



# John Tyler

## 10th President

Born: March 29, 1790

Birthplace: Charles City Co., VA

Died: Jan. 17, 1862

Burial Site: Richmond, VA

Spouse: Letitia Christian, Julia Gardiner

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Whig

Term: 1841-1845

Vice President: Samuel L. Southard

John Tyler was the first vice-president to be elevated to the office of president by the death of his predecessor. He became this nation's tenth president when William Henry Harrison died after serving only 31 days of his term.

Harrison, a northern Whig, believed in a loose interpretation of the constitution, but Tyler was a southerner who was a staunch defender of states' rights and a strict constructionist.

Born in Greenway, VA, he was a graduate of William and Mary College and had served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. He had opposed President Jackson, and as a senator had helped draft the resolution censuring that president for his handling of the United States Bank funds.

Tyler had served frequently in the legislature, been Governor of Virginia, chancellor of William and Mary College, a representative and a senator.

As vice-president, Tyler and Henry Clay had tried to dominate "Old Tippecanoe." But suddenly president Harrison was dead, and "Tyler, too" was in the White House.

Clay tried to keep power in his hands and authored a bill to establish a National Bank with branches in several states. Tyler vetoed it on "states" rights grounds and put in his own "exchequer system."