



John F. Kennedy

Thirty-Fifth President
1961-1963

Born: May 29, 1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts

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 M. Nixon. Winning by a narrow margin in the popular vote, Kennedy became the **first Roman Catholic President**.

Kennedy was the youngest man elected President; he was the youngest to die.

Source: www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/jk35.html



William "Bill" Clinton

Forty-Second President
1993-2001

Born: August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas

As a delegate to Boys Nation while in high school, **he met President John Kennedy in the White House Rose Garden. The encounter led him to enter a life of public service.**

Source: www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/bc42.html



Medgar Evers

www.africawithin.com/bios/medgar_evers.htm

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B02EED9103CF930A15752C0A9679C8B63>

Medgar Evers (1925-1963), field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was one of the first martyrs of the civil rights movement. His death **prompted President John Kennedy to ask Congress for a comprehensive civil-rights bill**, which President

Lyndon Johnson signed into law the following year.

Evers' wife, Myrlie, and their three young children had been watching **President John F. Kennedy give a televised address on civil rights on the night of June 12, 1963**. Mr. Evers was at a meeting of civil rights workers at a nearby church. He was shot and killed the same night on his doorstep after returning home.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Source: http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html

The Nobel Peace Prize 1964

(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)

he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the **peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream"**; he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named **Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963**; and became **not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure**.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was **the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize**. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

President-Elect Barack Obama



Sources: <http://www.theage.com.au/world/king-family-wants-share-of-booming-new-trade-20081114-67ai.html>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1682433/bio>

Barack Obama accepted the Democratic nomination for president on the 45th anniversary of Dr King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and America's first black president will be inaugurated on January 20, the day after the public holiday created to honour Dr King, who was shot dead in 1968.

Mini Biography

Barack Obama was born to a white American mother, Ann Dunham, and a **black Kenyan father**, Barack Obama, Sr., who were both young college students at the University of Hawaii. When his father left for Harvard, she and Barack stayed behind, and his father ultimately returned alone to Kenya, where he worked as a **government economist**. Barack's mother remarried an **Indonesian oil manager** and moved to **Jakarta when Barack was six**. He later recounted

Indonesia as simultaneously lush and a harrowing exposure to tropical poverty. He returned to Hawaii, where he was brought up largely by his grandparents. The family lived in a small apartment - his grandfather was a furniture salesman and an unsuccessful insurance agent and his grandmother worked in a bank - but Barack managed to get into Punahou School, Hawaii's top prep academy. **His father** wrote to him regularly but, though he **traveled around the world on official business** for Kenya, he visited only once, when Barack was ten.

Obama attended Columbia University, but found New York's racial tension inescapable. He became a community organizer for a small Chicago church-based group for three years, helping poor South Side residents cope with a wave of plant closings. He then attended Harvard Law School, and in **1990 became the first African-American editor of the Harvard Law Review**. He turned down a prestigious judicial clerkship, choosing instead to practice civil-rights law back in Chicago, representing victims of housing and employment discrimination and working on voting-rights legislation. He also began teaching at the University of Chicago Law School. Eventually he ran as a Democrat for the state senate seat from his district, which included both Hyde Park and some of the poorest ghettos on the South Side, and won.

In 2004 Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat, representing Illinois, and gained national attention by giving a rousing and well-received keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston. In 2008 he ran for president as a democrat and won. He is set to become the 44th president of the United States and the first African-American ever elected to that position.

Trivia

His first name comes from the word that **means "blessed by God"** in Arabic.

In the Kenyan town where his father was born, the long-brewed "Senator" brand of beer has been nicknamed "Obama."

Won a Grammy for Best Spoken Word for the CD version of his autobiography "Dreams From My Father" (2006).

Several celebrities including; [Halle Berry](#), [George Clooney](#), [Sheryl Crow](#), [Bob Dylan](#), [Tophér Grace](#), [Macy Gray](#), [Bruce Springsteen](#), [Oprah Winfrey](#) [Tom Hanks](#), [Scarlett Johansson](#), [Hayden Panettiere](#), [Zachary Quinto](#), [Eddie Murphy](#) and [John Cleese](#) support his 2008 presidential campaign. [Robert De Niro](#) gave his endorsement at the same rally **where Barack was endorsed by Caroline and Ted Kennedy**.

His paternal relatives still live in Kenya (Africa).

Confessed teenage drug experiences in his memoirs **"Dreams from My Father"**.

Born to Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. (1936-1982) and Ann Dunham (1942-1995), married from 1960 to 1965.

Named one of **Time magazine's** "100 most influential people in the world" list in 2005 and 2007.

Chosen as one of "**10 people would change the world**" by New Statesman magazine (2005).

Won his second Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album for "The Audacity of Hope" (2008).

On June 3, 2008 he won the Montana primary election giving him enough delegates to become the first Black American presidential candidate to win a major political party's presumptive nomination for the office of President of the United States.

More than **215,000 people attended his speech in Berlin** on 24 July 2008.

Barack Obama's grandmother, Madelyn Payne Dunham died Sunday November 2, 2008 in the early evening in Honolulu from cancer. She was 86.

Is the first African-American man to be elected President of the United States (November 2008).

When elected President, he captured the key battleground states of Pennsylvania and Ohio, then California and also seized Florida, Virginia and Colorado - all of which voted Republican in 2004.

Is the **first American president to be born in Hawaii**.

Was the 27th lawyer to be elected American president.

Was elected to be the 44th president of the United States of America on 4 November, 2008.

Interesting Similarities

- ❖ **A lot of these historical figures are the “firsts” and the “youngest”. Read the information carefully, and research other sources for more data.**
- ❖ **The year President Kennedy was elected was the year President Elect Obama was born.**
- ❖ **The decade of the sixties also demonstrated civil rights movements and the added fact that Obama’s parents were married during that era.**
- ❖ **Clinton’s destiny to become a President was molded after meeting with President Kennedy.**
- ❖ **Caroline and Ted Kennedy endorsed President Elect Obama**
- ❖ **Evers was killed the same night President Kennedy was giving an address; a few months later the same year President Kennedy was assassinated.**
- ❖ **President Clinton and President Elect Obama were the same age in being elected as Presidents of the U.S.A>**

- ❖ **Dr. King and President Elect Obama both featured in *Time* magazine.**
- ❖ **Dr. King led a peaceful march Washington DC to deliver the speech “I Have a Dream”**
- ❖ **President Elect Obama wrote “Dreams from My Father” and will live in the White House peacefully, in Washington DC.**
- ❖ **Dr. King was and is known as a world figure; President Elect Obama is now a world figure; and Obama’s dad traveled around the world on official business.**