

Richard Nixon

Kickable, Impeachable, Unpardonable
Thirty-Seventh, 1969-1974



Nicknames: “Tricky Dick”, “Gloomy Gus”, “Iron Butt”, “The Mad Monk”, “Richard the Chicken-Hearted”

Birth: January 9th, 1913, Yorba Linda, California

Death: April 22nd, 1994, New York, New York

Significant Events During Nixon's Terms: Woodstock ... Apollo 11 Moon Landing ... First “Earth Day” ... Kent State ... Pentagon Papers ... Vietnam War Ends ... OPEC Oil Embargo ... Military Draft Suspended ... Roe v. Wade ... Watergate ... Nixon Resigns

Quotes: *"I would like to become a lawyer – an honest lawyer, who can't be bought by crooks."*
-- Richard Nixon, 1923, to his mother when he was ten years old and reading about the corruption in the Harding administration

"You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference."
-- Richard Nixon, 1962, on losing his bid for Governor of California

"We find ourselves rich in goods, but ragged in spirit; reaching with magnificent precision for the moon, but falling into raucous discord on earth." -- Richard Nixon, 1969

"Richard Nixon is a no-good lying bastard. He can lie out of both sides of his mouth at the same time, and if he ever caught himself telling the truth, he'd lie just to keep his hand in."
-- Harry S Truman (#33)

"The irony about Nixon is that his pre-Watergate record is a lot better than most liberals realize. It was Nixon, after all, who opened the door to China and who eventually brought American troops home from Vietnam." -- Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, 1987

"It is not a part of American history that we are proud of." -- Colin Powell, referring to the U.S.-instigated and engineered coup in Chile that took place during Nixon's presidency

"I'm not a crook." -- Richard Nixon, 1973

How his term ended: Nixon resigned the presidency (it was a desperate "you can't fire me, I quit!" response to the tightening noose of the Watergate investigation).

Other Professions: Gas Station Attendant/Store Clerk, Lawyer, Soldier

Worst Mistakes: Nixon was behind the 1973 overthrow of democratically-elected Salvador Allende in Chile, fomenting a coup against him because, as had been the case with many other Presidents--but most egregiously in the administrations of Taft and Eisenhower--the White House did not find foreign leaders to be pliant enough to U.S. interests, and so conspired to have them replaced. This criminal and evil act on Nixon's part led to the rule of Chile by Augusto Pinochet, a repressive dictator.

Nixon bombed Cambodia for over a year without telling the American people about it.

Nixon had anti-war protesters arrested and jailed in 1971, a violation of their Constitutional rights to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. The 13,400 who had been arrested were later awarded a total of \$12 million (which works out to approximately \$896 each).

Nixon also attempted to suppress freedom of the press regarding the publication of the Pentagon Papers. In connection therewith, Nixon attempted to uncover some "dirt" on Daniel Ellsberg, the former government employee who had made these secret government accounts about the war public.

And then, of course, there's Watergate (Nixon operatives spying on, vandalizing, and burglarizing the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C.). The lies, deceptions, and dirty tricks that made up that scandal culminated in Nixon's having to resign the presidency in disgrace.

Relatively insignificantly, but still worthy of note, is Nixon's crime in diverting government funds to be used in the improving of his personal residences, and his failure to pay all taxes due.

Saving Graces: Although he viewed environmentalists as loonies, Nixon did sign into law the “Magna Carta” of environmental protection – The National Environment Protection Act.

Nixon helped improve relations with China.

Notes: Nixon's middle name was Milhous.

Nixon was the first President to resign; he did so in order to avoid being impeached, which seemed increasingly inevitable.

Nixon proposed to Patricia Ryan the night they met; she put him off for two years. In 1968, one of their daughters, Julie, married David Eisenhower, a grandson of Dwight Eisenhower (#34).

Infamous spy Alger Hiss (who, by the way, organized the United Nations Charter meeting in San Francisco – which JFK covered as a Hearst newspaper reporter) was relentlessly pursued by Nixon in connection with the communist-hunting activities headed up by Joe McCarthy.

Ironically, Nixon at one time actually put the interests of the nation above his own personal ambitions: In the 1960 Presidential election, indications of vote fraud turned up in both Illinois and Texas. Kennedy barely won both states. Nixon, however (who lost the presidency thereby) declined to demand a recount, conceding the election to Kennedy because he said contesting the results would have done “incalculable and lasting damage throughout the country.” What happened to Nixon between 1960 and 1972, when he was willing to severely damage the country by means of the Watergate fiasco and other shady shenanigans and dirty deeds? Even more strikingly, what happened to the ten-year-old boy who had proudly informed his mother of his ambition to be an honest, incorruptible lawyer?

King Edward III of England was one of Nixon's ancestors. Among Nixon's other forebears are a George Nixon who crossed the Delaware with Washington, and another George Nixon who fell at Gettysburg. Nixon is also distantly related to William Howard Taft (#27) and Herbert Hoover (#31).