

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan was an actor, Governor of California, and President of the United States. As president he ended the Cold War and had the Berlin Wall torn down. Ronald Reagan was Governor of California during the Vietnam war.



Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on February, 6 1911 in Tampico, Illinois. His father's name was John Reagan his mother's name was Nelle Reagan. His father called him Dutch because he thought he looked like a Dutchman, the name stuck. As a kid he moved around a lot because his father moved to different towns trying to establish a business. The family eventually settled in Dixon, Illinois. Ronald went to Northside High School. He played football at Northside.

He went to Eureka College after Northside, but there wasn't enough money for him to go. So he went to see the president of the school and the president agreed to let him go to the school if he would work part-time to pay for his room and board. In 1929 the Stock Market crashed and the Great Depression began. Dutch found work as a radio sports announcer in Iowa. In 1937 Dutch was sent to Los Angeles to cover the Chicago Cubs spring training. He was offered a contract as an actor from the studio there. The studio changed his hair and clothes, it even changed his name. The studio

decided Dutch wasn't a good enough name for an actor, so he became known by his given name Ronald Reagan.

During his time in Hollywood he made more than fifty films. In 1962 he became a Republican. In 1967 he ran for Governor of California and won! This is how Reagan entered politics. He ended up serving two terms as Governor, many people wanted him to run for a third but he declined.

In 1980 Ronald Reagan became the Republican candidate for president. He took office on January 20, 1981. Ronald Reagan became the oldest president to take office. On March 30, 1981 Reagan made a speech at the Hilton hotel in Washington D.C. as he came out of the hotel gunshots exploded. Reagan was hit and rushed to surgery. Luckily it was a success and he was out soon. He was soon doing more presidential duties. He spoke to the people of Germany about the Berlin Wall, the wall divided West Germany from East Germany, he said "Tear down this wall" and that is what happened. The people of Berlin sent him a 6,000 pound piece of it.

Ronald Reagan left office in January of 1989. He returned to his home in California. In 1994 he learned that he had Alzheimer's Disease. He died in June 2004 at the age of 93.