nomination during his second term as Vice President. Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts was his democratic opponent. Nixon lost the race for president by one of the closest margins in a presidential election of the 20th century. Kennedy gained 34,221,349 popular and 303 electoral votes; Nixon received 34,108,647 popular and 219 electoral votes—Kennedy's popular vote was only about two-tenths of 1 percent. With his presidential defeat, Nixon left for California after 14 years in Washington. He practiced law with a Los Angeles law firm and wrote his political memoir, *Six Crises*. Two years later, he returned to politics to seek the governorship of California. Nixon relied on his previous tactics of accusing his opponent of being soft toward communism. However, with anti-communism sentiments subsiding by this time, this political maneuver failed to gain him the governorship over Democratic opponent Edmund Brown. Losing the election by a wide margin, Nixon announced his intention to leave the political arena and he moved to New York to become a partner in a prominent law firm—Mudge, Rose, Guthrie and Alexander—the type of law firm he failed to obtain a position with upon graduating from Duke. Although Nixon stayed out of politics in 1964, he returned in 1966 campaigning for Republican members of Congress. Gaining new popularity with the Republican Party, he could not resist the urge to gain the 1968 presidential nomination once President Lyndon Johnson announced that he would not seek another term. Nixon's opponents were former Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, as the Independent candidate, and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, as the Democratic candidate. Nixon focused his campaign platform on ending the Vietnam War and blaming the Democrats for the nation's problems. Nixon won the presidency by a narrow popular margin; Nixon won the 1968 presidency by a narrow popular margin with 43.2% of the popular vote and 56.1% of the electoral vote and won reelection in 1972 with 60.7% of the popular vote and 96.9% of the electoral vote.

While in office, Nixon ended the Vietnam War as promised, yet it was later than sooner. From the

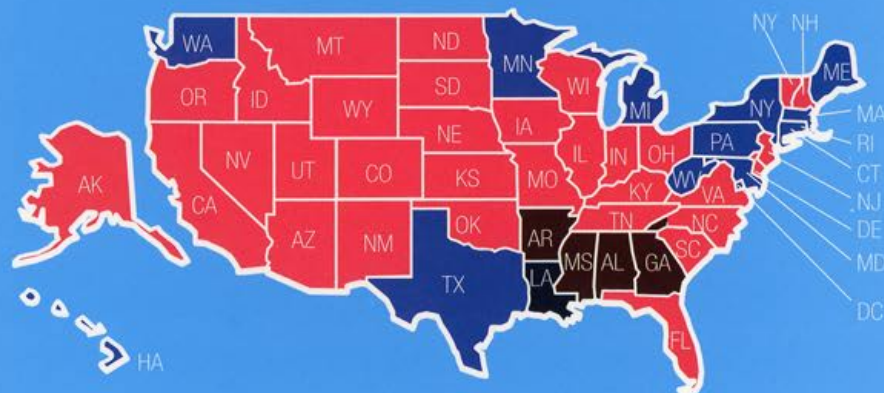
moment he took office, he steadily withdrew American troops from Vietnam. Yet his intention to end the war by force with extending it to Cambodia and Laos failed, and the war did not end until 1973. Despite his miscalculations with Vietnam, Nixon accomplished other diplomatic fronts with establishing a new relationship between the United State and the People's Republic of China and signing the first nuclear weapon control agreement with the Soviet Union. On the domestic front, Nixon called for a "New Federalism"—a movement of money and power from federal government toward states and municipalities. A result of this movement sent \$83 billion in matching funds to states and municipalities from its passage in 1972 until Reagan discontinued Revenue Sharing with states in 1986. Although, Nixon was unsuccessful in his attempts to form a welfare system that would guarantee income for America's poor, he used the government to bring affirmative action to the urban construction trades, form a task force on women's rights, and bring sex discrimination suits under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

After leaving office, Nixon settled in San Clemente, California where he spent his time writing his memoirs and advising Presidents Reagan and Bush on foreign policy. Although he left the Whitehouse, the Watergate scandal did not. In 1976, a New York state court ruled Nixon had obstructed justice in connection to Watergate and the Pentagon Papers affair and disbarred him from practicing law. Nixon later resigned from the California state bar, ending his law career for good. Nixon gave a televised interview to journalist David Frost in 1977, acknowledging his "mistakes of judgment" on Watergate, but denied having committed any impeachable offense. As time passed, Nixon published books, traveled abroad on personal diplomatic missions, consulted on foreign policy, and raised money to establish the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California. He lost his wife, Pat in 1993 and he followed just two months shy of a year later on April 22, 1994 from complications of a stroke. All living presidents attended his funeral.

Richard M. Nixon served as the 37th president of the United States from January 20, 1967 until his resignation over the Watergate Scandal on August 9, 1974. Nixon was the first president in history to resign his office. Vice President Gerald R. Ford assumed office, and later pardoned Nixon of all charges related to Watergate.



## The Presidential Election 1968



|   |                                  |                                |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (R) Nixon state victories: 301 - 56.1%    | 31,710,470 popular votes (43.2%) | Electoral votes total: 538     |
| (D) Humphrey state victories: 191 - 35.5% | 30,898,055 popular votes (42.6%) | Popular vote total: 73,026,831 |
| (I) Wallace state victories: 46 - 8.4%    | 9,446,167 popular votes (12.9%)  |                                |

## The Presidential Election 1972



|   |                                  |                                |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (R) Nixon state victories: 520 - 96.6%  | 47,169,911 popular votes (60.7%) | Electoral votes total: 538     |
| (D) McGovern state victories: 17 - 3.2% | 29,170,383 popular votes (37.5%) | Popular vote total: 77,718,554 |
| (I) Hoppers state victories: 1 - .2%    |                                  |                                |

## Richard Milhous Nixon: While in Office

**1969** Apollo II landed the first men on the moon • Nixon announced a policy of gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam • Selective Service System changed to allow for a lottery-based military draft • Nixon's national welfare system failed to gain approval • Supreme Court ruled on the desegregation of schools

**1970** U.S. announced the sending of troops to Cambodia • National Guardsmen quelling antiwar protests at Kent State University in Ohio shoot and kill four students • Establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency proposed • Clean Air Act • U.S. postal service established as an independent government agency

**1971** Vietnam conflict spread into Laos • First Lieutenant William L. Calley found guilty of murder in the My Lai massacre of 1968 • The Supreme Court authorized busing to desegregated southern schools • U.S. trade embargo lifted with communist China • Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen • Price and wage controls announced; U.S. dollar off the gold standard • Project for a supersonic transport (SST) defeated • Revenue-sharing plan to provide funds for state and local governments approved

**1972** Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passed • Nixon met with Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai in Peking • Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I) signed with the Soviet Union • Five burglars are arrested at the Watergate in Washington, D.C., while breaking into the Democratic National Party headquarters • Nixon announced the sale of U.S. grain to the Soviet Union • The United States withdrew combat troops from Vietnam • Nixon re-elected

**1973** Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision • Military draft abolished • Paris peace talks resulted in a cease-fire agreement in Vietnam that ended U.S. participation in the Vietnam War • Senate established a select committee to investigate Watergate • White House aide Alexander Butterfield revealed the existence of the White House taping system to the Senate Select Committee • Nixon announced fuel allocation • Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned • War erupted between Israel and its neighbors Egypt and Syria • Arab nations embargo oil shipments to the U.S. in an effort to force the U.S. to drop support of Israel • Saturday Night Massacre: Nixon fired Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, and Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned in protest

**1974** Nixon refused the Watergate Committee subpoena to turn over Watergate tapes • The House Judiciary Committee opened hearings of impeachment on May 9 • The Supreme Court ruling decreed equal pay for women performing equal work • The Supreme Court ordered the president to surrender Watergate tapes and documents to the special prosecutor • Nixon resigned as president on August 9



## Key Establishments

- Pioneered the opening of American relationships with China
- Signed the SALT I Treaty with Soviet Union
- Vietnam war officially ended for the United States
- Formed a task force on women's rights and brought sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act

## Richard Milhous Nixon: Personal Trivia

**Presidential Number:** 37 **Years President:** 1969-1974 **Age at Inauguration:** 56 **Terms:** 2 **Political Affiliation:** Republican **State Represented:** New York **First Lady:** Thelma Catherine ("Pat") Ryan Nixon **Vice President:** Spiro T. Agnew, Gerald R. Ford **Birthday:** January 9, 1913 **Birthplace:** Yorba Linda, California **Nickname:** None **Parents:** Hannah Milhous and Francis ("Frank") Anthony Nixon **Childhood Activities:** Played piano **Education:** Bachelor degree in history and government from Whittier College; Duke Law School with a major in Constitutional, Administrative and Federal Taxation law **Professions:** Lawyer; 37th President of the United States of America **Pre-Presidential Offices:** House of Representatives; U.S. Senate; Vice President **Occupation after Presidency:** Statesman; Author of nine books **Religion:** Quaker (Society of Friends) **Hobbies:** Bowling, golf, piano **Favorite Authors:** Leo Tolstoy and Paul Johnson **Favorite Sport:** Football **Favorite Color:** Blue **Favorite Foods:** Sequoia Brownies, poached eggs and corned beef hash for breakfast **Children:** Patricia and Julie **Pets:** Cocker Spaniel named Checkers, Irish Setter named King Timahoe, Poodle named Vicky, Terrier named Pasha and Brownie **Died:** April 22, 1994

## Notable Facts

**Fifth president** to win the presidency after a prior defeat. **First president** to visit Communist China and Soviet Russia. **First president** to address the Russian people on their television network. **First president** to resign office as president. **First president** to visit all 50 states. **First president** to nominate a Vice President under the 25th Amendment.

## Interesting Facts

- Had White House swimming pool filled in to give the press more room to stand when covering White House events
- Was a second cousin twice removed of William Howard Taft, and an eight cousin once removed from Herbert Hoover
- Nixon's mother wanted him to become a Quaker missionary and he wanted to be an FBI agent
- Played piano, violin, and clarinet