

Chargin' Charlie

February 2024

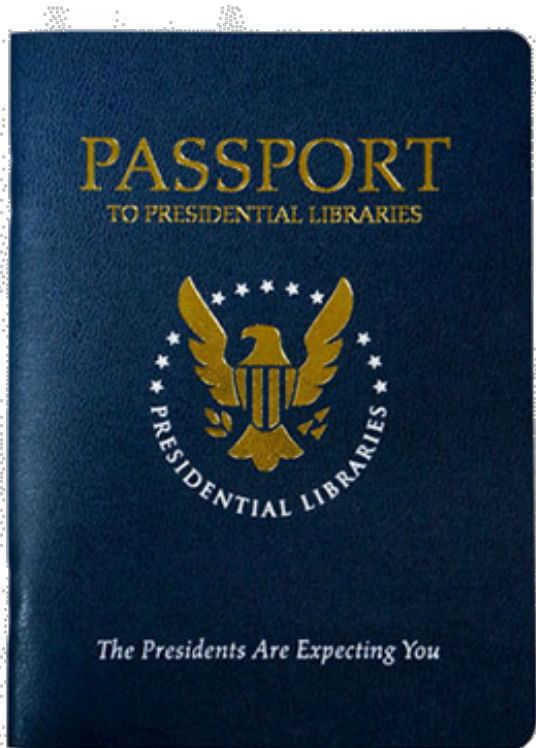
Volksmarching in the footsteps of the presidents

My calendar indicates that the third Monday in February is Presidents' Day. Wikipedia clarifies that this federal holiday, established in 1789 to honor President George Washington, still officially commemorates his birthday. While there have been 44 presidents since Washington, there are only 15 Presidential Libraries in the national system. I can confirm that these are worth visiting plus, nearly all of them also have a volksmarch that starts or pauses at the site.

<u>#</u>	<u>Presidential Library / Museum</u>	<u>Location</u>
31	Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum	West Branch, Iowa
32	Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum	Hyde Park, New York
33	Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum	Independence, Mo.
34	Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum	Abilene, Kansas
35	John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum	Boston
36	Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum	Austin, Texas
37	Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum	Yorba Linda, Ca.
38	Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library	Ann Arbor, Mich.
38	Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum	Grand Rapids, Mich.
39	Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum	Atlanta, Ga.

40	Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum	Simi Valley, Ca.
41	George Bush Presidential Library and Museum	College Station, Texas
42	William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum	Little Rock, Ar.
43	George W. Bush Presidential Library	Dallas, Texas

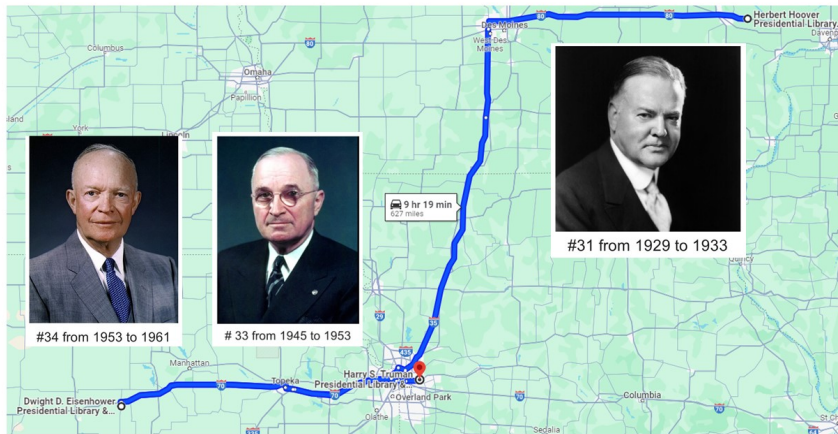
These Presidential Libraries are both an archive and a museum. Each includes an extensive collection of documents and artifacts, which is open to the public, without regard to political affiliation. Franklin D. Roosevelt (#32) was the first to establish a Presidential Library, and later Congress created the national system of privately erected and federally maintained facilities.



The official passport to the U.S. Presidential Libraries provides visitors an opportunity to collect stamps at each unique historic site. The booklet and stamps are available at Presidential Library admission desks or museum stores. After collecting stamps from all the Presidential Libraries, the traveler receives a special free gift at any of the facilities. Susan and I hope to tour our 10th and 11th Presidential Libraries this summer and see the remaining locations before “President’s Day” in February 2025.

A few years before the COVID pandemic, Susan and I took a road trip to Iowa, Missouri and Kansas to visit the library and museum for President Hoover, Truman and Eisenhower. As the

map below highlights, the driving distance between these locations is just over nine hours.



Since we started our week-long adventure near Mount Rushmore National Memorial, we also got to see the 60-foot tall heads of presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln carved in granite on the mountain.

During a similar trip to Texas several years later we toured the Presidential Library/Museum for Lyndon Baines Johnson, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. This summer while traveling in California, Susan and I plan to visit the sites for Presidents Nixon and Reagan.

The Barack Obama Presidential Library is scheduled to open in October 2025 in Southside Chicago. The National Archives are custodians of Donald Trump's papers, but no plans have been announced for his library.

We have discovered that a Presidential Library/Museum requires a few hours to explore and that pairing them with a volksmarch is a terrific combination. While adding walk event stamps to your AVA books, you can collect stamps in your passport to the U.S. Presidential Libraries.

Steve Brown, NVV President

More Presidents

I was fascinated when I read Steve's really good article on Presidents' Day travels, and thought of the Presidential Libraries and memorials I have been to.

I grew up in Dutchess County, New York, which was the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and I remember the establishment of the Library at the home in Hyde Park after Eleanor Roosevelt died. As a young man I went snake hunting on the grounds of the house near the Hudson River with a neighbor. (Don't ask. I still have bad dreams about that).

Just up the River in Columbia County, New York is the home of Martin Van Buren – our eighth president. His nickname was "Old Kinderhook" – from his town of Kinderhook. When he was in

office, he would initialize documents with “OK” meaning he approved of it. Obviously, we still use it today. There is no Library in Kinderhook, but his house is preserved.

Down River from where I grew up was New York City and Long Island. The Theodore Roosevelt birthplace is in the Flatiron district of Manhattan and his home in Oyster Bay, Long Island is run by the National Park Service. BTW – You drive past Grant’s Tomb to get there.

Only about 100 miles separate Kinderhook at Oyster Bay and you could visit four presidential memorials. But given the traffic in New York, it would still take you nine hours to drive.

We are no slouches in Northern Virginia for presidents, either. Obviously, George Washington was a Northern Virginian and his home is one of the foremost tourist destinations in the commonwealth.

But, there are more. Gerald Ford lived for almost 20 years off Janney’s Lane in Alexandria, and moved from that typical suburban home to the White House when he succeeded Richard Nixon in 1974. For his part, Nixon lived somewhere in Alexandria when he first came to the D.C. area during World War 2.

A bit further afield we have Jefferson’s Monticello, James Monroe’s Oak Hill outside Leesburg and James Madison’s home in Orange County, Montpelier. Another presidential location is the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson in Staunton, Va.

Looking at all these, I think AVA should promote presidents as a special program.

Jim Garamone

NVV Meeting Feb. 12

We are having a meeting at Daniels Run Elementary School at 7:30 pm, Monday, Feb. 12. At 5:30 pm, club members are invited to Ornerly Beer Company Public House at 3950 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia for dinner before the meeting. Good beer, good food, good friends. It’s fun.

Upcoming events

There are no traditional events until April but NVV has a group walk scheduled Wednesday morning, March 20. Meet up at 9:45 at Jones Point, Alexandria and walk the Alexandria year-round.

The three-day Atlantic Region Conference begins April 5 in Dover, Delaware. Pre-registration is available now! See the First State Webfooters website for details. The host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn 1706 N. Dupont Highway Dover, DE 19901. Be sure to ask for the First State Webfooters room rate. Promises to be a great time!

The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Club is holding a Saturday traditional walk on April 13, in Rockville, Md.

Our Burke Anniversary Walk is set for April 20.

WorkHouse Walk

The Fredericksburg Walking Club made the trek up 95 to walk the NVV WorkHouse walk in Occoquan. About 40 people made the journey. Steve Brown and Helen Garamone met up with them and helped point them on their way.



Fredericksburg walkers at the Suffrage Monument, and readying for the walk.



Parting shots



The Plotts “downsizing” their houses at the January meeting.



Gift exchange at the NVV Holiday party.



The whole gang at the NVV Holiday party.

Quote

"The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin walking." - Walt Disney