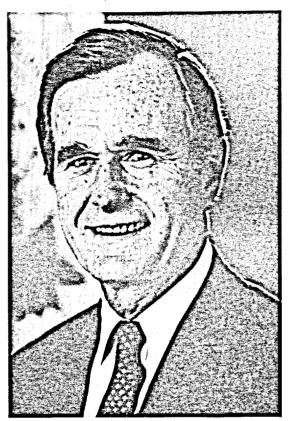George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts. President Bush graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and in June 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. At age 18, he became the Navy's youngest commissioned pilot. From August 1942 to September 1945, he served as a carrier pilot, and fought in the Pacific where he won three air medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Following the war, he entered Yale University, completing his degree in economics in 1948 and graduating Phi Beta Kappa.

After graduation, Mr. Bush moved to Texas where he worked for Dresser Industries in West Texas and California from 1948 to 1950. In 1951, Mr. Bush and a neighbor, John Overbey, founded the Bush-Overbey Oil Development Company. In 1953, he co-founded Zapata Petroleum Corporation, and one year later -- at age 30 -- he became president and co-founder of a third firm, Zapata Offshore Company.

George Bush was elected from Texas' 7th District to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 and was re-elected to the House without opposition two years later.

In December 1970, President Richard Nixon asked Bush to become Ambassador to the United Nations, a position he held until January 1973. From January 1973 to September 1974, he was Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

In October 1974, Mr. Bush traveled to Peking and served for more than a year as Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China. From 1976 to 1977, he was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.