

- **Feb 6, 1911:** Reagan born in Tampico, Illinois to **Nelle Wilson Reagan** and **John Edward Reagan**
- **1932:** Graduates from college with "C" averages. Work as radio announcer gives him media experience
- **1937:** Signs contract with **Warner Brothers**



- **1940:** Plays football legend **George Gipp** in his most acclaimed film, **Knute Rockne, All American**, earning nickname **The Gipper**. Marries actress **Jane Wyman**
- **1941:** Daughter **Maureen** born. Reagan appointed to board of Screen Actors Guild
- **1942:** Drafted into military, makes training and propaganda films
- **1945:** Resumes acting career, makes 54 movies in total. Adopts son **Michael**
- **1947:** Elected president of SAG. Testifies before **House Committee on Un-American Activities**
- **1948:** Reagan and Wyman divorce



- **1952:** Marries actress **Nancy Davis**. Daughter **Patti** born
- **1954:** Makes celebrity appearances at factories throughout U.S. Experience shapes his political views – especially encroachment on individual freedom by government
- **1958:** Son **Ron** born

The life of Ronald Reagan

The midwestern boy who became a Hollywood actor, governor of California and 40th President of the United States, was born 100 years ago



- **1964:** Televised speech – **A Time for Choosing** – launches political career
- **1966:** Wins governorship of California
- **1968:** Makes tentative run for presidency
- **1969:** Sends in National Guard to break up **flower-power** protests at University of California at Berkeley
- **1970:** Re-elected California governor
- **1979:** Announces candidacy for president, chooses **George Bush** as his running mate
- **1980:** Elected president in landslide victory over incumbent **Jimmy Carter**. At age 69, he is oldest man ever to win presidency
- **1981:** Inauguration Day – Iran releases 52 hostages held at U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days



- **Mar:** Survives assassination attempt
- **Aug:** Gives striking air traffic controllers 48 hours to get back to work and fires those who refuse
- **1982:** In speech to British parliament, Reagan predicts fall of Soviet Union
- **1983:** Describes Soviet Union as **"evil empire"**. Unveils proposal for Strategic Defence Initiative, dubbed **Star Wars**
- **1984:** Advocates helping **Contra** "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua
- **Oct:** Congress outlaws military aid to Contras

- **Nov:** Wins second term, again by landslide
- **1985:** Reagan and Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev** pledge to cut nuclear weapons



- **1986:** Orders air strikes against Libya in retaliation for bombing of West Berlin disco in which two U.S. servicemen are killed
- **1986-87, Iran-Contra scandal:** Administration covertly sells weapons to Iran, via Israel, in exchange for release of hostages held by **Hezbollah** in Lebanon. Profits diverted to Contras fighting Nicaragua's left-wing government. **Reagan acknowledges deal was "a mistake"**
- **1987:** In speech in Berlin, Reagan demands **"Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall"**
- **Dec:** Gorbachev and Reagan sign INF treaty, resulting in destruction of 2,692 intermediate-range nuclear weapons
- **1989:** Reagan retires to to his Los Angeles home
- **Sep:** Undergoes surgery to remove fluid on his brain



- **Nov:** Berlin Wall falls. Germany unified in 1990
- **Dec 1991:** Collapse of Soviet Union ends Cold War
- **1994:** Reagan discloses he has Alzheimer's disease. **"I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life"**
- **Jun 5, 2004:** Ronald Reagan dies at age 93