

How many US Presidents were Veterans?

What is a Veteran? There are actually several definitions but for today's article, I am using the broadest definition as someone who has served in the military. The Department of Veterans Affairs has a stricter definition which includes an honorable discharge and a specified length of service. My question for today is how many US Presidents are Veterans. Again according to the VA, a majority of America's presidents came to office as Veterans.

George Washington, set an important precedent by entering the Presidency as a civilian, rather than as a commanding general with military forces at his disposal. Washington is the only president in American history to receive a vote from every elector. Someone should point that out to President Trump!

Twenty-six of our 45 Presidents served in the military, many during the conflicts of our country. A majority of our presidents have served in the Army, with the Navy as second most popular branch.

Early American history is filled with conflicts including skirmishes with native Americans, land disputes with the Spanish and French, another war with Great Britain offering an opportunity for a bright, aspiring man to make a name for himself. Our ninth President, William Henry Harrison, embarked on his military career at age 18, enlisting 80 men off the streets of Philadelphia to serve in the Northwest Territory. Harrison quickly rose through the ranks and distinguished himself in battle during the Indian campaigns.

Veteran Ulysses S. Grant earned national fame for his military service during the Civil War. Grant was a West Point graduate who fought in the Mexican War, but it was his ability to command that earned Lincoln's confidence. The Civil War produced seven Veteran presidents in the postwar period, all of them having served in the Union Army.

Harry Truman and West Point graduate General Dwight Eisenhower served in WWI. Both men called on their military training to be diplomatic, dynamic leaders in an unstable world. The Truman Doctrine, pledging American support for “free peoples” around the world, followed by Eisenhower’s enforcement of desegregation in U.S. schools, shaped America’s foreign and domestic policies.

The nation’s most recent combat Veteran President was George H. W. Bush, who served during WWII.

Our Veterans Presidents are: George Washington: Revolutionary War, James Monroe: Revolutionary War, Andrew Jackson: War of 1812, William Henry Harrison: Indian campaigns, John Tyler: War of 1812. Zachary Taylor: War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Second Seminole War, Mexican-American War, Franklin Pierce: Mexican War, Abraham Lincoln: Black Hawk War (Indian Wars) , Andrew Johnson: Civil War , Ulysses S. Grant: Mexican War and Civil War , Rutherford B. Hayes: Civil War . James A. Garfield: Civil War, Chester A. Arthur: Civil War, Benjamin Harrison: Civil War, William McKinley: Civil War, Theodore Roosevelt: Spanish American War. Harry Truman: World War I, Dwight Eisenhower: World War I and World War II, John F. Kennedy: World War II, Lyndon B. Johnson: World War II, Richard Nixon: World War II, Gerald Ford: World War II, Jimmy Carter: Cold War era, Ronald Reagan: World War II, George H.W. Bush: World War II, George W. Bush: Vietnam War era