

### **30. Calvin Coolidge**

Republican.

Vice President under Harding who became President, then elected on his own after.

6th vice president to ascend to the office of Presidency after a presidential death in office.

Coolidge was on vacation in Vermont when Harding died and Coolidge's father, a notary public, swore him into office in the middle of the night by the light of a kerosene lamp on a family bible.

Governor of Massachusetts.

First Vice President to attend cabinet meetings.

Only President born on the 4th of July.

Restored confidence in the White House following the scandals of his predecessor.

First Inaugural Address to be broadcast on radio.

First President to be sworn in by a former President when he was sworn in by Taft in 1925.

First President to appear on US coinage while alive and in office.

He was gifted a raccoon from Mississippi to be used for a thanksgiving meal but Coolidge had no desire to eat it. Instead he pardoned it and his wife adopted it as a pet and named it Rebecca Raccoon. It was a terrible domestic pet and caused much grief to the Secret Service and damage to the furniture in the White House. In fact Coolidge had not fewer than 29 pets during his time at the White House. Besides Rebecca he also had a raccoon named Reuben, a mockingbird, a goose named Enoch, Ebenezer the donkey, and Smoky the bobcat.

Coolidge went into a great depression after the death of his son which affected his decision not to run for reelection. (Others presidents who chose not to run for reelection are James Polk, James Buchanan, Rutherford B. Hayes, Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, and eventually Joe Biden.)

He had a reputation for being soft spoken with a dry sense of humor.

Reportedly a young woman at a dinner party told him she bet she could get at least three words of conversation from him, to which he quietly retorted, "You lose."

He was so famously quiet that some people wondered if he was even there. When he died, writer Dorothy Parker reportedly quipped, "How can they tell?"

Despite his quiet image, he held more press conferences than any President before him.

***"You can't know too much, but you can say too much."***