

Clinton, William Jefferson was our 42d president of the United States. Clinton's two terms, from 1993 to 2001 marked by creating and expanding domestic social programs, by attempts to resolve several major crises overseas, and by various scandals of both a political and personal nature that resulted in Clinton's becoming the first president since Andrew Johnson to be impeached and tried.

He was born on Aug. 19, 1946, in Hope, Ark., as William Jefferson Blythe IV. Clinton grew up in a troubled home. Clinton's father had died in an automobile accident before he was born and his mother later married Roger Clinton, whose surname Bill later adopted.

Clinton attended Georgetown University to study international affairs, and later won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University. Clinton has been the only president to ever be a Rhodes Scholar. Clinton then returned to the United States to enroll at Yale's Law School. After graduating from Law school he returned to Arkansas to plan his political career. Soon thereafter he married Hillary Rodham, a fellow law student he had met at Yale.

Early in Clinton's political career he worked for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign in Arkansas, then Clinton won his first statewide election in 1976 when he became Arkansas' attorney general. Two years later he was elected the nation's youngest governor. Clinton was defeated for a second term because of his Liberal activism and the defeat motivated him to adopt a more cautious, pragmatic, and moderate approach. He then regained the governorship for five consecutive

terms with this approach. In 1990 he became chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, and was rated the most effective governor in the country by his colleagues. Clinton believed that the party had to adopt a less liberal approach in order to attract broader popular support.

In 1992, Clinton and his running mate, Tennessee's Senator Albert Gore Jr., won the presidency with 43% of the popular vote and an electoral college landslide.

Under Clinton's Presidency, the United States,

Moved From Record Deficits to Record Surplus

Paid Off The National Debt

Created Over 21 Million New Jobs

Made Unemployment Nearly the Lowest in THREE Decades

Had the Highest Homeownership Rate in History

Had the Lowest Poverty Rate in TWO Decades

Had the Largest FIVE-Year Drop in Child Poverty Rate Since the 60's

Increased the Minimum Wage.

Made College More Affordable

Made Every Child Able to Read By The 3rd Grade

And Expanded Access to Technology

Clinton's Presidency also

Had the Lowest Overall Crimes Rate in 25 Years.

Put 100,000 More Police On The Streets.

Made More Than Half a Million Felons, Fugitives and Domestic Abusers denied Guns.

Created A National Campaign Against Youth Violence

Fought Against Hate Crimes.

Had the Lowest Number of People on Welfare Since 1969

Created New Tools to Help Families Move from Welfare to Work.

Under his presidency Child Abuse Declines for Five Years in a Row.

He Expanded Investment in Urban and Rural Areas.

Clinton Enacted the Single Largest Investment in Health Care for Children since 1965.

He Extended and enforced Patient Protections for Millions of Americans..

Clinton Fought Medicare Fraud.

He Created Four New National Monuments.

Helped Preserve Our National Forests.

Accelerated Toxic Cleanups Redevelopment.

Made our drinking water safer.

Cleared the Air of Unhealthy Pollution.

And Reducing the Threat of Global Warming.

Such accomplishments were completed throughout his 2 terms, winning elections in 1996. His domestic record showed that he had cut the deficit in half, had expanded earned-income credit for the working poor,

and had significantly reduced the number of government workers.

During his first term Clinton succeeded in appointing two members to the U.S. Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer, both highly respected federal judges, were the first appointments to the high court made by a Democratic president in 25 years.

Clinton demonstrated that he had adjusted to the tasks of the presidency and had become an astute political leader. In 1996 voters chose him by a comfortable margin over Republican nominee Robert Dole, making Clinton the first Democratic president since Franklin Roosevelt to be elected to the office twice.

The Whitewater affair consumed much of the president's final years in office. Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation of allegations of wrongdoing by Clinton and his wife, begun in 1994, eventually expanded to include charges of perjury, obstruction of justice, and abuse of power, which arose from a relationship between the president and a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. The scandal preoccupied the capital from January 1998 to February 1999. Clinton denied any sexual involvement with Lewinsky, but the Starr investigation developed evidence to the contrary. In August Clinton admitted to an "inappropriate relationship." FOUR articles of impeachment were drafted for President Clinton. Exactly one day before the full House was scheduled to vote on the articles, Clinton launched renewed air strikes against Iraq, causing some of his opponents to claim that the attack was a diversionary tactic. On Dec.

19, 1998, the House approved two of the four articles (perjury and obstruction of justice). Clinton became the first elected president in U.S. history to be impeached. On Jan. 7, 1999, the Senate trial to remove Clinton from office began. It ended on Feb. 6, 1999, with neither article gaining a simple majority. After the vote Clinton returned to efforts directed toward reforming the health-care system and determining how best to handle the budget surplus.

Historians will probably debate for years the meaning of the Clinton legacy. Marked by Clinton creating and expanding domestic social programs and attempts to resolve several major overseas crises, his record was tarnished by his various scandals both politically and personally. There is no doubt that Bill Clinton was the towering political figure of his era and that his impact on the country will be analyzed and debated for generations to come.