

## Laura Bush

Laura Bush was the 43<sup>rd</sup> first lady of the United States of America. She was married to republican George W. Bush who was elected president in 2001. She was born in Midland Texas on November 4th 1946. She was first lady for 8 years as George W. Bush served 2 terms as president. She worked hard to help women around the world with their basic rights. She served the people of the United States during the difficult times after the 9/11 attacks trying to comfort and support them.

Laura's life before becoming first lady was filled with a love for reading. Laura was born on November 4, 1946 in Midland Texas U.S. and is now 69. Her father's name was Harold Welch and her mother's was Jenna Louise Hawkins Welch. Laura's mother gave Laura her love of reading, which lead her to become a librarian. She attended James Bowie Elementary School, San Jacinto Junior High School, and Robert E. Lee High School in Midland where she graduated in 1964. She attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas. She graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She studied for her Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of Texas at Austin. She got her Master's degree in 1973. Even before becoming first lady, she was a helpful and kind person. Mrs. Bush taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade while she wasn't in the White House. She was also a librarian at Kashmere Gardens.

Laura's political philosophy was that of the Republican Party. She was a conservative. She was first lady for 8 years. While she was in office she traveled to distant countries, including Afghanistan, to help women who weren't treated fairly. She talked to women in different places about their health and about different diseases they could get. She joined a program to help women prevent these diseases. It was called *The Heart Truth*. She helped raise awareness about heart disease in women. As reading was dear to her heart, Laura Bush created the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries "to support the education of our nation's children by providing funds to update, extend, and diversify the book and print collections of America's school libraries". Every year, the Laura Bush Foundation's grants awards more than \$1,000,000 to US schools. The Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program grant, offered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, provides funding for "the recruitment and education of library students and continuing education for those already in the profession, as well as the development of new programs and curricula". In May 2015, Bush bestowed a \$7,000 grant to six schools within Austin, Texas.

How does America remember Laura Bush as a First Lady? According to one historian, Laura Bush made America proud. Laura Bush's successes were based on the dignity she brought to being the First Lady. She served as a good role model for young women and

represented American womanhood at its finest. Her efforts to promote reading and women's health were admirable and important. She remained strong and supportive during the difficult days following 9/11. She was a great First Lady.

Laura Bush was an amazing person. She traveled the world to help further the rights of all of women. In my opinion she was the best first lady, mostly because she helped so many libraries and helped spread a love for reading. She comforted so many after the 9/11 attacks. Laura helped women with recognizing health risks. She showed a great amount of courage to go to other countries to make speeches, because there is terrorism and diseases that she could get. She was truly amazing.

## Bibliography

Biography.com Editors. Laura Bush Biography. The Biography.com Website. April 24, 2015. Available at: <http://www.biography.com/people/laura-bush-9232785>. Accessed November 15,2016.

National First Ladies Library Editors. First Lady Biography: Laura Bush. National First Ladies Library. Available at: <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=44>. Accessed November 15,2016.

Wikipedia contributors. Laura Bush. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. November 15, 2016, 21:51 UTC. Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Laura\\_Bush&oldid=749730824](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Laura_Bush&oldid=749730824). Accessed November 15, 2016.