

# George Herbert Walker Bush

## 41st President, 1989–1993

**Vice President:** J. Danforth (Dan) Quayle

**Born:** June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts

**Party:** Republican

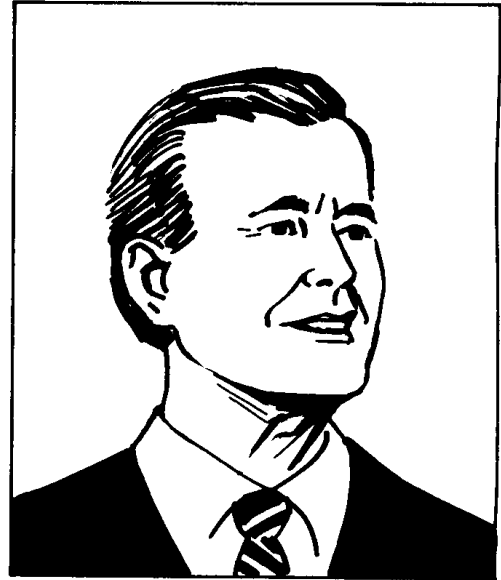
**Parents:** Prescott Sheldon Bush, Dorothy Walker

**First Lady:** Barbara Pierce

**Children:** George, Robin, John, Neil, Marvin, Dorothy

**Education:** Yale University

**Nickname:** Poppy



### Famous Firsts:

- The largest oil spill ever to take place in U.S. waters occurred when the *Exxon Valdez* struck a reef near an Alaskan port. Nearly eleven million gallons of crude oil spilled into the ocean.
- Bush and Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the first treaty to call for reduction in the existing long-range nuclear weapons (START I).
- He was the first future president to request, in writing, the resignation of a current president, Richard M. Nixon.

### Achievements:

- Bush was a war hero who received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism in World War II when his plane was shot down.
- Bush was a successful independent oilman in Texas before entering politics.
- From 1976–1977, Bush was the head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- Bush sent troops to Somalia to help end the mass starvation there.
- Bush made significant strides with Russian relations. During his time in office, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START I and START II) were signed.

### Interesting Facts:

- Bush was acting president for eight hours while President Ronald Reagan was in surgery for cancer.
- His father was a senator from Connecticut for several years.
- Barbara Bush's father was the publisher of *McCall's* and *Redbook* magazines.
- Bush was captain of the baseball team during his senior year at Yale.
- In college, Bush was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.
- As vice president to Ronald Reagan, Bush enjoyed a more active role than past vice presidents.
- Bush suffered from Graves' disease, a disorder of the thyroid gland that gave him an irregular heartbeat.