

Missouri Road Trip

Every Hero Has A Story: Harry Truman

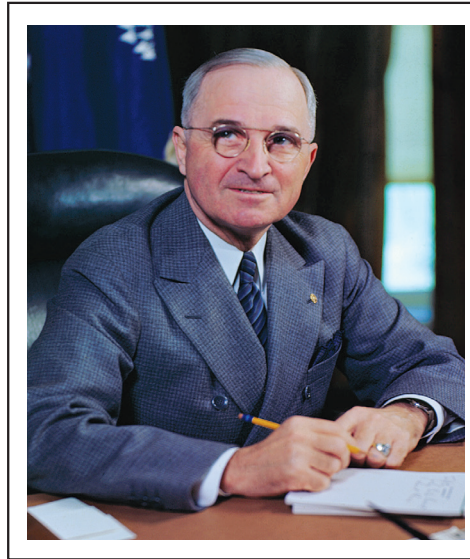
Mark Twain and Walt Disney might be more well-known around the world, but only one Missourian has ever been elected to the top job in the United States.

Harry S. Truman was born in Lamar, Mo., in 1884, but he's most often associated with Independence, the state's fourth-largest city and the place he called home.

Truman once operated a clothing shop in Kansas City, but ultimately had a remarkable political career that led to the White House. After serving most of the 1920s and early 1930s as a county commissioner in Jackson County, Truman was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934.

By 1944, Truman was nominated to serve as vice president under Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was vice president for just three months before being sworn in as president, following Roosevelt's death in 1945.

After guiding America through the end of World War II, and making the decision to use nuclear weapons to end the war against Japan, Truman focused on



retiring to Independence in 1953. Harry Truman died Dec. 26, 1972.

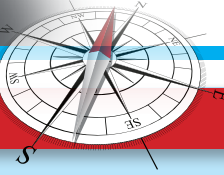
foreign policy and civil rights issues. One of his executive orders desegregated the armed forces, while another forbade racial discrimination in federal employment.

When it came time for Truman to seek re-election in 1948, the straight-forward Missourian, known for phrases such as "The Buck Stops Here," was considered to be a long shot. He won and served four more years before

Points of Interest

- ★ Truman served in the Missouri National Guard from 1905-11.
- ★ Truman was an artillery officer in France during World War I.
- ★ Although he often used a period with his middle initial, the S in Harry S. Truman doesn't actually stand for a full name.
- ★ The Chicago Daily Tribune incorrectly announced the winner of the 1948 election in its first edition headline "Dewey Defeats Truman." A press strike had forced the newspaper to print early using poll predictions. A photograph of the winner, Harry Truman, holding that newspaper ensured the mistake was preserved for history.
- ★ Learn more about Truman's hometown in the community newspaper, The Examiner, examiner.net, and his birthplace Lamar, in The Lamar Democrat, LamarDemocrat.com.
- ★ Read more about Harry Truman on The State Historical Society of Missouri's Historic Missourians site, shs.umsystem.edu.

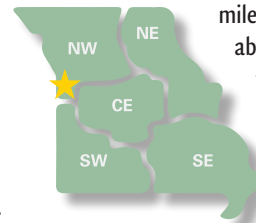
Sources: Harry S. Truman Library, Hall of Famous Missourians



The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
500 W US Hwy 24,
Independence
(816) 268-8200
trumanlibrary.org

Take A Road Trip to Independence!

Today, Independence embraces its favorite son in a variety of ways. The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum is home to a variety of exhibits, including a model Oval Office, and an amazing collection of Truman's papers. Truman's home in Independence is an official National Historic Site, as is his family farm property near Grandview. As you stroll around Independence, you literally can follow in Truman's footsteps. In his retirement years, Truman was known for taking long walks around the city. Today, commemorative plaques on sidewalks along a 2.7-



mile path – said to be Truman's favorite walking route – provide information about Truman and the city of Independence. That small home in Lamar is today referred to as the Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site. It's another place you can visit and connect with Missouri's most famous political figure.



enjoy the show

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