Presidents Who Served in the Armed Forces

In 1879, Congress declared George Washington's birthday a federal holiday. It has since become commonly known as Presidents Day and is celebrated annually on the third Monday in February to honor all U.S. presidents. This year we commemorate those presidents who served in our military. (Dates indicate period served at highest rank)



lames A. Garfield Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1861-1863



Thomas Jefferson 1770-1779



Jimmy Carter Lieutenant, U.S. Navy 1946-1953



Colonel, Army Officer Reserve Corps 1919–1945



George Bush Lieutenant (junior grade), U.S. Navy 1942–1945

James Monroe



Ulysses S. Grant General, U.S. Army 1866-1869



Abraham Lincoln Captain, Illinois Militia

James Buchanan

Private, Pennsylvania Militia

Ronald Reagan

Captain, U.S. Army

1942-1945



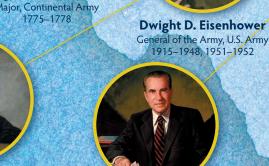
Millard Fillmore Major, Union Continentals (home guard)



William McKinley Brevet Major, U.S. Army (Volunteers)



John Tyler Captain, Virginia Militia 1812



Richard M. Nixon Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1942-1966



Chester A. Arthur Brigadier General, New York Militia 1858-1863



George Washington
General and Commander in Chief



Rutherford B. Hayes Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1861-1865



William Henry Harrison Major General, Kentucky Militia 1812-1814



Benjamin Harrison

Brevet Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

1862-1865

Andrew Jackson Major General, U.S. Army 1814-1821



John F. Kennedy

Lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve

1941-1945

Zachary Taylor

Major General, U.S. Army

1805-1815, 1816-1849

Theodore Roosevelt

Colonel, U.S. Army (Volunteers)

George W. Bush First Lieutenant, Texas Air National Guard 1968-1973



Gerald R. Ford, Jr Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1942-1946



Andrew Johnson rigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1862-1865



James Madison 1775-1781



Lyndon B. Johnson Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1940-1964



Colonel, Tennessee Militia