

President Ronald Reagan

Meghan Wolf

Born: February 6th, 1911

Died: June 5th, 2005

40th President of the United States. At 63 years of age, he became the oldest person elected for President

- Pre-Presidency-

Before entering politics, Reagan was a successful movie and television actor, head of the Screen Actors Guild, and was a spokesperson for General Electric

He strongly opposed communism and socialism, and as president he sought fewer regulations, free-trade agreements, welfare cutbacks, and tax cuts.

He married Jane Wyman in 1940, and they divorced in 1948. In 1952, he married Nancy Davis, with whom he remained for the rest of his life, fifty-two years.

- Presidential Crediations and Accomplishments

Reagan is credited with restoring America's power and prosperity after a period of stagflation in the wake of the Watergate scandal and the withdrawal from Vietnam.

He rejected Détente and escalated the Cold War with the Soviet Union through a military build-up and a firm foreign policy of "peace through strength," but also negotiated with Mikhail Gorbachev to shrink

both countries' nuclear arsenals and peacefully end the Cold War, although some scholars cite December 26, 1991, as the peaceful end of the Cold War - three years after Reagan's presidency had ended.

Reagan's persuasive quotable speaking style earned him the sobriquet "**The Great Communicator**," while his survival of numerous scandals and an assassination attempt earned him the nickname "**The Teflon President**." Notable appointments included Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

- Post Presidency

After Reagan left office, he wrote a well published autobiography, The American Life

He was hired by a company to give two public speeches for which they paid him 2 million dollars. His last public appearance was made at the funeral honoring former president Richard Nixon.

He developed Alzheimers disease in the last 10 years of his life.

He died of pneumonia on June 5th, 2004 at his home in Bel-Aire, California. He was 93 years old, and 45 days shy of breaking Gerald Ford's record.

Awards and achievements

Lifetime "Gold" membership in the Screen Actors Guild United States Military Academy's Sylvanus Thayer Award.

In 1989, Reagan received a honorary British knighthood, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. This entitled him to the use of the post-nominal letters GCB but did not entitle him to be known as "Sir Ronald Reagan". He, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George H.W. Bush are the only American Presidents to have received the honor.

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Chrysanthemum, Japan 1989

Honorary Fellow of Keble College, Oxford England

Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1993

On May 16, 2002 Nancy Reagan accepted the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress, on behalf of the President and herself.