



William H. Taft

27th President

Born: Sept. 7, 1857

Birthplace: Cincinnati, OH

Died: March 8, 1930

Burial Site: Arlington

National Cemetery, VA

Spouse: Helen Herron

Occupation: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Term: 1909-1913

Vice President: James S. Sherman

William Howard Taft was this country's "reluctant" president. He never wanted to be president, but when President Theodore Roosevelt decided that his conscientious secretary of war was to be his successor, he could not argue with his commander-in-chief.

Taft graduated from Yale and the Cincinnati Law School. He became law reporter for Cincinnati newspapers and was an assistant prosecuting attorney and assistant county solicitor.

He was a Superior court judge, a federal judge, U.S. solicitor-general, first civil governor of the Philippines, provisional governor of Cuba and secretary of war before he became president at Roosevelt's insistence.

Early in his administration, Taft called a special session of Congress to revise the tariff downward. Taft rarely exercised his 330 lb. bulk and often caused embarrassment for his supporters by falling asleep.

In 1912, the Republicans renominated Taft and Teddy Roosevelt bolted from the party to lead the Progressives. With Republicans split, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was easily elected president.

Taft became professor of constitutional law at Yale and was chief justice of the United States from 1921-1930. He died of arteriosclerosis at Washington, D.C. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.