

LINCOLN LORE

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PRESIDENTS BEFORE AND AFTER LINCOLN

Comments by Lincoln on the 15 Presidents Who Preceded Him

1. **GEORGE WASHINGTON**—"Washington is the mightiest name on earth . . . In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on."—*Address, Feb. 22, 1842.*
2. **JOHN ADAMS**—"The two men most distinguished in the framing and support of the Declaration were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams—the one having penned it and the other sustained it the most forcible in debate—the only two of the fifty-five who signed it who were elected Presidents of the United States."—*Response to Serenade, July 7, 1863.*
3. **THOMAS JEFFERSON**—"It is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation . . . The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society and yet they are denied and evaded, with no small show of success."—*Letter, April 6, 1859.*
4. **JAMES MADISON**—"The first national bank was established chiefly by the same men who formed the Constitution . . . it received the sanction, as President, of Mr. Madison to whom common consent has awarded the proud title of 'Father of the Constitution.'"—*Circular, March 4, 1843.*
5. **JAMES MONROE**—"Almost every good man since the formation of our government has uttered that sentiment . . . from General Washington, who 'trusted that we should yet have a confederacy of free states' with Jefferson, Jay, Monroe, down to the latest days."—*Address, March 6, 1860.*
6. **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—"The last year of J. Q. Adams' administration cost, in round numbers, thirteen millions being about one dollar to each soul in the nation."—*Speech, December 20, 1839.*
7. **ANDREW JACKSON**—"By the eternal, 'I take the responsibility.' Those were the 'Samson locks' of General Jackson, and we dare not disregard the lessons of experience."—*Letter, July 28, 1849.*
8. **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—"His prayers were for the restoration of the authority of the government of which he had been the head, and for peace and good will among his fellow citizens."—*General Order No. 89, July 25, 1862.*
9. **WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**—"With the gallant Harrison at our head, we shall meet our foes and conquer them in all parts of the Union."—*Circular, Jan. 1, 1840.*
10. **JOHN TYLER**—No favorable comment discovered.
11. **JAMES KNOX POLK**—No favorable comment discovered.
12. **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—"General Taylor himself, the noblest Roman of them all, has declared that as a citizen and particularly as a soldier it is sufficient for him to know that his country is at war with a foreign nation, to do all in his power to bring it to a speedy and honorable termination."—*Speech, July 27, 1848.*
13. **MILLARD FILMORE**—"In Congress, placed at the head of one of the most important committees, and as its chairman, was the principal member of the House of Representatives in maturing the Tariff of 1842."—*Speeches, August 14 and 26, 1852.*
14. **FRANKLIN PIERCE**—"I have only to say that, General Pierce's history being as it is, the attempt to set him up as a great general is simply ludicrous and laughable; and that the free merry people of this country have laughed at it and will continue to laugh at it."—*Addresses, August 14 and 26, 1852.*
15. **JAMES BUCHANAN**—"Buchanan is the hard horse to beat in this race (campaign of 1856.) Let him have Illinois and nothing can beat him."—*Letter, Sept. 8, 1856.*

Comments on Lincoln by the 15 Presidents Who Followed Him

1. **ANDREW JOHNSON**—"When future generations shall read the history of the second revolutionary crisis . . . Abraham Lincoln will stand out as the greatest man of the age."—*Tribute.*
2. **ULYSSES S. GRANT**—"A man of great ability, pure patriotism, unselfish nature, full of forgiveness to his enemies, bearing malice towards none . . . His fame will grow brighter as time passes and his great work is better understood."—*Manuscript, 1880.*
3. **RUTHERFORD B. HAYES**—"Lincoln's fame is safe. He is the darling of history forevermore. His life and achievements give him titles to regard second to those of no other man in ancient or modern times."—*Letter, April 16, 1865.*
4. **JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD**—"He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power, and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied."—*Address, Feb. 12, 1878.*
5. **CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR**
(No tribute discovered.)
6. **GROVER CLEVELAND**—"He was called to save a nation . . . He too loved the country. He who made the country gave him in compensation, an unstinted measure of inspiration for the most impressive and solemn public duty."—*Youth Companion, Feb. 8, 1906.*
7. **BENJAMIN HARRISON**—"He stands like a great lighthouse to show the way of duty to all his countrymen and to send afar a beam of courage to those who beat against the winds."—*Eulogy, Feb. 12, 1898.*
8. **WILLIAM MCKINLEY**—"A thousand years hence no story, no tragedy, no epic poem, will be filled with greater words than that which tells of his life and death."—*Address, Feb. 12, 1896.*
9. **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**—"The lover of his country and all mankind; the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days."—*Address, Feb. 12, 1909.*
10. **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**—"The oppressed and lowly of all peoples, as liberty and free government spread, pronounce his name with awe . . . This harmony of his message with every popular aspiration of freedom proves his universality."—*Address, May 30, 1922.*
11. **WOODROW WILSON**—"As he stands there in his complete manhood at the most perilous helm of Christendom what a marvelous composite figure he is! The whole country is summed up in him."—*Forum Magazine, Feb., 1894.*
12. **WARREN GAMALIEL HARDING**—"We are dealing with the master martyr, the supreme leader in a national crisis, the surpassing believer in a fulfilled destiny, and a colossal figure among the hero-statesmen of all ages."—*Address, Feb. 12, 1923.*
13. **CALVIN COOLIDGE**—"His presence filled the nation. He broke the might of oppression. He restored a race to its birthright. His mortal fame has vanished, but his spirit increased with the increasing years, the richest legacy of the greatest century."—*Proclamation, Feb. 12, 1926.*
14. **HERBERT CLARK HOOVER**—"Lincoln after all these years still grows not only in the hearts of his countrymen but in the hearts of the people of the world."—*Address, June 17, 1931.*
15. **FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT**—"With his charity and kindness, his insight and humor, his endurance and faith, has come to be the exemplar of our American life."—*Manuscript, Feb. 13, 1935.*