

**Message to the Congress on the
Death of President Richard Nixon**

April 22, 1994

To the Congress of the United States:

It is my sad duty to inform you officially of the death of Richard Milhous Nixon, the thirty-seventh President of the United States.

Born in 1913, he was first elected to the Congress in 1946, a member of that historic freshman class of World War II veterans that also included John F. Kennedy. He was elected to the Senate in 1950, and served two terms as Vice President of the United States between 1953 and 1961. His career in the Congress coincided with the great expansion of the American middle class, when men and women from backgrounds as humble as his own secured the triumph of freedom abroad and the promise of economic growth at home.

He remained a visible presence in American public life for over half a century. Yet through all those years of service to his country, in the military, in the Congress, in the Presidency, and beyond, he cherished his life as a private man, a family man. He was lovingly devoted to his wife, Pat, to their daughters Patricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, and to his four grandchildren.

His lifetime and public career were intertwined with America's rise as a world power. His faith in America never wavered, from his famous "kitchen debate" with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev through all of the debates that followed. We Americans and our neighbors abroad will always owe him a special debt for opening diplomatic doors to Beijing and Moscow during his Presidency, and his influence in world affairs will be felt for years to come.

Richard Milhous Nixon lived the "American Dream." Now, he rests in peace.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 22, 1994.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 23.

**Proclamation 6677—Announcing the
Death of Richard Milhous Nixon**

April 22, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

To the People of the United States:

It is with deep sadness that I announce officially the death of Richard Milhous Nixon, the thirty-seventh President of the United States, on April 22, 1994.

A naval officer cited for meritorious service in World War II, Richard Nixon has long been a fixture in our national life. In a career of public service that spanned a quarter of a century, he helped to shape American history. Before taking office as President in 1969, he served with distinction in the United States House of Representatives, in the United States Senate, and as Vice President in the Eisenhower Administration. From his early days in the Congress, through his tenure in the White House, and throughout the two decades that have passed since he left office, he remained a fierce advocate for freedom and democracy around the world.

Leaders in statecraft and students of international affairs will long look for guidance to President Nixon's tremendous accomplishments. His struggle to bridge the gaps between the United States and the former Soviet Union—beginning in the famous "kitchen debate" with Nikita Khrushchev and culminating with the détente of the early 1970s—helped to maintain the peace during a volatile era. Our improved relationship with the Chinese people today has grown from President Nixon's bold visit to China over 20 years ago. And in the many books he wrote more recently, he presented a cogent picture of emerging global politics that will serve as a guide for policy makers for years to come.

President Nixon offered our Nation a great many positive domestic initiatives as well. His work to clean up the environment, change our Nation's welfare system, improve law enforcement, and reform health care serves as an inspiration to us today as we seek to place the "American Dream" within the grasp of all of our citizens.