George Bush was born in Milton, Mass., June 12, 1924. He was graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., in 1942 and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Receiving his wings in 1943 at age 18, Ambassador Bush was the youngest pilot in the Navy.

He served from 1942 to 1944 as a carrier pilot in the Pacific, and won three Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross for "heroism and extraordinary achievement" after being shot down over the Bonin Islands. After one more year of naval service, now-Lieutenant Bush was honorably released from active duty in 1945.

He entered Yale University, completed his economics degree in two and a half years, and was graduated in 1948 a Phi Beta Kappa honor student, president of his class, and captain of the varsity baseball team.

From 1948 to 1966, he worked in the oil business in Texas and California, co-founding three companies. He was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate from Texas in 1964. In 1966, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 7th District and assigned to the influential Ways and Means Committee. He was re-elected without opposition in 1968.

During his congressional service, Ambassador Bush was active in legislation dealing with the problems of excessive government spending and inflation, a congressional code of ethics, national defense, and natural resources.

In 1970, he was Texas' Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate. From 1971 to 1973, Ambassador Bush was appointed and served as the U.S. representative to the United Nations, during which time the People's Republic of China was admitted to the U.N.

Ambassador Bush was then called to serve as Chairman of the Republican National Committee from January 1973 to September 1974, where he was publicly credited with holding the party together during Watergate.

In September 1974, Ambassador Bush traveled to Peking and served for more than a year as Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China. President Ford then appointed him to head the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976, a time when the Dallas Times Herald said, "... the CIA must have professional guidance that is two cuts above suspicion and reproach. George Bush can do that..."

Since 1977, Ambassador Bush has served on the boards of various leading corporations, campaigned actively for GOP candidates nationwide, and built the framework for his 1980 presidential campaign.

He married the former Barbara Pierce of Rye, N.Y., on Jan. 6, 1945, and is the father of five: George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. He is the grandfather of two.
Bush Officially Declares Candidacy . . . Sweeps Early GOP Poll in Iowa

George Bush formally announced plans to run for the Republican nomination for President May 1. Twenty-one days later, in a straw poll of active Iowa Republicans, Bush garnered 39.6 percent support—sweeping past all other potential GOP presidential contenders.

The poll was the forerunner of Iowa's bellweather precinct caucuses next January to select delegates to the 1980 convention, and in Bush's words proved "that a well-organized, broad-based campaign makes the difference . . ." (See box.)

Earlier in the month, before a packed audience at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Bush pledged "a new candor" in his campaign and in his presidency. "I can do the job—I will do the job—not with promises, not with rhetoric, but with the strength that comes to any American President who levels with the American people and earns their trust," he said.

He then took an unprecedented approach, following up the kickoff with a four-day swing through nine cities in seven early primary states. With key advisers and 30 members of the national press corps in tow, Ambassador Bush held rallies and press conferences in Hartford, Boston, Concord, N.H.; Burlington, Vt.; Augusta, Me.; Tallahassee and Miami, Fla.; Montgomery and Clanton, Ala.

The announcement swing ended back in Washington with a weekend appearance on NBC's "Meet The Press." The trip demonstrated prominent local support, professional advance planning, and George Bush's strength and energy—something political observers say is vital to winning the GOP nomination. It also illustrated Bush's promise "not to be out-organized by anyone."

"I enjoyed every minute of it," said a triumphant Bush on his way back home to Houston. Of the May 21 Iowa GOP straw poll victory, Bush said, "I am working to have all my organizations in the early primary states as strong as my Iowa team. That has been my plan . . . and now we are seeing the first results of this effort.

GEORGE BUSH FOR PRESIDENT:
What They're Saying

"Bush has been tabbed by White House politicos as a serious contender whose campaign must be closely watched."

NEWSWEEK ★

"Organization is the hallmark of the Bush campaign . . . he has developed an extensive network of key supporters in the crucial early states."

HOUSTON POST ★

"By age (55), appearance (handsome), location (Texas), and reputation (exemplary), George Herbert Walker Bush is clearly justified by experience and character to challenge the older leaders of the Republican Party for its Presidential nomination."

JAMES RESTON, NEW YORK TIMES ★

"If you were designing the bionic politician, you might want to study the blueprints for George Bush . . . There is no argument with Bush's record in the service of his country and his Party: it is one of sustained accomplishment."

THE NATIONAL REVIEW ★

"Bush would like to be everybody's No. 2 choice for President, not a farfetched wish for a politician who has no fanatical followers but loads of friends, scarcely a foe, and an impressive record of public service."

TIME MAGAZINE ★

"No one in the present pack is more qualified than Bush."

Syndicated Columnist NICK THIMMESCH ★

"Bush has done extensive pre-announcement campaigning and has demonstrated an ability to raise funds nationwide. He also has formed what is considered a strong nationwide steering committee directed by Rep. Barber Conable, R-NY, and a campaign staff respected by party professionals."

DALLAS NEWS ★

Bush . . . "has raised money, assembled a varied and experienced campaign staff and won important party allies in some critical early states, such as Iowa and New Hampshire."

THE NEW YORK TIMES ★

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