

240. Ronald Reagan

Republican.

Hollywood Actor.

California Governor.

First president born in Illinois.

Actor, first president to be the head of a union, the Screen Actors Guild.

Although he was in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 his eyesight prevented him from seeing (so to speak) combat. Instead, he spent most of his time in the Army Air Corps Motion Picture Unit. He recorded training videos, appeared in patriotic films and was promoted to the rank of captain during this time.

Oldest elected president at the time of his election and first divorced president.

First president since Dwight D. Eisenhower to be re-elected while winning absolute popular vote majorities in both of his presidential campaigns.

First president to be re-elected over the age of seventy, as he was 73 when he was re-elected in 1984.

The last Republican to have a landslide presidential victory. In that election his popular vote margin of victory-nearly 16.9 million votes (54.4 million for Reagan to 37.5 million for Walter Mondale)- was exceeded only by Richard Nixon in his 1972 victory over George McGovern.

Ronald Reagan holds the record for the highest number of raw electoral votes in a U.S. presidential election, securing 525 out of 538 possible votes in his 1984 landslide victory against Walter Mondale.

First president to inaugurated at the West Front of the United States Capitol Building.

Fun fact: Reagan really loved jelly beans, which helped him quit smoking. For his inauguration on January 21, 1980 more than three tons of red, white, and blue Jelly Belly jelly beans were brought in as colors for the American flag, flavored cherry red, coconut, and blueberry, the latter created specifically for the event.

First president to nominate a woman to the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor.

First president to be wounded and survive an assassination attempt in office.

First president to attend a NASCAR race while in office. First president to visit the New York Stock Exchange while in office. First president to open an Olympic Games (the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles) while in office.

First president to win a Golden Globe. First president to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

First president to win a Razzie.

Promoted the largest tax cuts in US history along with largest tax increases in peacetime.

Had high approval ratings when he left office and is ranked favorably by historians.

First president to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom while living. (JFK and LBJ were awarded posthumously.)

He was 77 years and 349 days old when he left office on January 20, 1989, just two weeks shy of his 78th birthday. At the time, he was the oldest person to ever hold the office.

Suffered from Alzheimer's dementia at the end of his life.

Died at the age of 93 years and 120 days, the 4th longest lived ex-President in history.

"I've always believed that a lot of the trouble in the world would disappear if we were talking to each other instead of about each other."