

CRS Report for Congress

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Presidential Grave Sites: Maintenance and Congressional District Locations

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Summary

This report lists all U.S. Presidents, their terms of service, information concerning their grave sites, such as the address and the congressional districts of the grave sites, and the names and the telephone numbers of the burial locations or organizations or groups that maintain the burial sites. Information on presidential wreath laying ceremonies is also included. This report will be updated as events warrant.

Introduction

Reports of private and state run organizations experiencing financial difficulty in maintaining the nation's historic grave sites of former U.S. Presidents caused concern in the U.S. Congress.¹ Consequently, legislation was proposed in the 107th Congress to provide federal assistance to help the various federal agencies and private and state run organizations in maintaining the nation's presidential grave sites, but it died in committee. Currently, no legislation has been introduced on this issue in the 108th Congress.

The grave sites of U.S. Presidents are either maintained by the federal or a state government or a private organization or foundation. Privately owned presidential grave sites can be maintained by the descendants of a former President's family, by a private association or corporation, or by a church or memorial foundation. Presidential grave sites, which are not maintained privately, are maintained by the state government, the state historical society or a federal government agency such as the U.S. Veterans Administration, the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration or the U.S. Army.

¹ Doug Pokorski, "Presidents' Gravesites May Win Federal Funding: Proposals to go Before Congress," *The State Journal-Register* (Springfield, IL), July 27, 2001, p. 13.

Currently, only 10 of the 37 presidential grave sites are maintained by the federal government.² Due to the high number of privately managed presidential grave sites and the cost involved in maintaining them, federal assistance may be necessary in the upkeep and preservation of these presidential grave sites.³ One of the costs currently being absorbed by the U.S. Army is the annual presidential wreath-laying ceremony at the grave site on the birthday of the deceased President. Thirty wreaths are laid on the grave sites of 29 Presidents in a formal ceremony as mandated by Army regulations. (One wreath is laid at the Lincoln Memorial and another at the grave site in Springfield, Illinois.) The laying of wreaths on presidential grave sites had been a tradition for many years before it was written into Army Regulation 360-61 of October 15, 1980.⁴

The table below lists all the U.S. Presidents, their terms of service, information concerning their grave sites, such as the address and the congressional districts of the grave sites, and the names and the telephone numbers of the burial locations or organizations or groups that maintain the burial sites.

Table 1. Presidential Grave Sites

| President and Term of Office | Burial Site Location | Maintenance | C.D. |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| George Washington 1789-1797 | Mount Vernon Mount Vernon, VA 22121 Tel. 703-780-2000 | Mount Vernon Ladies' Association | VA 8 th |
| John Adams 1797-1801 | United First Parish Church 1306 Hancock Street Quincy, MA 02169 Tel. 617-773-1290 | United First Parish Church | MA 10 th |
| Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809 | Monticello Charlottesville, VA 22902 Tel. 434-984-9822 | Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation | VA 5 th |
| James Madison 1809-1817 | Montpelier 11407 Constitution Highway Montpelier Station, VA 22957 Tel. 540-672-2728 | Montpelier Foundation | VA 7 th |
| James Monroe 1817-1825 | Hollywood Cemetery 412 South Cherry Street Richmond, VA 23220-6214 Tel. 804-648-8501 | Nonprofit corporation | VA 3 rd |

² Jones, Jack B., and Joy E. Jones, *On the Trail of the Presidents: An Historical Guide to Burial Sites and Monuments* (San Luis Obispo, CA, J. B. and J. E. Jones, 1994).

³ Kurt Erickson, "U.S. May Shoulder Cost of Presidents' Graves Upkeep," *The Pantagraph* (Bloomington, IL), July 26, 2001, p. A6.

⁴ U.S. Department of the Army, Army Public Affairs Program, *Army Regulation 360-1. Appendix I, "Presidential Wreath-Laying Ceremony,"* Oct. 15, 2000.

| President and Term of Office | Burial Site Location | Maintenance | C.D. |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| John Quincy Adams 1825-1829 | United First Parish Church 1306 Hancock Street Quincy, MA 02169 Tel. 617-773-1290 | United First Parish Church | MA 10 th |
| Andrew Jackson 1829-1837 | The Hermitage 4580 Rachel's Lane Nashville, TN 37076 Tel. 615-889-9909 | Ladies Hermitage Association | TN 5 th |
| Martin Van Buren 1837-1841 | Kinderhook Cemetery U.S. Highway 9 Kinderhook, NY 12106 Tel. 518-758-6401 | Kinderhook Reformed Church | NY 22 nd |
| William Henry Harrison 1841-1841 | William Henry Harrison Memorial U.S. Route 50 North Bend, Ohio 45052 Tel. 614-297-2630 | Ohio Historical Society | OH 1 st |
| John Tyler 1841-1845 | Hollywood Cemetery 412 South Cherry Street Richmond, VA 23220 Tel. 804-648-8501 | Nonprofit corporation | VA 3 rd |
| James Polk 1845-1849 | State Capitol Grounds Capitol Hill Nashville, TN 37243 Tel. 615-741-2901 | State of Tennessee | TN 5 th |
| Zachary Taylor 1849-1850 | Zachary Taylor National Cemetery 4701 Brownsboro Road Louisville, KY 40207 Tel. 502-893-3852 | U.S. Veterans Administration | KY 3 rd |
| Millard Fillmore 1850-1853 | Forest Lawn Group 1411 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209 Tel. 716-885-1600 | Private nonprofit corporation | NY 29 th |
| Franklin Pierce 1853-1857 | Old North Cemetery Concord, NH 03302 Tel. 603-224-5984 | Old North Cemetery/ Pierce Manse | NH 2 nd |
| James Buchanan 1857-1861 | Woodward Hill Cemetery 538 E. Strawberry Street Lancaster, PA 17602 Tel. 717-295-7220 | Private nonprofit corporation | PA 16 th |

| President and Term of Office | Burial Site Location | Maintenance | C.D. |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865 | Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site Oak Ridge Cemetery 1500 Monument Avenue Springfield, IL 62702 Tel. 217-782-2717 | Illinois Historic Preservation Agency | IL 20 th |
| Andrew Johnson 1865-1869 | Andrew Johnson National Cemetery U.S. Route 411 Greenville, TN 37744 Tel. 423-638-3551 | U.S. National Park Service | TN 1 st |
| Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877 | General Grant National Memorial Riverside Drive at W. 122 nd New York, NY 10027 Tel. 212-666-1640 | U.S. National Park Service | NY 15 th |
| Rutherford B. Hayes 1877-1881 | Rutherford Hayes Home 1337 Hayes Avenue Fremont, OH 43420 Tel. 419-332-2081 | Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in conjunction with Ohio Historical Society | OH 5 th |
| James A. Garfield 1881-1881 | Lake View Cemetery 12316 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, OH 44106 Tel. 216-421-2665 | Private | OH 11 th |
| Chester A. Arthur 1881-1885 | Albany Rural Cemetery 12204 Cemetery Avenue Albany, NY 12204 Tel. 518-463-7017 | Nonprofit corporation | NY 21 th |
| Grover Cleveland 1885-1889 | Princeton Cemetery 29 Greenview Avenue Princeton, NJ 08542 Tel. 609-924-1369 | Nassau Presbyterian Church | NJ 12 th |
| Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893 | Crown Hill Cemetery 700 West 38 th Street Indianapolis, IN 46208 Tel. 317-925-8231 | Nonprofit corporation | IN 10 th |
| Grover Cleveland 1893-1897 | Princeton Cemetery 29 Greenview Avenue Princeton, NJ 08542 Tel. 609-924-1369 | Nassau Presbyterian Church | NJ 12 th |

| President and Term of Office | Burial Site Location | Maintenance | C.D. |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| William McKinley 1897-1901 | McKinley Memorial Mausoleum Seventh Street N.W. and Monument Road Canton, Ohio 44701 Tel. 330-455-7043 | Stark Country Historical Society | OH 16 th |
| Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909 | Young's Memorial Cemetery Cove Road and Oyster Bay Oyster Bay, NY 11771 Tel. 516-922-1474 | Private corporation | NY 3 rd |
| William H. Taft 1909-1913 | Arlington National Cemetery Fort Myer, VA 22211 Tel. 703-695-3175 | U.S. Army | VA 8 th |
| Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921 | Washington Cathedral Wisconsin Avenue and Woodley Road Washington, D.C. 20016 Tel. 202-537-5550 | Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation | Wash. DC |
| Warren G. Harding 1921-1923 | Harding Memorial U.S. Route 23 and Vernon Heights Boulevard Marion, OH 43302 Tel. 740-387-9630 | Ohio Historical Society | OH 4 th |
| Calvin Coolidge 1923-1929 | Plymouth Notch Cemetery South of Route 100A Plymouth, VT 05056 Tel. 802-672-3773 | State of Vermont | VT |
| Herbert Hoover 1929-1933 | Herbert Hoover National Historical Site 210 Parkside Drive West Branch, IA 52358 Tel. 319-643-2541 | U.S. National Park Service | IA 1 st |
| Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945 | Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site 4097 Albany Post Road Hyde Park, NY 12538 Tel. 914-229-9115 | U.S. National Park Service | NY 22 nd |
| Harry S. Truman 1945-1953 | Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library 500 W. U.S. Route 24 Independence, MO 64050 Tel. 816-833-1400 | U.S. National Archives and Records Administration | MO 6 th |

| President and Term of Office | Burial Site Location | Maintenance | C.D. |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
| Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953-1961 | Eisenhower Center S.E. Fourth Street Abilene, KS 67410 Tel. 785-263-4751 | U.S. National Archives and Records Administration | KS 1 st |
| John F. Kennedy 1961-1963 | Arlington Cemetery Fort Myer, VA 22211 Tel. 703-695-3175 | U.S. Army | VA 8 th |
| Lyndon B. Johnson 1963-1969 | Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park Johnson City, TX 78671 Tel. 830-868-7128 | U.S. National Park Service | TX 21 st |
| Richard M. Nixon 1969-1974 | Richard M. Nixon Library and Birthplace 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd. Yorba Linda, CA 92886 Tel. 714-993-3393 | Richard M. Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation | CA 41 st |
| Gerald R. Ford ^a 1974-1977 | Gerald R. Ford Museum 303 Pearl Street NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 Tel. 616-451-9263 | Gerald R. Ford Foundation | MI 3 rd |
| Jimmy Carter ^a 1977-1981 | | | |
| Ronald Reagan 1981-1989 | Ronald Reagan Presidential Library 40 Presidential Drive Simi Valley, CA 93065 Tel. 800-410-8354 | U.S. National Archives and Records Administration | CA 23 rd |
| George H. W. Bush ^a 1989-1993 | George Bush Presidential Library and Museum 1000 George Bush Drive W. College Station, TX 77845 Tel. 979-260-9552 | Texas A&M University | TX 8 th |
| William J. Clinton ^a 1993-2001 | | | |
| George W. Bush 2001- | | | |

Note:

a. Living former President.