



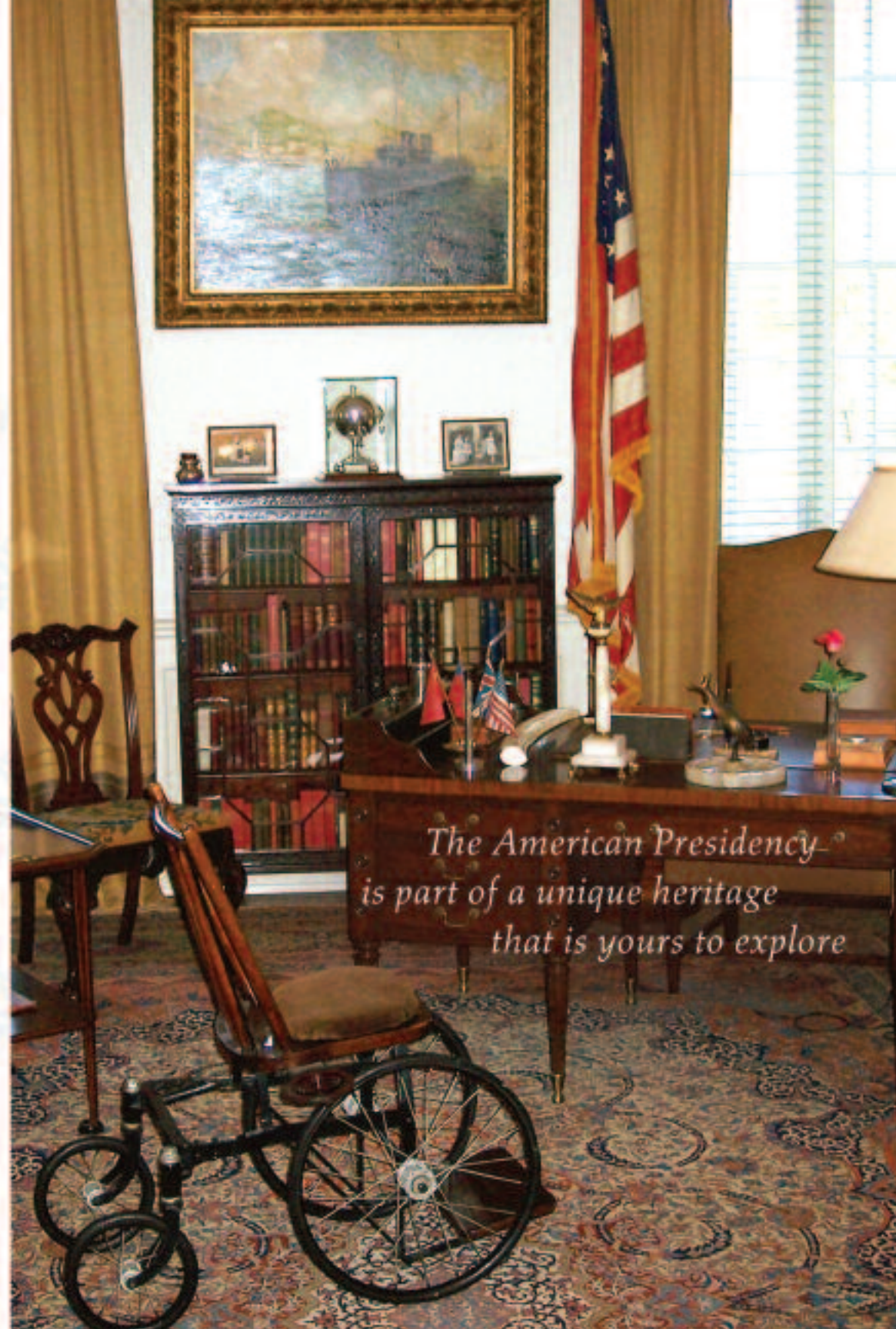


A UNIQUE HERITAGE

Presidential Libraries are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his Administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries, like their holdings, belong to the American people.

During his second term in office, President Franklin D. Roosevelt surveyed the vast quantities of papers and other materials he and his staff had accumulated. In the past, many Presidential papers and records had been lost, destroyed, sold for profit, or ruined by poor storage conditions. President Roosevelt sought a better alternative. On the advice of noted historians and scholars, he established a public repository to preserve the evidence of the Presidency for future generations. Beginning a tradition that continues to this day, he raised private funds for the new facility and then turned it over to the United States Government for operation through the National Archives. In 1955, Congress institutionalized this policy through the Presidential Libraries Act, amended in 1986. Through archives, museums, and public programs, Presidential Libraries continue to preserve the documents and artifacts of our Presidents, helping us learn about our nation and our democracy.

previous: The Reagan Library's replica Oval Office **above:** President Roosevelt, 1935
opposite: President Roosevelt's Study at his Presidential Library remains largely as he left it in 1945 **below:** President and Mrs. Reagan greet Margaret Thatcher at the Reagan Library, 1993 **background:** Cherry Tree Quilt, gift to First Lady Pat Nixon.



101 -
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 5
 Turn a new page in history
 at a Presidential Library



PAGES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Every day the President and his staff generate thousands of documents providing insight into the issues confronting our nation. Presidential Libraries preserve not only these official records, but also the personal papers of Presidential family members, associates, and friends. Enriching these resources are dynamic audio and visual collections. The Libraries' vast photographic, film, and video holdings capture the Presidents confronting key issues or relaxing with friends and family. Dramatic sound recordings let us listen to Presidents and their closest advisors debating turning points in our changing society. Together, these archival materials provide a comprehensive view of our Presidents and our history.

These diverse sources are the raw materials of history—evidence of democracy at work and of the continuing relevance of the Presidents' past decisions in our own times. While a selection of these fascinating materials is on exhibit at Presidential Libraries, the vast majority of holdings are available through Library research rooms. More information can be found at www.archives.gov/presidential_libraries, the Presidential Libraries web site.



counter clockwise from top: Page from diary kept by hostage Robert Ode during his captivity in Iran, 1980; President Truman with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin, 1945; President Roosevelt's Day of Infamy speech with his handwritten corrections, 1941; President Hoover, 1931; President Hoover's Child's Bill of Rights, 1931
 opposite: President Clinton at the bill-signing ceremony for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; Publisher's letter accepting Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, 1931; a dust jacket for Ernest Hemingway's *To Have and Have Not*, from the Grosset & Dunlap reprint of the original Scribner edition; a sketch for *The Lorax*

Presidential Libraries have other important archival holdings that go beyond the scope of the Presidency, including the following unique collections that reflect on our cultural history:

Laura Ingalls Wilder's original manuscripts of *Little House on the Prairie* and other works documenting life in the Midwest, Hoover Library.

The personal papers, manuscripts, and objects of Ernest Hemingway, Kennedy Library.

The original sketches and manuscript of *The Lorax*, by Theodore Geisel ("Dr. Seuss"), Johnson Library.



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counter clockwise: President Eisenhower paints at Camp David, 1954; Silver gilt humidor, gift to President Kennedy from Nikita Khrushchev; Bust of President Reagan, gift of Arnold Schwarzenegger; A microphone used by President Roosevelt for Fireside Chats; President Truman's famous desk sign; President Carter's Nobel Peace Prize, awarded 2002; President Carter, Anwar Sadat, and Menachem Begin celebrate the peace treaty between Egypt and Isreal, 1979; Campaign button for President Johnson **background:** Untitled landscape painted by President Eisenhower on long-term loan to his Library from Abilene High School

HISTORY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Artifacts bring us even closer to the Presidents and their times. Their lives become tangible through a cherished childhood toy, a favorite article of clothing, or a priceless gift from a foreign head of state. Each Presidential Library holds artifacts that illuminate the times in which our Presidents lived and the decisions they made throughout their lives. Whether sentimental or monumental, artifacts such as a handmade quilt from an expert needle crafter, entire slabs from the Berlin Wall, or the contents in the boyhood home where President Eisenhower spent his formative years make a visit to a Presidential Library a memorable experience.

*Come and experience
history first hand at a
Presidential Library museum*

Artifacts on exhibit represent only a fraction of Library holdings. Behind the scenes, Libraries house more than 500,000 items, in all shapes and sizes, ranging from President Eisenhower's World War II staff car at the Eisenhower Library to a set of 51 miniature silver musical instruments, given to the Nixon Administration from Indonesia, held at the Nixon Library.





*Discover something new
at a Presidential Library*



BE A PART OF HISTORY

Presidential Libraries offer thought-provoking and entertaining permanent exhibits that combine documents and artifacts, photographs and film to immerse you in the sights and sounds of the past. The Libraries also present exciting special exhibits designed to showcase their holdings in fascinating new ways or to highlight distinctive aspects of history and culture with materials borrowed from museums around the world.

Conferences, symposia, and public forums sponsored by the Libraries are another means of participating in Library life. These events highlight new scholarship about the Presidents, American history, and current events, and provide opportunities to hear First Family members, key Administration figures, and foreign heads of state discuss history, politics, and the world today.

Beyond exhibits and formal programs, the Libraries host special events to commemorate uniquely American holidays, such as President's Day and the Fourth of July. Storytellers and actors portraying our Presidents make it possible to hear George Washington discuss the nation's earliest days or Abraham Lincoln contemplate the Civil War. Many Libraries celebrate the holiday season with elaborate decorations originally used at the White House. And each Library observes its President's birthday with a special celebration.



opposite: From the exhibit "Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years," the First Lady is pictured wearing the exhibited gown **above:** Portrait of Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush from the exhibit "Fathers and Sons: Two Families, Four Presidents" **background:** Evening bag, gift to First Lady Betty Ford, Ford Museum

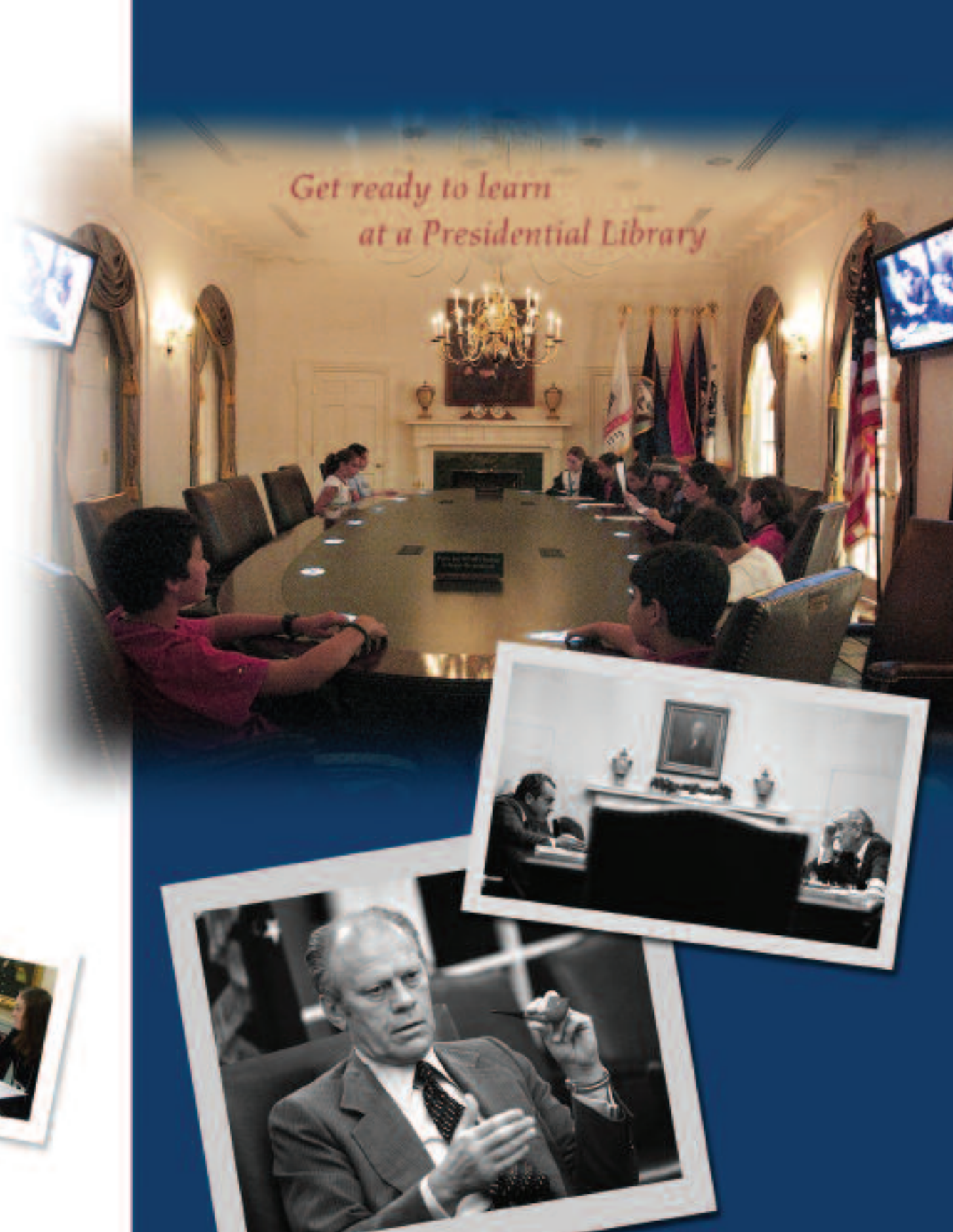
CLASSROOMS OF DEMOCRACY

below: President Bush greets a family at the Bush Library; President Clinton visiting students, 1999; Students discuss policy issues at the Truman Library's White House Decision Center *opposite:* Students in the Ford Museum's replica Cabinet Room; President Johnson meets with President Nixon in the White House Cabinet Room, 1968; President Ford in the Cabinet Room, 1975

President Reagan described Presidential Libraries as “classrooms of democracy.” This could not be more accurate. Libraries provide a broad range of educational opportunities for students of all ages. Each Library offers programs designed to introduce students to American history and the Presidency and to inform teachers about the use of primary source documents in teaching history.

Highlights of Library education activities include the Truman Library’s “White House Decision Center,” where students or adults study historical crises from the Truman Administration. At the Ford Museum, you will find a replica of the Cabinet Room, an interactive media experience allowing students and adults alike to use the West Wing’s famous conference room and original documents to role-play through many of the complex problems that faced the Ford Administration. The Eisenhower Library’s Five Star Leaders is a document-based, experiential learning program in which students in grades 8–12 confront a crisis related to the Eisenhower Administration and develop democratic leadership skills. These are only a sample of the many diverse and enriching education activities hosted at Presidential Libraries.

*Get ready to learn
at a Presidential Library*



NARA's PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES

Presidential Libraries can be found across the country, from Massachusetts to California. Visit one soon, and give yourself and your family the opportunity to explore the history of our nation and the leaders who helped shape our society. Here is a chance to participate in your democracy.





A VITAL PART OF AN IMPORTANT GOAL

Presidential Libraries are one component of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), our nation's official record keeper. An independent agency created by statute in 1934, NARA carries out its mission through its Washington, DC offices as well as a nationwide network of regional archives and records facilities to ensure that the American public can access official documents pertaining to the rights of citizens, the actions of government, and the national experience.

NARA also works to improve opportunities for visitors to learn about the vital documents in its care through the National Archives Experience, which includes The Charters of Freedom: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. The 290-seat William G. McGowan Theater, a new Learning Center, and the exciting new Public Vaults exhibit, featuring immersive and dynamic interactive exhibits, and hundreds of records from NARA's holdings, await you as part of the National Archives Experience in Washington, DC.



opposite: "The Charters of Freedom" housed in the Rotunda of the historic National Archives Building in Washington, DC, pictured above **background:** A version of the rare William J. Stone engraving of the Declaration of Independence, located at the Reagan Library **next page:** The White House Colonnade

