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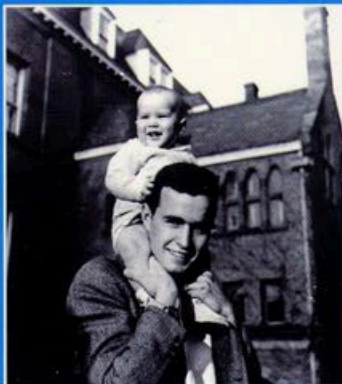
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## The Road to the George W. Bush Presidency

★ *The 43rd President* ★

## George W. Bush : The Early Years



George W. Bush sits on his father's shoulders, April 10, 1947 in New Haven, Connecticut. \*



George W. Bush with his mother, Barbara Bush and his father George Bush in New Haven, April 1947.\*



George W. Bush in baseball uniform, Spring 1954 \*



George W. Bush with his mother Barbara Bush, father, George Bush, and grandparents, Prescott and Dorothy Bush, Midland, Texas 1950 \*

***"I never dreamed about being president. When I was growing up, I wanted to be Willie Mays."-George W. Bush***

The 43rd President of the United States of America, George Walker Bush, was born on July 6th, 1946, in New Haven, Connecticut. Two years later his father, George Herbert Walker Bush, entered the oil industry and the family moved to Odessa, Texas. Shortly thereafter, the Bush family settled in Midland, Texas. Bush lived in Midland until 1959 and still claims Midland as his "hometown".<sup>3</sup> George W. Bush, the oldest child of George and Barbara Bush, had five brothers and sisters: Jeb, Neil, Marvin, Dorothy and Robin. Because his father was frequently required to work out of town, George W's brothers and sisters "idolized him" and he became like a "young uncle" to his siblings.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, he and his family suffered the tragic loss of his sister, Robin, who died of Leukemia at the age of three.

When asked of his aspirations as a child, Bush claimed that he never dreamed of being President of The United States, but set his sights on baseball. He spent hours on the baseball field located just behind his backyard. "We played for hours until our mothers

would pull us away. My childhood memories are of playing in Little League games and going over to Mike Proctor's house, my best friend."<sup>3</sup> Although George W. did not aspire to become president of this nation in his younger years, he showed leadership qualities at San Jacinto Junior High when he launched his first campaign for president of his 6th grade class and won.

Following his family's move to Houston in 1959 he was again elected class officer in his 7th grade year at The Kinkaid School. George W. continued to display leadership skills during his formative years in grade school and later in his college years by organizing team sports and serving as president of his fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon.

George W. Bush's first-hand experience with politics came as he was entering college in the fall of 1964. During his father's political campaign for Texas senator, George W. helped his father appeal to the Hispanic voters by speaking Spanish in a campaign ad. By 1977 George W. Bush had already worked for his father on three political

<sup>1</sup> Bear, Jacqui Howard, "Who is George Bush?" About n.pag. Online. Internet 12 December 2002

Available: Austin.about.com/library/weekly/aa010900b.htm.

\* photographs from the George Bush Presidential Library

<sup>2</sup> Ramono, Lois and George Lardner Jr. "Tragedy Created Bush Mother-Son Bond" Washington Post 26 July 1999: A1.

<sup>3</sup> Partain, Bruce. "George W. Bush The Sky's the Limit: A West Texan's Quest for the White House Begins in Midland" City Life Fall 2000 n. page

## George W. Bush and Politics



George W. Bush Congressional campaign poster, circa 1978. \*

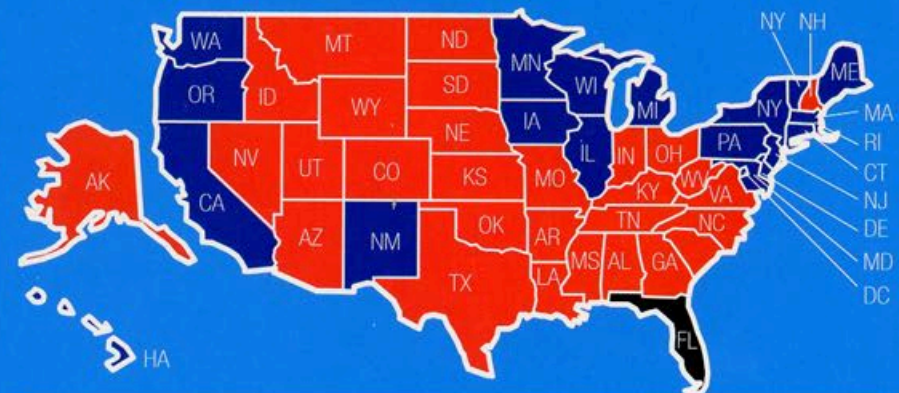


George W. Bush walks with his father George Bush on the south lawn driveway at the White House, 1992. \*

campaigns and had been on the staff of two senate candidates, Edward J. Gurney in Florida in 1968 and Winton Blount in Alabama in 1972. In 1977 Bush Jr. utilized these political experiences to run in West Texas for a congressional seat within the United States Congress. On the campaign trail he never missed a "chili supper and knocked on more than 60 doors a day," starting in Midland-Odessa, and ending on the farms of Lubbock. <sup>4</sup> Bush lost the race for Congress but won the support of Midland, a district that had never elected a republican. Two years later, Bush's father was elected Vice President of The United States, and eight years later became the 41st president of the United States. George W. refrained from running for political office until his father's presidential term ended, focusing instead on his career in the energy business and his partial ownership and management of the Texas Rangers baseball team. In the spring of 1993 George W. Bush re-entered politics and ran against Ann Richards for the Governor of Texas. In 1994 he was elected Governor of Texas with 53% of the vote.

<sup>4</sup> Larnder, George Jr. and Lois Romano. "Young Bush, a Political Natural, Revs Up." Washington Post. 29 July 1999: A1.

## The Presidential Election 2000



## *George W. Bush : 2000 campaign platform*

**Social Security reform:** Grant individuals the option to invest a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes into retirement accounts. **Modernize Medicare:** Provide seniors with a prescription drug benefit and more control over their health care options. **Affordable Health Insurance:** Provide low-income families with a \$2,000 refundable health credit. Help small businesses obtain lower cost insurance through associations. **Agriculture:** Reverse the supply control management of agriculture. **High Environmental Standards:** Provide market-based incentives to develop new technologies as to meet these standards. **Trade:** Expansion of Free Trade **Gun Control:** Protect 2nd Amendment Rights while keeping away from criminals and juveniles **Fighting Crime:** Tougher laws and enforcement of laws to fight crime **Increase Opportunities for homeownership:** \$1 billion fund to provide matching grants to lenders to help low-income families finance their first home. Permit government-subsidized renters to accumulate up to a year's worth of rental vouchers to fund the down payment of a home. **Armies of Compassion:** Government should first turn to faith-based organizations, charities, and community groups to help those in need. **Immigration:** Increase Legal Immigration by providing a 6 month standard for processing immigration applications, encourage family reunification, and split INS into 2 agencies one focused on enforcement, and one focused on naturalization and immigration services. **Civil justice:** reform that eliminates frivolous litigations **Health:** Government funded Community Health Centers for inner-city and rural areas - 100% tax deduction for long-term care insurance **Campaign Finance Reform:** support for banning corporations from giving "soft money" to political parties. Supports "paycheck protection"-prevent unions from spending members' dues on politics without their permission.

## *George W. Bush : favorites*

**Color:** Blue **School subject:** History **Teacher:** Coach Jones **Cuisine:** Mexican and Barbeque **Beverage:** Diet Soda **Ice cream:** Pralines and cream **Dessert:** Coconut Cream Pie **Sandwich:** Peanut Butter & Jelly **Snack:** Pretzels **Pastimes:** Reading, jogging, fishing, golfing, watching baseball games **Accomplishments:** Managing & owning Texas Rangers, Governor of Texas, and President of United States **Book for Children:** *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle **Movies:** *Field of Dreams* and *Saving Private Ryan* **Actor:** Jack Nicholson **Books:** *The Bible*, *The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston* by Marquis James, *The Good Life and Its Discontents: The American Dream in the Age of Entitlement* by Robert J. Samuelson, *The Dream and the Nightmare: The Sixties' Legacy to the Underclass* by Myron Magnet **TV Shows:** "Biography" on the A&E channel and live baseball **Family vacation:** Boca Grande, Florida **Presidents and Leaders:** Ronald Reagan, Winston Churchill and Theodore Roosevelt **Musicians:** Everly Brothers, Van Morrison and Buddy Holly **Song:** *Wake up little Susie*

## *George W. Bush : personal trivia*

**Birthday:** July 6, 1946 **Hometown:** Midland, Texas **Parents:** George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of U.S. & Barbara Pierce Bush, former First Lady **Childhood activities:** Little league baseball, Cub Scouts **Childhood hero:** Baseball legend Willie Mays **Current hero:** His father, Former President Bush, who is "a man of character, a wonderful father and loving husband" **Goals:** Encourage "Americans to be responsible citizens", strengthen public schools, improve Social Security and Medicare, reduce taxes, and strengthen the military.

## George W. Bush : The Time Line

**1946** Born in New Haven, Connecticut to parents, George Herbert Walker Bush & Barbara Pierce Bush

**1950-56** Sam Houston Elementary School; played baseball

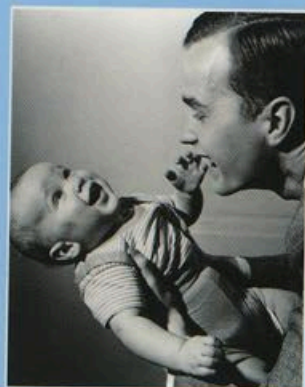
**1958** Moved to Houston, Texas

**1958-61** Kinkaid School; class officer, played football

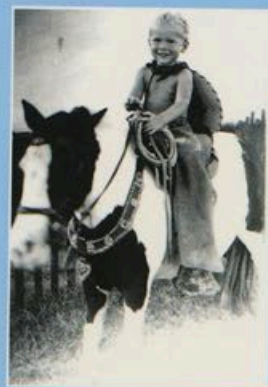
**1961-64** Phillips Academy Boarding School in Andover, Massachusetts; played basketball and baseball

**1968-73** Texas National Guard; Piloted F-102 Fighter Interceptors from Ellington Air Force Base

**1973-75** Harvard University, Massachusetts; Masters in Business Administration



George Bush holds George W. Bush in New Haven, April 1947.\*



George W. Bush sitting on a pony, circa 1949-50. \*

**1956-58** San Jacinto Junior High; became class president, played quarterback

**1948** Moves to Texas; his father takes a job as an Oil drilling equipment clerk in Odessa



George W. Bush at Yale University, 1964-1968.\*



George W. Bush in the cockpit of Air National Guard, 1968-73\*

**1964-68** Yale University, Connecticut; Bachelor of Arts in History, played Baseball and Rugby, President of Delta Kappa Epsilon

**1975** Begins work in the oil and gas industry

Massachusetts  
Administration

**1978** Started Arbusto ('Bush') Energy Oil & Gas Company

**1981** Arbusto Energy becomes Bush Oil. Twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna are born (daughters are named after their grandmothers)

**1982-83** Bush Oil becomes Bush Exploration, continues to serve as president of company

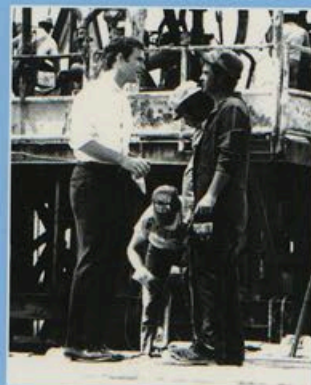
**1983** Bush Exploration merges with Spectrum Seven Energy Corporation. Bush becomes CEO.

**1987-88** Served as a member of the President's Council on Competitiveness in the 1980s

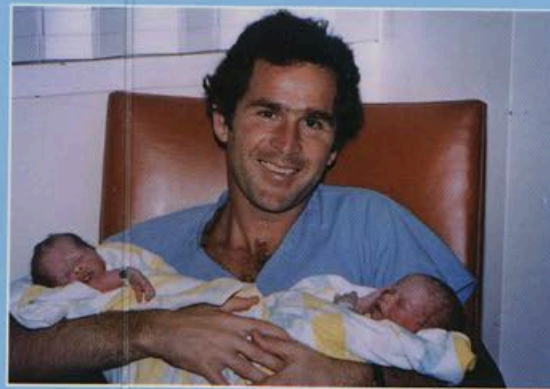
**1988**



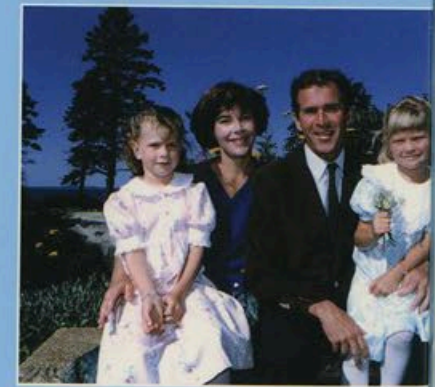
George W. Bush in F-102 while in the Texas Air National Guard



George W. Bush campaigning for Congress in the Midland oil fields, 1978 \*



George W. Bush holds his twins, Barbara and Jenna, born fall, 1981 in Dallas.\*



George W. Bush family portrait, sitting on a bench in Kennebunkport, Maine. Left to right: Barbara, Laura, George W., and Jenna, August 1981

**1977** Meets Laura Welch at a dinner party of mutual friends and they marry 3 months later

**1978** Campaign for U.S. Congress in a West Texas district. Won Republican Primary. Defeated in general election

**1986** Harken Oil & Gas bought out Spectrum Seven & E company. Bush becomes a consultant to Harken.

## George W. Bush : The Time Line

campaign advisor and speech writer  
Presidential campaign for his father

**1989-98** Served as managing general partner to the Texas Rangers

**8** George Bush Sr.  
is elected President

**1990** George W. Bush leaves  
the oil business

**1991** George W. works on father's  
re-election campaign

**1994-2000** Elected as the 46th Governor of Texas  
and reelected to second term in 1998

**2001** January 20, George W. Bush was sworn in as the  
43rd President of the United States



Hebunkport, Maine.  
August 23, 1987.\*

Bush Exploration

**1989** Purchased with other financiers the Texas Rangers Baseball  
team for \$86 million. Bush's investment was \$605,302.



George W. Bush with his father George Bush and baseball broadcaster  
Joe Morgan, in the locker room of the Texas Rangers, April 8, 1991.\*

**1998** Texas Rangers sold for \$250 million.  
Bush's share was \$14.9 million.

**2000** George W. becomes Grand Old Party  
2000 Presidential nominee

\* photographs from the George Bush Presidential Library