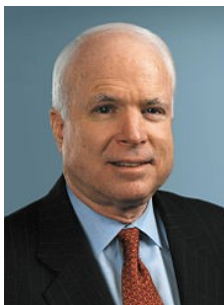


JOHN MCCAIN



John McCain was born on August 29, 1936 in the Panama Canal Zone. McCain's father and grandfather were both **admirals** in the United States Navy. After **graduating** from high school in Virginia young John followed the family tradition at the military school in Annapolis, Maryland. There he was a **rebel** and his **superiors** didn't always like what he was doing. Later on he became a navy pilot where he enjoyed shooting rockets and dropping off bombs.

In 1967 McCain **set out for** Vietnam where he took part in bombing missions over the northern part of the country. One day his plane was hit by a **missile** and McCain was **forced** to **eject**. He landed near Hanoi and had to spend the next five years as a prisoner of war.

After he was **released** in 1973 he had an **uneven** time back home. He **divorced** his first wife, which he had married in the 1960s and remarried in 1980. He gave up his Navy **career** and the **couple** moved to Arizona. In 1982 McCain was **elected** to the House of Representatives as a Republican and three years later became Senator of the same state.

John McCain was **re-elected** to the Senate twice and became one of the most popular American **politicians** there. In 2000 he decided to become a candidate for the presidency but he lost the **nomination** to George Bush. In 2004 he won his fourth Senate **term**. In the 2008 presidential **campaign** he came in first in almost all of the parties **primaries** and became the Republican presidential **nominee** in August 2008.

WORDS

- **admiral** = a very high officer in the navy
- **campaign** = movement or fight to become president
- **career** = the job that you have been trained for
- **couple** = pair
- **divorce** = to end your marriage
- **eject** = here: you press a button and your seat separates from the plane and you can land in safety before the plane crashes
- **force** = if you have to do something
- **graduate** = to complete college or high school
- **missile** = rocket
- **nomination** = here: when the party suggests a person as the official candidate
- **politician** = someone who works in politics or is a member of the government
- **primary** = party members vote for candidates from January to June of the election year
- **re-elect** = to elect again
- **release** = to set free
- **set out for** = to go to
- **superior** = a person who is in command of you
- **term** = period
- **uneven** = rough, not good

BARACK OBAMA



In 2005 Barack Obama, a Democrat, was elected a senator from Illinois. He quickly became very popular and a rising star in American politics.

He was born in 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father was from Kenya and his mother from Kansas. They had met as students at the University of Hawaii. When Obama was very young his parents divorced. His father went back to Kenya to work in the economy and his mother remarried and moved to Indonesia.

When Obama was 10 his mother sent him back to the United States, He studied at Columbia University and later on attended Harvard Law School. In the year that he got his degree he married Michelle Robinson. The couple have two daughters, Malia and Sa-

sha.

Obama became a civil rights lawyer in Chicago and also wrote a few books. In 1996 he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. In the 2004 elections he beat his Republican opponent by big margin.

In 2007 Obama announced that he would become a candidate for the Democratic nomination.

WORDS

- **announce** = to say officially
- **attend** = go to
- **beat** = to win against
- **civil rights** = the rights that every person should have , like the right to vote or to be treated fairly
- **couple** = two people who are married or have a relationship
- **degree** = a title you get when you have finished your studies at a university or college
- **divorce** = to break up a marriage
- **economy** =the buying and selling of goods in a country
- **elect** = when the people choose someone for an official job
- **lawyer** = a person who gives others information about the law or who defends others in court
- **margin** =here: very clearly
- **nomination** = here: when a party officially suggests someone to be their candidate for the Presidency
- **opponent** =here: the person who you fight against, your political rival
- **popular** =well known and liked
- **senator** = a member of the US Senate ; there are 100 Senators – two from each state
- **State Senate** = the senate of an American state