

Nixon Family Photos



Francis A. & Hannah Nixon and children, Harold, Donald, and Richard (on the far right)



While at Whittier College, Nixon played basketball as #12



Nixon and his wife, Patricia, with their daughters, Tricia and Julie



President Nixon giving his famous double "V" Victory gesture, celebrating his second term election



"He's a Californian... He'll never be anything but a Californian. Yorba Linda is his birthplace... Whittier is his hometown."

Merle West Oral History, by Robert Davis, Oral History Program CSUF

Native Son: Richard Nixon's Southern California

Illustrated by Jean-Louis Rheault



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RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON

Whittier Historical Society

Whittier's President



January 9, 1913—April 22, 1994

Richard Nixon in Whittier

Richard Nixon, our 37th President of the United States, came from humble beginnings. When he was 9 years old, Richard Nixon moved to Whittier, where he spent his formative years and established his political career. He would go on to be elected to the House of Representatives, Senate, Vice Presidency, and the office of President of the United States.

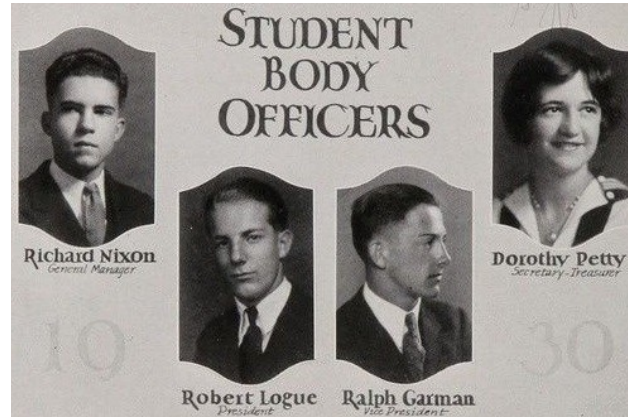
Richard Nixon was born in Yorba Linda, California, on January 9, 1913, to Frank and Hannah Nixon. Both of Nixon's parents were blue-collar hard working types who came to California to find new opportunity. They were also deeply religious, being of the Quaker faith. Throughout Nixon's childhood, his parents would instill in Nixon the values of hard work, social activism, restraint from frivolity, and faith in God.

In 1922, Nixon moved to Whittier, where his family opened a small grocery store. While in Whittier, Nixon initially attended Fullerton High School, but transferred to Whittier High School after his sophomore year. In the first political campaign of his life, Nixon lost his bid to become student body president of WHS to a boy named Robert Logue. However, his overall excellence was such that the faculty appointed him as General Manager.



Richard Nixon (back row, fourth from left) with his class at East Whittier Grammar School, approx. 1924

After graduating from Whittier High School in 1930, Nixon attended nearby Whittier College. As his family was not wealthy by any means, and the country was in the midst of the Great Depression, Nixon could not afford to attend the East Coast schools he desired, despite his qualifications.



Richard Nixon, a student body officer at Whittier High, 1930

Nevertheless, Nixon immediately immersed himself at Whittier College, excelling in academics and in athletics. Nixon also involved himself at social functions, including a membership to the Orthogonians, a male society comprised of students of humble origin, like himself. Additionally, Nixon was also elected student body president of Whittier, involving and arranging basically every school activity. In 1934, he graduated 3rd in his class.

After Whittier College, Nixon attended Duke Law School. After graduating in 1937, he returned to Whittier to practice law at the Winegart and Bewley Firm, located in the Bank of America building on the corner of Philadelphia and Greenleaf Ave. As a young lawyer, Nixon specialized in divorce and property cases. His solid work enabled him to become a partner of the firm in 1939. It was also during this time, while acting in a local production with the Whittier Community Players, that he met his future wife, Patricia Ryan. They eventually married in 1940.

However, the Second World War interrupted the young couple's life, and Nixon served as an administrative and logistics Naval officer in the Pacific Campaign, earning the respect of enlisted men and officers alike. Upon returning to Whittier, Herman Perry approached Nixon to run for Congress against Jerry Voorhis. Running an energetic campaign, Nixon captivated the voters of Whittier and the surrounding areas and was elected to Congress in the fall of 1946.



Richard Nixon campaigning for the Vice Presidency in 1952

Richard Nixon had a rich political life. He represented the citizens of Whittier, the State of California, and, eventually, the entire United States as President. When he died in 1994 at the age of 81, Nixon left a legacy of dedicated service to his country.



Richard Nixon speaking at Whittier College, his alma mater, in 1952