

BIOGRAPHY OF VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

Richard Nixon of Whittier, California, was elected 36th Vice President of the United States on November 4, 1952.

Born in Yorba Linda, California, January 9, 1913, he learned from his Quaker parents the principles of hard work, thrift, devout and gentle faith which have been responsible for his brilliant service to his country.

It was in these concepts that Nixon could carry out, on the one hand, a "fighting, rocking, socking campaign in every county, city, town, precinct and home in California" when he ran for the U. S. Senate; and to state long ago, on the other hand, his basic political philosophy of "an America strong militarily, economically, spiritually and morally, as the best road to peace and real security."

His early years were like most American boys' in the chores he did -- delivering groceries and working in gas stations to help himself through school. But straight-A grades and a developing talent as a debater gave promise of his becoming a leader of great intelligence.

Nixon obtained his bachelor of arts degree from Whittier College, California, in 1934. Three years later he was graduated from Duke University with scholastic honors and a law degree.

For five years Nixon practiced law in Whittier. In January, 1942, he began his public service as an attorney in the Office of Emergency Management in Washington. During the following months American military reverses in the Pacific were severe. In August Nixon joined the U. S. Navy for nearly four years of service. He earned two South Pacific battle stars and two commendations.

Nixon returned to Whittier to rebuild his law practice in January, 1946, but the demands of a special citizens' committee for him to seek election to Congress changed his plans. He was drafted to oppose the old 12th District's five-term incumbent, Jerry Voorhis, a suave, entrenched New Dealer.

A series of debates between the two men won Nixon wide recognition -- enough so that in January, 1947, he took his seat in Congress. The same year he became a member of the Herter Committee to study the European Recovery Plan. The group won commendation for the "staggering volume and intensity of its work."

Nixon led in drafting and supporting the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947, and in subsequent moves to amend and improve it. By 1948 his popularity and hard work earned him the nomination of both parties for another term under California's cross-filing system.

Prior to his nomination for the Senate in 1950, Nixon had persevered almost alone in exposure of Alger Hiss as a Communist. He also had fought for and won reforms in the procedures of the Un-American Activities Committee which provided for its conduct in a judicial atmosphere.

His record, his ability to present his beliefs in a simple, down-to-earth way, enabled Nixon to defeat California Congresswoman Helen Gahagan Douglas, the 1950 Democrat nominee for the Senate, by 700,000 votes.

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Perhaps the greatest testimony to Nixon's character was Dwight Eisenhower's selection of him as his running mate in 1952, for General Eisenhower had spent his life judging the character and quality of men. And since he took office as Vice President January 20, 1953, Nixon has been charged with precedent-breaking responsibilities, including presiding over the Cabinet and the National Security Council, and consulting with the President on such matters as internal security, political timing and tactics, and labor policy.

A 16-hour work-day is not unusual for the Vice President. His responsibilities allow him time for few hobbies. But he is devoted to his family and loves to spend his free hours with them -- his wife, the former Patricia Ryan, whom he married in 1940 and their daughters: Patricia, born in 1946, and Julie, born in 1948.

Tall, square-jawed, with the face of a fighter, Nixon is symbolic of young, forward-looking Republican leaders who earnestly support the Constitution, believe firmly in a free-enterprise system, and yet understand and support the demand of the people for progress.

"The jobs and goods which create prosperity," Nixon has said, "can come from one of two sources -- government action or private enterprise.

"When they come primarily from government action we have a socialist economy. When they come primarily from private enterprise we have an American economy.

"What the government does should supplement rather than supplant what individuals can do better for themselves. The choice is not between this program and something more conservative. The choice is between this program and something far more radical."

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