

Presidential hopefuls burn bright, then fade  
Political parties and poll numbers rise and fall  
Presidents pass the torch, administrations change  
Through it all, one constant remains: **The Associated Press'** coverage of

# The American President



Ever since Zachary Taylor and the Whig Party won the White House more than 150 years ago, AP reporters and photographers have been the dominant source of presidential news for media across the U.S. and around the world.

Much of what we know about President Abraham Lincoln's masterpiece, the Gettysburg Address, comes from the hand of AP statehouse stenographer Joseph I. Gilbert, who alone transcribed Lincoln's original text. Pioneering AP Washington correspondent Lawrence Gobright accompanied Lincoln on horseback to the telegraph office for the latest updates on Civil War battles, and broke the news of the president's assassination. As President James Garfield lay dying in the White House from an assassin's bullet, AP reporter Franklin Hathaway Trusdell listened in at the bedroom door for the sound of breathing from the mortally wounded president.

Since AP launched its WirePhoto service in 1935, the news cooperative has been no less

committed to photographic coverage of the White House. AP photographers accompany the president everywhere. Wearying routine and photo ops can yield in an instant to breaking news that moves the world and dominates front pages, broadcasts and Web sites.

AP photographer Ron Edmonds was focused on President Ronald Reagan as the president walked to his limousine after a 1981 speech in Washington. As Reagan waved to onlookers, Edmonds heard strange pops and held his motor drive shutter down. Edmonds' exclusive photos of the assassination attempt earned him the Pulitzer Prize, one of four Pulitzers won by AP photographers for their coverage of the presidency.

For the journalists of the world's oldest and largest news agency, the mandate of covering the White House remains the same as it was in Lincoln's day: be accurate, be fair and be fast. For photographers, who can never catch up to a missed opportunity, it means always keeping your eye on the president.

The photos in this exhibition are drawn from the AP Images photo archive, which contains more than 10 million film and digital images and is one of the most extensive collections of news and documentary images anywhere.

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ST. LOUIS/November 1948  
President Harry S. Truman holds up an edition of the Chicago Daily Tribune, which mistakenly reported "Dewey Defeats Truman." His historic upset caused the paper to recall most of its press run. Truman told a crowd at Union Station, "This is one for the books!" (Byron Rollins/AP)

LOS ANGELES/January 2008  
Democratic presidential hopefuls U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., and U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., react to applause from the crowd in the Kodak Theater prior to their debate. (Elise Amendola/AP)

PHOENIX/February 2008  
Republican presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., celebrates at his Super Tuesday primary election night party. (Charles Dharapak/AP)

# Presidential Moments



Compelling and iconic images from AP's photo archives document the U.S. presidency from George Washington to the 2008 presidential hopefuls, with an emphasis on the second half of the 20th century. All four of AP's Pulitzer Prize winners for photo coverage of the White House are represented in *The American President* exhibit including:

THURMONT, Md./April 1961

With their heads bowed, President John F. Kennedy, left, walks along a path at Camp David with former President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the two discuss the Bay of Pigs invasion. AP photographer Paul Vathis focused his camera through the legs of a Secret Service agent to catch the candid moment after a routine news conference. (Paul Vathis/AP) *Pulitzer Prize winner 1962*

WASHINGTON/March 1981

President Ronald Reagan looks up at the sound of gunfire as he leaves a speaking engagement at the Washington Hilton Hotel. John Hinckley, Jr. wounded four people, including the president, who was hit in the upper left side. (Ron Edmonds/AP) *Pulitzer Prize winner 1982*

RICHMOND, Va./October 1992

President George Bush, left, talks with independent candidate Ross Perot as Democratic candidate Bill Clinton stands aside at the end of their second presidential debate. (Marcy Nighswander/AP) *From the 1993 Pulitzer Prize-winning portfolio by AP photographers*

WASHINGTON/December 1998

President Bill Clinton walks to the podium in the White House Rose Garden to deliver a short statement on the impeachment inquiry. Nearing a showdown over the fate of his presidency, the president apologized to the country for his conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair and said he would accept a congressional censure or rebuke. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP) *From the 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning portfolio by AP photographers*

## For the Record

AP Images has a unique collection of more than 20,000 images of U.S. presidents from Truman to Clinton that have not been seen since the day they were captured or initially published. Images in the collection reflect their achievements, their challenges, their travels, their families, their friends and even their devoted pets. In addition, AP Images' collection extends to world leaders and royal families, as well as athletes and entertainers.

Visit [www.apimages.com](http://www.apimages.com) to learn more.

## AP Facts and Figures

- > 49 Pulitzer Prizes, 30 for photography
- > 243 bureaus in 97 countries
- > 1,700 U.S. daily, weekly, non-English and college newspapers
- > 4,000 Web site customers, including U.S. newspapers, radio and television members, reaching millions of people via the Internet, desktop and mobile applications
- > 4,100 AP staff worldwide
- > 5,000 radio and television outlets taking AP services
- > Over 500,000 moving image news stories from 1896 to the present day available from AP Archive
- > 10 million photos, negatives and images dating back more than 100 years available from AP Images, one of the world's largest collection of historical and contemporary imagery

## About The Associated Press

The Associated Press is the essential global news network, delivering fast, unbiased news from every corner of the world to all media platforms and formats. Founded in 1846, AP today is the largest and most trusted source of independent news and information. On any given day, more than half the world's population sees news from AP.

To request interviews or speakers, to request use of photos from the exhibit or to book an exhibit for display, contact AP Corporate Communications at 212.621.1720 or visit [www.ap.org/americanpresident](http://www.ap.org/americanpresident)