



James Monroe

5th President

Born: April 28, 1758

Birthplace: Westmoreland Co., VA

Died: July 4, 1831

Burial Site: Richmond, VA

Spouse: Elizabeth Kortwright

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Term: 1817-1825

Vice President: Daniel Tompkins

James Monroe became the United States' fifth president on March 4, 1817, after serving in the Virginia legislature, the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention.

Born in Westmoreland Co., VA, in 1758, he studied law with Thomas Jefferson after attending the College of William and Mary.

Monroe was one of this state's first senators, was governor of Virginia twice, and was minister to both France and England. He served as President Madison's secretary of state and later as secretary of war during the War of 1812.

He helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, and when he was president, he bought Florida from Spain for \$5 million (with Spanish claims to the Northwest thrown in for good measure).

He ran against Madison for president in 1810 and was defeated, but came back in 1816 to be elected. He was re-elected to a second term with all but one vote.

Monroe is noted for having a strong cabinet that included John C. Calhoun, as secretary of war, and John Quincy Adams, as secretary of state.

The Monroe Doctrine came into being in 1823, when the President announced his doctrine saying the United States would consider its safety endangered if European powers had authority in this hemisphere or attempted colonization. President Monroe died on July 4, 1831.