

Biographies of Presidents Who Designated Plains National Monuments

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



Born in New York in 1858, Teddy Roosevelt became the nation's 26th President after William McKinley was assassinated in 1901. TR served until 1909. The youngest man ever to become President, Roosevelt thought of himself as a steward of the people and was known for his progressive and energetic leadership. "I did not usurp power," he wrote, "but I did greatly broaden the use of executive power." Roosevelt was the first President to create a National monument when he designated Devil's Tower in 1906. He also designated Jewel Cave in 1908. Teddy Roosevelt died in 1919.

WOODROW WILSON



Woodrow Wilson was born in Virginia in 1856 and lived through America's Civil War. A university professor, he became President of Princeton in 1902. Wilson was elected the 28th President of the United States in 1912. He served two terms and led the nation through WWI. He thought of himself as the people's representative. "No one but the President," he said, "seems to be expected ... to look out for the general interests of the country." A progressive, Wilson, signed legislation reforming trusts and ending child labor. Wilson designated Capulin Volcano as a National Monument in 1916. Then in 1919 he made Scotts Bluff a National Monument. Wilson died in 1924.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT



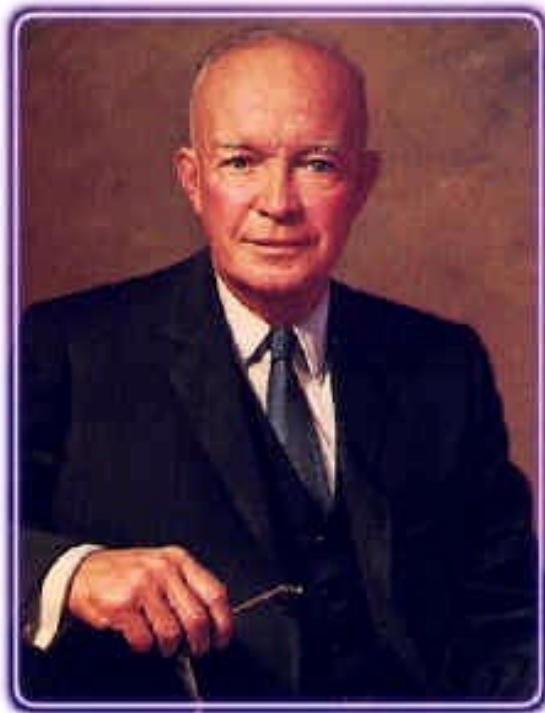
Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the nation's 32nd President at the height of the Great Depression in 1933. His immortal words spoken at his inauguration: "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," set the tone for a vigorous presidency and brought hope to the American people. FDR was born in 1882 at Hyde Park, New York. After marrying his cousin Eleanor, he entered politics. Polio nearly ended his political career in 1921, but his determination overcame the setback. In 1936 he designated Homestead Nebraska a National monument. FDR is the only U.S. President ever to serve more than two terms, being elected four times to the Presidency. FDR guided the nation through the Great Depression and through WWII, dying in office in 1945 just before the war ended.

HARRY S. TRUMAN



Harry S. Truman, the nation's 33rd President was born in Lamar, Missouri, in 1884, where for 12 years he prospered as a farmer. An artilleryman during WWI, after the war he went into Missouri politics and was elected a U.S. Senator in 1934. In 1945 Truman became President of the United States upon the Death of FDR and led the nation for two terms until 1953. Truman brought America onto the world stage as a Super Power following WWII. As a world leader, his introduction of the Marshall Plan saved Western Europe from Communism. In 1946 Truman designated Little Big Horn Battlefield a National monument. Truman died in 1972.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



Dwight D. Eisenhower brought his prestige as Supreme Allied Commander of Europe during WWII to the Presidency in 1953 and served two terms until 1961. As a result of his leadership, he was able to say when he left the office, "America is today the strongest, most influential, and most productive nation in the world."

Eisenhower, known as 'Ike', was born in Texas in 1890, and attended West Point. A career Army officer, he served under the celebrated generals John J. Pershing and Douglas MacArthur. After Pearl Harbor, Ike commanded the Allied Forces landing in North Africa in November 1942, and on D-Day, 1944, he was Supreme Commander of the troops invading France. President Eisenhower designated Fort Union a National Monument in 1956. Dwight Eisenhower died in 1969.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON



President Lyndon Johnson was born in Texas in 1908. As a young man he taught school and later entered Texas politics, where he rose through the ranks to become Senator in 1948. Like Teddy Roosevelt, Johnson became chief executive after the assassination of the President, in this case, John F. Kennedy. Johnson led the country through the beginning of the Vietnam War and through an ambitious domestic program that came to be known as the Great Society. His domestic agenda included civil rights and voting rights for America's black population and economic reform to create jobs for the underprivileged. In 1965 he designated Alibates Flint Quarries in Texas and Agate Fossil Beds in Nebraska as National monuments. Lyndon Johnson died in 1973.