



George H. W. Bush
1924 -
Inducted 1991

George Herbert Walker Bush was born June 12, 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts, the second son of Prescott Bush and Dorothy Walker Bush. His family moved to Greenwich, Connecticut shortly after his birth and he attended the Greenwich Country Day School and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts in 1942. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bush enlisted in the United States Navy becoming the youngest naval aviator. He flew 58 combat missions during WWII from 1942 to 1945.

Weeks after his return from the Pacific, Bush he married Barbara Pierce in Rye, New York on January 6, 1945. Bush had been accepted to Yale University before he enlisted in the military and took up the offer after his discharge. He graduated from Yale University Phi Beta Kappa in 1948 with a degree in economics and moved to Texas.

He worked as an equipment clerk then as a drilling tool salesman for International Derrick & Equipment Company. In 1949 Bush moved his family to California, but returned to Texas, settling in Midland in 1950. In 1951 Bush and John Overby established the Bush-Overby Oil Development Company. In 1957 the Bush-Overby Company joined J. Hugh Liedtke and his brother William Liedtke to form the Zapata Petroleum Corporation. By the end of 1954, Zapata Petroleum Corporation had drilled 71 wells, producing an average of 1250 barrels of oil a day.

In October, 1954 George H.W. Bush founded the Zapata Off-Shore Company as part of the Zapata Corporation. Bush served as president of the new company which developed offshore drilling equipment. In March of 1956, the company's first rig, the Scorpion, was commissioned by Bush. This was the first electrically powered jack-up rig. In 1958 the Zapata Off-Shore became independent and Bush moved the company from Midland to Houston. He continued to serve as president of the company until 1964 when thoughts of a political career took the forefront.

Bush was elected to the House of Representatives in 1966. He was appointed to the House Ways and Means committee as a first term congressman. In 1971, Nixon appointed Bush Ambassador to the United Nations. In 1976, Ford appointed Bush Director of Central Intelligence. Bush was selected as Ronald

Reagan's running mate in 1980. On January 20, 1989, Bush succeeded Ronald Reagan and the 41st President of the United States.