

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

35th President, 1961-1963

Vice President: Lyndon B. Johnson

Born: May 29, 1917, Brookline, Massachusetts

Died: November 22, 1963

Party: Democratic

Parents: Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Rose Elizabeth Fitzgerald

First Lady: Jacqueline Lee Bouvier

Children: Caroline; John, Jr.; Patrick (who died shortly after birth)

Nickname: JFK

Education: Harvard

Famous Firsts:

- Kennedy was the first president to be born in the twentieth century.
- He was the youngest man ever elected president and was the first Roman Catholic to hold the office.
- He was the first president to appoint a sibling to a cabinet post; his younger brother Robert (Bobby) was his Attorney General.
- Kennedy and Nixon participated in the first televised debates between presidential candidates.



Achievements:

- Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961.
- Kennedy served in WW II and was nearly killed when a Japanese destroyer rammed his gunboat, PT-109.
- JFK vowed that the U.S. would land an American on the moon by the end of the decade. To achieve this goal he funded a five-billion-dollar space program. Although Kennedy began plans for a New Frontier, they were accomplished only after his death.
- Included in his plans were stronger civil rights laws, medicare for the elderly, and increased aid for education.

Interesting Facts:

- JFK and each of his eight siblings were given \$1 million when they turned 21.
- At 43, Kennedy was the youngest President ever elected, but he was not the youngest President. That distinction is given to Theodore Roosevelt who was 42 when he assumed office after President McKinley was assassinated.
- Kennedy won the 1960 election by a very slim margin—less than 1% of the popular vote—yet he went on to become a very popular president.
- In 1956, Kennedy published *Profiles in Courage*, a look at eight U.S. Senators. The book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.
- At 29 Kennedy was elected as a Democratic Congressional representative from Massachusetts.