



2010
Celebration of Life

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GEORGE W. BUSH

43rd President of the United States

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, was sworn into office on January 20, 2001, re-elected on November 2, 2004, and sworn in for a second term on January 20, 2005. Before his Presidency, he served for six years as Governor of the State of Texas.

President Bush was born July 6, 1946, in New Haven, Connecticut, to Barbara and George H.W. Bush – later the 41st President of the United States. In 1948, the family moved to Texas, where President Bush grew up in Midland and Houston. He received a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University in 1968, and then served as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. President Bush received a Master of Administration degree from Harvard Business School in 1975. Following graduation, he moved back to Midland and began a career in the energy business. After working on his father's successful 1988 Presidential campaign, President Bush led a group of partners that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise in 1989.

On November 8, 1994, George W. Bush was elected the 46th Governor of Texas. He became the first governor in Texas history to be elected to consecutive four-year terms when he was re-elected on November 3, 1998. In Austin, he earned a reputation for his bipartisan governing approach and his compassionate conservative philosophy, which was based on limited government, personal responsibility, strong families, and local control.

As President, George W. Bush worked to expand freedom, opportunity and security at home and abroad. His first initiative as President was the No Child Left Behind Act, a bipartisan measure that raised standards in schools, insisted on accountability in return for federal dollars and led to measurable gains in achievement—especially among minority students. Faced with a recession when he took office, President Bush cut taxes for every federal income taxpayer, which helped lead to an unprecedented 52 straight months of job creation. And President Bush modernized Medicare by adding a prescription drug benefit that provided access to needed medicine for 40 million seniors and other beneficiaries.

President Bush also implemented free trade agreements with more than a dozen nations; empowered America's armies of compassion by creating USA Freedom Corps and the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; promoted a culture of life; improved air quality and made America's energy supply more secure; designated more ocean area habitats for environmental protection than any predecessor; transformed the military and nearly doubled government support for veterans; pioneered a new model of partnership in development that tied American foreign aid to reform and good governance; launched a global HIV/AIDS initiative that has spared millions of lives; expanded the NATO alliance; forged a historic new partnership with India and appointed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The most significant event of President Bush's tenure came on September 11, 2001, when terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people on American soil. President Bush responded with a comprehensive strategy to protect the American people. He led the most dramatic reorganization of the federal government since the beginning of the Cold War, reforming the intelligence community and establishing new institutions like the Department of Homeland Security. He built global coalitions to remove violent regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq that threatened America—liberating more than 50 million people from tyranny. Recognizing that freedom and hope are the best alternative to the extremist ideology of the terrorists, he provided unprecedented American support for young democracies and dissidents in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. In the more than seven years following September 11, 2001, the United States was not attacked again.

President Bush is married to Laura Welch Bush, a former teacher and librarian whom he met at a friend's backyard barbeque. They have twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, and a son-in-law, Henry Hager. The Bush family also includes two dogs, Barney and Miss Beazley.

As President, George W. Bush achieved a strong record of pro-life policies and advocacy. One of his last acts as president was to declare Jan. 18 “National Sanctity of Human Life Day,” a declaration which was the culmination of eight years of pro-life policies. The following is a summary of his pro-life accomplishments:

- 2001:** Reinstated **Mexico City Policy**, requiring all non-governmental organizations that receive federal funding to refrain from performing or promoting abortions in other countries.
- 2001:** Declared **federal funds could not be used for embryonic stem cell research**, which requires destruction of human embryos. Instead, Bush promoted adult stem cell research, which does not destroy embryos.
- 2002:** Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary implemented the **“unborn child rule”** which re-quires a federal insurance program to define the term “child” to include from conception to birth.
- 2002:** Signed the **Born-Alive Infants Protection Act**, which extends legal protection to infants who survive induced abortions by providing them with identical legal protections as babies who are born prematurely.
- 2003:** Signed the **Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act**, which prohibits late-term abortions.
- 2004:** Signed the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act**, which defines a child “in utero” at any stage of development as human, and accords the child the legal rights of the victim if subject to certain crimes that involve death or injury.
- 2005-06:** **Appointed two pro-life justices**, Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 2007:** Both justices voted to **uphold the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003**, which was challenged in a lawsuit.
- 2008:** Health and Human Services Secretary issued a **regulation to protect the rights of federally funded health care providers** to decline to participate in services to which they morally object, including abortion.