

= Ronald Reagan Presidential Library =

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs is the presidential library and final resting place of Ronald Wilson Reagan , the 40th President of the United States (1981 ? 1989) , and his wife Nancy Reagan . Designed by Hugh Stubbins and Associates , the library is located in Simi Valley , California , about 40 miles (64 km) northwest of Downtown Los Angeles and 15 miles (24 km) west of Chatsworth .

The Reagan Library is the largest of the 13 federally operated presidential libraries . The street address , 40 Presidential Drive , is numbered in honor of Reagan 's place as the 40th President .

= = Dedication = =

It was initially planned to build the Reagan Library at Stanford University , and an agreement was reached with the university in 1984 . Those plans were canceled in 1987 , and the freestanding site in Simi Valley was chosen the same year . Construction of the library began in 1988 , and the center was dedicated on November 4 , 1991 . The dedication ceremonies were the first time in United States history that five United States Presidents gathered together in the same place : Richard Nixon , Gerald Ford , Jimmy Carter , Ronald Reagan himself , and George H. W. Bush . Six First Ladies also attended : Lady Bird Johnson , Pat Nixon , Betty Ford , Rosalynn Carter , Nancy Reagan , and Barbara Bush . Only Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis did not attend ; but , her children Caroline Kennedy @-@ Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr. were in attendance along with Luci Johnson Turpin , younger daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson , as well as descendants of Franklin D. Roosevelt .

= = Facilities = =

When the Reagan Library opened it was the largest of the presidential libraries , at approximately 153 @,@ 000 square feet (14 @,@ 200 m2) . It held that title until the dedication of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park in Little Rock , Arkansas , on November 18 , 2004 . With the opening of the 90 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (8 @,@ 400 m2) Air Force One Pavilion in October 2005 , the Reagan Library reclaimed the title in terms of physical size ; however , the Clinton Library remains the largest presidential library in terms of materials (documents , artifacts , photographs , etc .) . Like all presidential libraries since that of Franklin D. Roosevelt , the Reagan Library was built entirely with private donations , at a cost of \$ 60 million (equivalent to \$ 137 million in 2015) . Major donors included Walter Annenberg , Lew Wasserman , Lodwick Cook , Joe Albritton , Rupert Murdoch , Richard Sills , and John P. McGovern . For fiscal year 2007 , the Reagan Library had 305 @,@ 331 visitors , making it the second @-@ most @-@ visited presidential library , following the Lyndon B. Johnson Library ; that was down from its fiscal year 2006 number of 440 @,@ 301 visitors , when it was the most visited library .

As a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) , the Reagan Library , under the authority of the Presidential Records Act , is the repository of presidential records for Reagan 's administration . Holdings include 50 million pages of presidential documents , over 1 @.@ 6 million photographs , a half @-@ million feet of motion picture film and thousands of audio and video tapes . The library also houses personal papers collections including documents from Reagan 's eight years as Governor of California .

= = Exhibits and scenery = =

The museum features continually changing temporary exhibits and a permanent exhibit covering President Reagan 's life . This exhibit begins during Reagan 's childhood in Dixon , Illinois , and follows his life through his film career and military service , marriage to Nancy Davis Reagan , and political career . The " Citizen Governor " gallery shows footage of Reagan 's 1964 " A Time for Choosing " speech and contains displays on his eight years as governor . The gallery includes a

1965 Ford Mustang used by Reagan during his first gubernatorial campaign , as well as the desk he used as governor . His 1980 and 1984 presidential campaigns are also highlighted , as well as his inauguration suit and a table from the White House Situation Room is on display . News footage of the 1981 assassination attempt on his life is shown , and information about the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI , dubbed " Star Wars ") is included .

A full @-@ scale replica of the Oval Office ? a feature of most presidential libraries ? is a prominent feature of this museum as well . Among the items Reagan kept on his desk was a 16 inches (41 cm) copy of a bronze statue of " Old Bill Williams " , by B. R. Pettit ; Williams was a renowned mountain man of Arizona . Other parts of the exhibit focus on Reagan 's ranch , the presidential retreat Camp David , life in the White House , and First Lady Nancy Reagan . The most recent temporary exhibit ran from November 10 , 2007 , to November 10 , 2008 ; titled " Nancy Reagan : A First Lady 's Style , " it featured over 80 designer dresses belonging to Nancy Reagan .

The hilltop grounds provide expansive views of the area , a re @-@ creation of a portion of the White House Lawn , and a piece of the Berlin Wall . An F @-@ 14 Tomcat (BuNo 162592) is also located on the grounds .

= = = Artifacts controversy = = =

On November 8 , 2007 , Reagan Library National Archives officials reported that due to poor record @-@ keeping , they are unable to say whether approximately 80 @,@ 000 artifacts have been stolen or are lost inside the massive museum complex . A " near @-@ universal " security breakdown was also blamed , leaving the artifacts vulnerable to theft . Many of the nation 's presidential libraries claim to be understaffed and underfunded . NARA labeled the Reagan Library as having the most serious problems with its inventory . In an audit , U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein blamed the library 's poor inventory software for the mishap . Frederick J. Ryan Jr . , president of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation 's board of directors , said the allegations of poor management practices at the library reflect badly on the National Archives . The library has undertaken a massive inventory project that will take years to complete .

= = Air Force One Pavilion = =

A 90 @,@ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (8 @,@ 400 m²) exhibit hangar serves as the setting for the permanent display of the Boeing 707 aircraft utilized as Air Force One during Reagan 's administration . The aircraft , SAM 27000 , was also used by six other presidents in its active service life from 1973 until 2001 , including Richard Nixon during his second term , Gerald Ford , Jimmy Carter , George H.W. Bush , Bill Clinton , and George W. Bush . In 1990 , it became a backup aircraft after the Boeing 747s entered into service and was retired in 2001 . The aircraft was flown to San Bernardino International Airport in September 2001 , where it was presented to the Reagan Foundation . In what was known as Operation Homeward Bound , Boeing , the plane 's manufacturer , disassembled the plane and transported it to the library in pieces . After the construction of the foundation of the pavilion itself , the plane was reassembled and restored to museum quality , as well as raised onto pedestals 25 feet (7 @.@ 6 m) above ground . The pavilion was dedicated on October 24 , 2005 , by Nancy Reagan , President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush .

SAM 27000 is part of a comprehensive display about presidential travel that also includes a Johnson @-@ era Sikorsky VH @-@ 3 Sea King , call sign Marine One , and a presidential motorcade ? Reagan 's 1984 presidential parade limousine , a 1982 Los Angeles Police Department police car (as well as two 1980s police motorcycles) , and a 1986 Secret Service vehicle used in one of President Reagan 's motorcades in Los Angeles . The pavilion is also home to the original O 'Farrell 's pub from Ballyporeen in the Republic of Ireland that President and Mrs. Reagan visited in June 1984 , now called the " Ronald Reagan Pub . " Also featured are exhibits on the Cold War and Reagan 's extensive travels aboard Air Force One .

On June 9 , 2008 , Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings joined Nancy Reagan to dedicate the

Reagan Library Discovery Center , located in the Air Force One Pavilion . The center is an interactive youth exhibit in which fifth through eighth grade students participate in role @-@ playing exercises based on events of the Reagan administration .

The pavilion has been used on several occasions as the venue for televised Republican Party primary @-@ related debates (see below) .

= = Center for Public Affairs = =

The Reagan Library has hosted many events , including the funeral of Ronald Reagan in June 2004 , and the first Republican presidential candidates ' debate of the 2008 primaries . On May 23 , 2007 , Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer held a brief private talk and a press conference . On July 17 , 2007 , Polish President Lech Kaczyński presented Poland 's highest distinction , the Order of the White Eagle , to Mrs. Reagan on behalf of her husband .

= = Ronald Reagan 's funeral = =

Following his death , Reagan 's casket was driven by hearse to the Reagan Library on June 7 , 2004 from Point Mugu through a 25 @-@ mile @-@ per @-@ hour (40 km / h) procession down Las Posas Road to U.S. Highway 101 . Many people lined the streets and freeway overpasses to pay final respects . A memorial service was held in the library lobby with Nancy Reagan , Reagan 's children , close relatives , and friends . The Reverend Dr. Michael Wenning officiated at the service .

From June 7 to 9 , Reagan 's casket lay in repose in the library lobby , where approximately 105 @, @ 000 people viewed the casket to pay their respects . After flying the body to Washington , D.C. , lying in state in the Capitol rotunda , and a national funeral service in the Washington National Cathedral , Reagan 's casket was brought back to the library in California for a last memorial service and interment .

Construction plans for the library included a tomb for the eventual use of Reagan and his wife . Following a sunset service on the library grounds the previous evening , early on the morning of June 12 , 2004 , Reagan was laid to rest in the underground vault .

= = = Republican primary debates = = =

On May 3 , 2007 , the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Nancy Reagan hosted the first 2008 Republican primary debate in the Library 's Air Force One Pavilion . The candidates present included Kansas Senator Sam Brownback , former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore , former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani , former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee , Representative Duncan Hunter of California , Senator John McCain of Arizona , Representative Ron Paul of Texas , former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney , Representative Tom Tancredo of Colorado , and Tommy Thompson , former Governor of Wisconsin and President George W. Bush 's first Secretary of Health and Human Services . Mrs. Reagan , California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger , and Fred Ryan , Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation were among those in attendance . Candidates discussed the War in Iraq , the War on Terror , taxes , healthcare , abortion , stem @-@ cell research , gay rights , illegal immigration , and made at least 20 individual references directly or in passing , to Ronald Reagan and his presidency .

On January 30 , 2008 , after the Republican candidates were narrowed to four ? Mitt Romney , Mike Huckabee , Ron Paul , and John McCain ? the library was the scene of the final GOP debate , once again hosted by the Reagan Foundation and Mrs. Reagan .

The library announced that it would once again host the first Republican primary debate of future 2012 Republican candidates on May 2 , 2011 . The debate was co @-@ hosted by NBC News and Politico . The debate took place on September 7 , 2011 .

In September 2015 , the library hosted the second Republican presidential debate of the 2015 @-@

2016 cycle , run by CNN . 15 candidates took part in two sessions .

= = = Centennial and library renovation = = =

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and General Electric (GE) announced a partnership beginning March 17 , 2010 , to support the two @-@ year @-@ long celebration of President Reagan 's 100th birthday on February 6 , 2011 . GE , for whom Reagan hosted General Electric Theater and served as a goodwill ambassador from 1954 to 1962 , prior to being elected Governor of California , served as the Presenting Sponsor of the historic Reagan Centennial Celebration .

GE 's overall participation as Presenting Sponsor of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Celebration included :

\$ 10 million in the form of cash , advertising and promotion to support the Ronald Reagan Centennial Celebration , including funds to support the completely transformed , state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art museum at the Reagan Library that will be unveiled on February 5 , 2011 . This will include a new General Electric Theater that will focus on Reagan 's career in radio , television , and film .

An additional \$ 5 million to the Reagan Presidential Foundation to launch and support the GE ? Reagan Scholars Program , an effort that will begin in 2011 and that will provide 200 four @-@ year college scholarships over the next decade to " students who embody the vision and values personified by President Reagan . "

A donation from GE / NBC Universal to the Reagan Foundation of 208 restored episodes of General Electric Theater in which Ronald Reagan hosted or appeared from 1954 until 1962 . The episodes , many of which were thought to be lost and some of which were damaged , were recently uncovered and restored to broadcast quality for purposes of the renovated Reagan Museum .

An ad campaign and interactive Internet presence on GE 's web site to promote the centennial and celebrate Reagan 's political career and time with GE .

A series of public affairs lectures with Reagan @-@ era luminaries that focused on Reagan 's legacy .

The Reagan Centennial was also being led by the National Youth Leadership Committee . Notable members of the Committee include chairpersons Nick Jonas , Jordin Sparks and Austin Dillon , as well as famous non @-@ chairpersons , including actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle , Olympic bronze medalist Bryon Wilson , Olympian and X @-@ Games medalist Hannah Teter , and recording artist Jordan Pruitt . Several other Olympians and athletes are also members of the Committee .

On March 6 , 2016 , Reagan 's widow Nancy Reagan died at the age of 94 of congestive heart failure . After the funeral , she was buried next to her husband at the library on March 11 , 2016 .