



**PRESS RELEASE**  
White House Historical Association  
740 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

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For immediate release

Contact: Maria Downs  
202.737.8292 x240  
mdowns@whha.org

**TWO NEW BOOKS CHRONICLE PRESIDENTS  
AND FIRST LADIES OF THE UNITED STATES**

The new editions of *The Presidents of the United States* and *The First Ladies of the United States* contain updated biographies and color reproductions of the official portraits of the men and women who served as chief executives and first ladies. These editions are the first printing of the books to utilize digital files of the portraits, which have been created and color corrected in a six-year project with the assistance of the White House Curator's Office.

***THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***

By Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey

The oldest and most famous work found in the White House is the presidential portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart purchased by the U.S. government for \$800 on July 5, 1800. The full length portrait of General Washington set the policy for gathering works of art that serve primarily as historical documents. The integrity and principles of the father of our country served as a model for all other presidents to follow.

*The Presidents of the United States*, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> edition, is the second oldest publication of the White House Historical Association, first produced in 1964. The important stories of the lives and administrations of each of the 42 men who served as American president from George Washington through George W. Bush are illustrated by portraits in the White House collection. The profiles presented in the book reflect how each president, in his own way, has committed himself to Washington's first precedent: "The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty."

***THE FIRST LADIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***

By Margaret Brown Klapthor and Allida M. Black

Since the time of Martha Washington, first ladies have fascinated the American people. The world of first ladies is a small, magic circle of women, all of whom share the same public title, but not the same definition of herself or her role. In the forward, Laura Bush writes, “Throughout American history, first ladies have socialized, spoken out, and strengthened the cultural heritage we share as Americans. In this book you will find glimpses of how presidential spouses have defined their roles and shaped our nation.”

*The First Ladies of the United States*, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> edition, was first published by the White House Historical Association in 1975 and “chronicles the lives and legacies of a group of women uniquely called on to serve the American people.” Not all Presidents had wives while in the White House. Sisters, daughters, nieces, and other relatives have assumed the responsibility of White House hostess, or shared it as necessity required, often for widowed or bachelor presidents. Each woman has a unique story and an important place in history.

The White House Historical Association, established in 1961, is a non-profit organization whose goal is to enhance public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Executive Mansion. Proceeds from the association’s trusts, publications and other items are used to fund acquisitions of historic furnishings and artwork for the permanent White House collection, assist in the preservation of the public rooms, and further its educational mission.

The Presidents of the United States

ISBN: 185759 409 6

The First Ladies of the United States

ISBN: 185759 410 X

Pub date: 2006

\$6.95 per copy plus \$5.00 for packing and delivery

Order from: White House Historical Association  
P.O. Box 96586  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6586

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Maria Downs 202.789.0440**