

[ William Howard Taft. (Accessed Jul. 20, 2023). Biography. Wikipedia. NOTE: **This biography omits inexplicably that in May 1920 Taft was appointed the first president of the English-Speaking Union, a "sister organization" to the British Pilgrims Society founded in 1902** to give an opportunity for the masses to participate in in the Pilgrims' plan to ANNEX America back into the imperial corporatist British Empire from their lofty elitist perch in the City of London. ]

# William Howard Taft

**William Howard Taft** (September 15, 1857 – March 8, 1930) was the 27th president of the United States from 1909 to 1913. He was the only president who also served as a Supreme Court chief justice. He was 5 feet 11 inches (1.80 m) tall and weighed over 350 pounds (160 kg) at the end of his presidency. It's known that he got stuck in a bathtub.

## Political career

Taft served as Solicitor General of the United States, a federal judge, Governor of the Philippines, and Secretary of War before being nominated for president in 1908 by the man who preceded him, Theodore Roosevelt. As a Republican president, Taft was most notable for trust-busting, in which he broke up large businesses that had too much control over the economy. Taft also expanded the civil service, improved the United States Postal Service and promoted world peace. Taft also started the tradition of the president pitching the first ball of the baseball season.<sup>[1]</sup> Early in life, Taft had played baseball. He was a good second baseman and could hit with power.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 1908 election

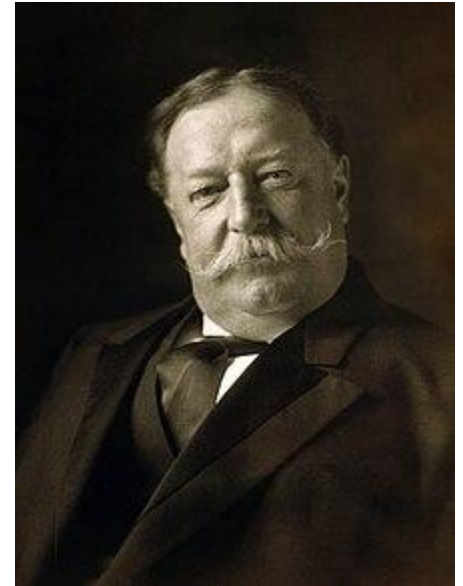
In 1908, with Theodore Roosevelt's support, William Taft was nominated as the Republican candidate for president. He easily won against William Jennings Bryan in the 1908 general election, and became president.

## 1912 election

During Taft's presidency, his relationship with Roosevelt became bad, because Roosevelt thought Taft was not doing a good job and taking too little actions against so-called trusts. Taft was also more conservative and he did not continue all of Roosevelt's progressive policies. As a result, in 1912, Theodore Roosevelt came back into politics and ran for president against William Taft. Many Republicans split their votes between Taft and Roosevelt, and the Democratic opponent Woodrow Wilson won the election.

## After the presidency

### William Howard Taft



Portrait c. 1909

#### 27th President of the United States

##### In office

March 4, 1909 – March 4, 1913

**Vice President** James S. Sherman

**Preceded by** Theodore Roosevelt

**Succeeded by** Woodrow Wilson

#### 10th Chief Justice of the United States

##### In office

July 11, 1921 – February 3, 1930

**Preceded by** Edward Douglass White

**Succeeded by** Charles Evans Hughes

#### Personal details

**Born** September 15, 1857  
Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.

In 1921, Taft was appointed by Warren Harding to be the 10th Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, making Taft the only former president to become Chief Justice.<sup>[3]</sup> He retired from the job on February 3, 1930 due to bad health.

## Bathtub

Taft was the most obese president.<sup>[4]</sup> He was 5 feet 11 inches (1.80 m) tall and his weight was between 325 pounds (147 kg) and 280 pounds (130 kg) toward the end of his presidency.<sup>[5]</sup> He had difficulty getting out of the White House bathtub, on June 10, 1909, so he had a 7-foot (2.1 m) long, 41-inch (1.0 m) wide tub installed. This tub could accommodate four normal-sized people. It was replaced in 1951 with a modern tub of similar size.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Death

Taft died on March 8, 1930 due to Heart Disease. Three days later, he became the first president to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Other websites and links

- Taft's White House biography (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/william-howard-taft/>)

## References

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2. Haas, Irvin (January 1991). *Historic Homes of the U.S. Presidents* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=p8RB1p8bNpwC&dq=william+howard+taft+second+baseman&pg=PA120>). p. 120. ISBN 9780486267517.
3. William Howard Taft, President and Chief Justice (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft/>)
4. Carnes, MC. William Howard Taft. McPherson, JM eds. *To the best of my ability: the American Presidents 2000, 188–194 Dorling Kindersley*. New York, NY:
5. Sotos, John G. (September 2003). "Taft and Pickwick". *Chest*. **124** (3): 1133–1142. doi:10.1378/chest.124.3.1133 (<https://doi.org/10.1378%2Fchest.124.3.1133>). PMID 12970047 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12970047/>).
6. The White House Museum: Master Bathroom (<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor2/master-bathroom.htm>)
7. "Arlington Cemetery" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130305140513/http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/History/Presidents/WilliamTaft.aspx>). Archived from the original (<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/History/Presidents/WilliamTaft.aspx>) on 2013-03-05. Retrieved 2013-05-02.

<b>Died</b>	March 8, 1930 (aged 72) <u>Washington, D.C.</u> , U.S.
<b>Political party</b>	Republican
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	Helen Herron Taft



William's wife, Helen Herron Taft

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Fourth of July Messages

NATIONAL NEWS

#### ESU of the United States, Chairman's Message

This year, as the ESU of the United States celebrates its 100th Anniversary, the world is dealing with a global pandemic of unparalleled magnitude, cries against racial injustice are echoing throughout our country and across the nations, and at the same time we remember two seminal events that occurred 75 years ago - the day when American, British and Allied forces combined together in Europe to drive the scourge of Nazism from our planet, and the day when nations of good will met together in San Francisco to sign the declaration that marked the establishment of the United Nations.



Far from being remote acts that adorn the pages of history books, both these events of 75 years ago are central and vital to what we are as an organization and both of them have significance as we face a world that has changed rapidly in six months, and shows no sign of reversal. The ties that bind America to the United Kingdom and to Europe, enshrined in the Atlantic Alliance, Nato and countless associations and affiliations that bring us together, are as necessary today as they ever were. Beware those who would decry or undermine bonds forged in blood in defense of liberty, freedom and tolerance. Our links extend far beyond the shores of Europe and, through our international outreach, the ESU is truly global in its desire for peace and fellowship between all people.

This weekend we celebrate the great national holiday of the United States, Independence Day. Justly proud, justly free and justly independent, the American Colonies set a new direction for the world when they eschewed the traditional norms of feudal governance, and broke new ground. As is often said, America is a 'work in progress' and the Black Lives Matter movement is a stark reminder that inequalities and institutionalized brutality still exist in our society. Our willingness as a nation to confront our inner demons and try, however imperfectly, to make things right is an attitude that is enshrined in America's psyche and which we have shared across the

world. It was written in the steadfast determination of those brave men and women who fought in Normandy, and it gave life to the UN Declaration.

As the ESU of the US celebrates our first century and as America remembers its 244 years as a nation, let us stand together as an organisation proud of our nation and equally proud of our international ESU family. Together, and across the oceans, we can link arms in fellowship and fearlessly face the brave new world that is upon us!

### **Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill, CBE**

Chairman, English Speaking Union of the United States

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## ESU of the Commonwealth, Chairman's Message

My greatest disappointment in current restrictions is the cancellation of the 4th July large party in my Cambridge college to celebrate the landmark centenary of the ESU of the United States. But if the Stars and Stripes cannot fly over Magdalene College with 200 or more glasses raised in your honor, I can at least send a message of warm greetings and heartfelt congratulation.



That we share a common language and common values is ever more important to our ESU mission in this troubled world where knowing how to communicate with civility and understanding is too often at a premium. It's my greatest wish that the ESUs of the US and of the Commonwealth should work ever more closely, revivifying our collaborations and exchanges of views, programs and people. It was during the First World War that Evelyn Wrench conceived the idea of a new organization to promote friendship and co-operation between our countries, a concord vital to the stability of the post-war international order. As we know, with the help of Walter Hines Page, US Ambassador to Britain, Wrench launched the ESU in London in June 1918, and was closely involved in establishing the sister ESU of the United States, with **William H. Taft as its first president, in May 1920.**

Half a century later, I came to the US for the first time— by an ESU branch-to-branch exchange between New Brunswick, NJ, and Colchester in the UK. Like hundreds of young people before and after, I benefited from the immense warmth and indelible generosity of the American people and an educational experience which transformed my life and stays with me today. By such exchanges – immersions in different cultures which can never be replicated by on-line meetings – and by the extraordinary range of ESU activities and programs to promote speech, debate and greater cultural understanding, we advance the ardent wish of Wrench that 'international relations should not be left to governments alone'. Today, our communities are increasingly and rightly multicultural, and yet are often more polarised. There has never been a greater need to understand different perspectives and opinions within and between our countries and across the world. And in the post-

Covid world inequalities and misunderstandings are likely to increase. We all need to listen to and evaluate other points of view; we need to disagree without being disagreeable. The ESU teaches these skills. The need to develop confident, civil communicators and critical thinkers in our ever-changing world has never been more important. Together we can proudly further this cause: my glass is raised. Congratulations and here's to another and even more successful hundred years....

**Professor James Raven, LittD FBA FSA**

Chairman, English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth

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