

38. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

Republican.

Born Leslie Lynch King Jr. on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska.

His parents separated soon after his birth and his mother moved to Grand Rapids Michigan. She married Gerald Rudolph Ford, a local paint salesman and they began calling her son Gerald Ford, Jr.

The young child didn't learn of his biological father till he was 12 and had a chance encounter with him in 1930 in a restaurant. It wasn't until 1935 that the future president had his name legally changed.

Only president from Nebraska.

First president of Polish descent.

Attended the University of Michigan. He was a stand out football player, MVP for the Wolverines at Michigan after being named all state in high school. He turned down offers from the Detroit Lions and Green Bay Packers to play in the NFL and instead coached boxing and football at Yale.

He eventually attended law school there, graduating in the top third of the class.

Navy veteran.

Republican congressman from Michigan, undefeated in 13 elections.

First president to serve as House minority leader.

Vice president under Nixon who became president after his resignation.

The first vice president to be appointed to the vice presidency under the terms of the 25th Amendment, following the resignation of the disgraced vice president Spiro Agnew.

Only person to serve as vice president and president without being elected to either office.

Only president who had been an Eagle Scout.

First president to make public the report of his full medical check up.

He survived two separate assassination attempts in California within 17 days in 1975.

Had the misfortune of serving during the worst economy since the Great Depression.

One of his most controversial moves was to pardon Nixon. First president to pardon another president.

Served the shortest term for any president who didn't die in office; 2 years, 164 days.

He was offered the vice presidency by Ronald Reagan but would only have considered it if he could have been co-president.

Died at the age of 93; only George H. W. Bush (who died at the age of 94) and Jimmy Carter (who died at the age of 100) have lived longer.

"My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over."