

Former President George H.W. Bush lived many lives before his death

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Former President George H.W. Bush pictured in May 2008. Bush died at the age of 94 on Friday, November 30, 2018, about eight months after the death of his wife, Barbara Bush. Photo by: Lawrence Jackson/AP Photo

HOUSTON, Texas — Former President George H.W. Bush has died. He was 94 years old.

Bush became a very popular president after a war victory. Yet, America faced hard times for businesses and jobs. Voters did not re-elect him for a second four-year term.

Bush died Friday, November 30. He was at his Houston home. His wife, Barbara Bush, died in April 2018. They were married more than 70 years.

George Herbert Walker Bush was born June 12, 1924. He grew up in Massachusetts in a wealthy family. Bush's father served in the U.S. Senate.

World War II Hero

Bush joined the Navy on his 18th birthday in 1942. He was a World War II hero who later rose through government. He started as a U.S. Congressman. He then became a leader of his Republican party. The Republican and Democratic parties are the two main political groups in the United States.

Bush served two terms as vice president under President Ronald Reagan. Finally, he was elected president in 1988.

Under Bush, the United States defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War. Iraq is a country in the Middle East.

Victory For The U.S.

Iraq was led by Saddam Hussein. He was a violent dictator. Iraq invaded the tiny neighboring country of Kuwait in 1990. In 1991, U.S. troops went into Kuwait. They wanted Hussein and his troops out. The fighting only lasted 100 hours. It was a victory for the United States. Hussein and his troops left Kuwait.

Hussein continued to rule Iraq. He ruled until 2003, when he was caught by U.S. troops. This took place in another Iraq war. This war was led by Bush's son, President George W. Bush. It lasted much longer than the first Iraq war.

The elder Bush became a very popular leader.

However, he was troubled by breaking a promise. When he ran for president the first time, he told voters he would not raise taxes. Yet, he did. Americans were upset. Many already had trouble paying for housing and other needs.

Lost Run For Re-Election

Bush lost his run for re-election to President Bill Clinton in 1992. Still, he later saw his son, George W., elected president twice.

They became the second father-and-son presidents after John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

The younger Bush honored his father. He called him a man of the "highest character."

George H.W. Bush found popularity again after his presidency. People viewed him as a well-meaning leader. He worked hard to help others. He worked with President Clinton to help people hurt by natural disasters. This was after Clinton beat him in the 1992 election.

Bush kept a positive attitude as he got older. On his 75th, 80th and 85th birthdays, he went skydiving.

Quiz

- 1 What did George H.W. Bush do FIRST in the section "World War II Hero"?
- (A) He served two terms as vice president.
 - (B) He became a World War II hero.
 - (C) He was leader of the Republican Party.
 - (D) He led America in the Gulf War.
- 2 According to the section "Victory For The U.S.," why did George H.W. Bush become a popular leader?
- (A) He sent troops to help Kuwait defeat Iraq.
 - (B) He raised taxes after promising not to.
 - (C) He caught Saddam Hussein in 2003.
 - (D) He was Ronald Reagan's vice-president.

- 3 Read the section "Victory For The U.S."

However, he was troubled by breaking a promise. When he ran for president the first time, he told voters he would not raise taxes. Yet, he did. Americans were upset. Many already had trouble paying for housing and other needs.

Which question is answered by this paragraph?

- (A) How did Americans pay their bills after Bush raised taxes?
- (B) Why did Bush decide to raise taxes for Americans?
- (C) How much did Bush raise taxes for Americans?
- (D) Why were Americans upset when Bush raised taxes?

4 Read the section "Lost Run For Re-Election."

Which selection explains that Bush continued to work to improve America after his presidency?

- (A) Bush lost his run for re-election to President Bill Clinton in 1992. Still, he later saw his son, George W., elected president twice.
- (B) They became the second father-and-son presidents after John Adams and John Quincy Adams.
- (C) He worked hard to help others. He worked with President Clinton to help people hurt by natural disasters.
- (D) Bush kept a positive attitude as he got older. On his 75th, 80th and 85th birthdays, he went skydiving.

Answer Key

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