

# ***PEOPLE PYRAMID***

## **1940s**

### **Franklin D. Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 – April 12, 1945)**

- In the public's mind, he has been, by far, the most famous polio survivor.
- He was the only American President elected for more than two terms.
- He was the 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States serving from 1933 to 1945.

### **James Maitland "Jimmy" Stewart (May 20, 1908 – July 2, 1997)**

- Over the course of his career, he starred in many films widely considered as classics and was nominated for five Academy Awards®, winning one in competition and receiving one Lifetime Achievement award.
- He won the 1940 Academy Award® for Best Actor for starring in *The Philadelphia Story*.
- One of his best-known roles was for playing George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* in 1946.

### **Ingrid Bergman (August 29, 1915 – August 29, 1982)**

- She was a Swedish actress who starred in a variety of European and American films who won three Academy Awards® two Emmy® Awards, and the Tony® Award for Best Actress.
- She won the 1944 Academy Award® for Best Actress for her role in *Gaslight*.
- One of her best-known roles was for playing Ilsa Lund in *Casablanca* in 1942.

### **Bing Crosby (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977)**

- He was an American singer and actor whose trademark bass-baritone voice made him one of the best-selling recording artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with over half a billion records in circulation.
- He won the 1944 Academy Award® for Best Actor for his role as Father Chuck O'Malley in *Going My Way*.
- The biggest hit song of his career was his recording of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. He also starred in the 1956 motion picture, playing the character, Bob Wallace.

### **Alton Glenn Miller (March 1, 1904 – Missing in Action December 15, 1944)**

- He was an American jazz musician (trombone), arranger, composer, and bandleader in the swing era and was one of the best-selling recording artists from 1939 to 1943, leading one of the best-known Big Bands.
- The orchestra, named after him, was re-formed after World War II and continues to record and perform.
- Some of his most notable recordings include *In the Mood*, *Moonlight Serenade*, *Pennsylvania 6-5000*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *Tuxedo Junction*, and *Little Brown Jug*.

### **Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson (January 31, 1919 – October 24, 1972)**

- He was an American baseball player who became the first black Major League Baseball (MLB) player of the modern era.
- He broke the baseball color line when he debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, as the first black man to play in the major leagues since the 1880s. He was instrumental in bringing an end to racial segregation in professional baseball.
- He was selected for six consecutive All-Star Games from 1949 to 1954, was the recipient of the inaugural MLB Rookie of the Year Award in 1947, and won the National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1949, the first black player so honored.

## 1950s

### Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower (October 14, 1890 – March 28, 1969)

- During World War II, he served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe. He had responsibility for planning and supervising the invasion of North Africa in Operation Torch in 1942 and 1943 and the successful invasion of France and Germany in 1944 and 1945 from the Western Front.
- In 1951, he became the first supreme commander of NATO.
- He was a five-star general in the Army who later became the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States serving from 1953 to 1961.

### Humphrey Bogart (December 25, 1899 – January 14, 1957)

- He was an American actor who the American Film Institute ranked as the greatest male star in the history of American cinema.
- One of his best-known roles was for playing Rick Blaine in *Casablanca* in 1942.
- He won the 1951 Academy Award® for Best Actor for starring in *The African Queen*.

### Grace Patricia Kelly (November 12, 1929 – September 14, 1982)

- She was an American actress who embarked on an acting career in 1950, at the age of 20, who later appeared in New York City theatrical productions as well as in more than 40 episodes of live drama productions broadcast during the early 1950s Golden Age of Television.
- She won the 1954 Academy Award® for Best Actress for starring in *The Country Girl*.
- In April 1956, she married Rainier III, Prince of Monaco, to become the Princess of Monaco.

### Elvis Presley (January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977)

- He was one of the most popular American singers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and considered to be a cultural icon, widely known by his first name.
- Some of his greatest hits include *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Love Me Tender*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Jailhouse Rock*, and *Hound Dog*.
- Nominated for 14 competitive Grammys® (having won three), and having received the Grammy® Lifetime Achievement Award at age 36, he is often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll" or simply "The King."

### Lucille Désirée Ball (August 6, 1911 – April 26, 1989)

- She was an American comedienne, film, television, stage and radio actress, model, film and television executive, and star of popular sitcoms.
- In 1962, she became the first woman to run a major television studio, Desilu, a studio that produced many successful and popular television series.
- She is best known for starring in the creation of the television series *I Love Lucy* with her co-star, then husband, Desi Arnaz.

### **Joseph Paul "Joe" DiMaggio (November 25, 1914 – March 8, 1999)**

- He was an American Major League Baseball center fielder who played his entire 13-year career for the New York Yankees and was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1955.
- He is perhaps best known for his 56-game hitting streak (May 15 to July 16, 1941), a record that still stands.
- His nicknames include "Joltin' Joe" and "The Yankee Clipper."

### **1960s**

#### **John Fitzgerald "Jack" Kennedy (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963)**

- He represented Massachusetts's 11<sup>th</sup> congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1947 to 1953 as a Democrat and later served in the U.S. Senate from 1953 until 1960.
- Events during his Presidency included the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Cuban Missile Crisis, building of the Berlin Wall, Space Race, Civil Rights Movement, and early stages of the Vietnam War.
- He was the youngest-ever-elected President, and he served as the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, serving from 1961 until his assassination in 1963.

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)**

- He was an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement who has become a national icon.
- His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. One year later, he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other nonviolent means.
- Although he was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN, it wasn't until 1986 that a U.S. federal holiday was established in his honor.

#### **Louis Armstrong (August 4, 1901 – July 6, 1971)**

- He was an American jazz trumpeter and singer from New Orleans, LA.
- In 1964, he recorded his biggest-selling record, *Hello, Dolly!* that went to No. 1 on the pop chart, making him the oldest person to ever accomplish that feat at the age of 63.
- Nicknamed "Satchmo" and "Pops," he is also best known for his songs *What a Wonderful World* and *Mack the Knife*.

#### **Marion Mitchell Morrison "John Wayne" (May 26, 1907 – June 11, 1979)**

- He was an American film actor, director, and producer who epitomized rugged masculinity and is famous for his demeanor including his distinctive calm voice, walk, and height.
- He won the 1969 Academy Award® for Best Actor for his role as Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*.
- One of the greatest actors of Westerns, he is also famous for the leading roles in *The Shootist*, *Big Jake*, *Rio Bravo*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, and *The Alamo*.
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#### **Dame Elizabeth Rosemond "Liz" Taylor (February 27, 1932 – March 23, 2011)**

- She was a British-American actress who was recognized for her acting ability and glamorous lifestyle, beauty, and distinctive violet eyes.
- She won the 1960 Academy Award® for Best Actress for her role in *BUTterfield 8* and the 1966 Academy Award® for Best Actress for her role in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
- Her much publicized personal life included eight marriages and several life-threatening illnesses.

### **Muhammad Ali (born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr.) (January 17, 1942)**

- He is an American former professional boxer, philanthropist, and social activist who is considered to be a cultural icon.
- He was doing some spiritual searching and decided to join the black Muslim group, the Nation of Islam, in 1964.
- He won six Kentucky Golden Gloves titles, two national Golden Gloves titles, an Amateur Athletic Union national title, and the Light Heavyweight gold medal in the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome.

### **1970s**

#### **Richard Nixon (January 9, 1913 – April 22, 1994)**

- He served as a U.S. representative and senator from California.
- He is commonly known by the nickname "Tricky Dick."
- He served as the 37<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, serving from 1969 to 1974 and was the only President to resign the office.

#### **Margaret Thatcher (October 13, 1925)**

- She is a British politician and the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, serving from 1979 to 1990.
- She is the only woman to have served as the British prime minister.
- She is best known for her nickname, "The Iron Lady," for her firm opposition to the Soviet Union.

#### **Marlon Brando, Jr. (April 3, 1924 – July 1, 2004)**

- He is considered to be a famous actor who was the foremost example of "method acting."
- He was paid a record sum for a brief cameo in the movie *Superman* in 1978 and is known for his role as the main character in the movie *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- He received the 1954 Academy Award® for Best Actor for his role in *On the Waterfront* and the 1972 Academy Award® for Best Actor for his role in *The Godfather*.

#### **Sally Field (November 6, 1946)**

- She played the character Gidget in the series of the same name and continues to be a spokesperson for osteoporosis medication.
- She is a two-time Emmy® Award winner who became a household name at age 20 playing Sister Bertrille in the 1960s sitcom *The Flying Nun*.
- She received the 1979 Academy Award® for Best Actress for her role in *Norma Rae* and the 1984 Academy Award® for Best Actress for her role in *Places in the Heart*.

#### **John Winston Lennon (October 9, 1940 – December 8, 1980)**

- Along with fellow Beatles member, Paul McCartney, he formed one of the most successful songwriting partnerships of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- He married Yoko Ono and was later assassinated in 1980 at the age of 40.
- He was an English musician and singer-songwriter who rose to worldwide fame as one of the founding members of The Beatles, famous for songs including *Imagine*, *Revolution*, and *Strawberry Fields Forever*.

### **Mark Spitz (February 10, 1950)**

- He was a famous American Olympic swimmer and the most successful athlete at the 1972 Summer Olympics.
- He was named World Swimmer of the Year in 1969, 1971, and 1972.
- He won a record seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, an achievement only recently surpassed in 2008 by Michael Phelps, who won eight gold medals.

### **1980s**

#### **Ronald Reagan (February 6, 1911 – June 5, 2004)**

- A screen test in 1937 won him a contract in Hollywood, and during the next two decades, he appeared in 53 films.
- On January 20, 1981, he took the office as President of the United States. Only 69 days later, he was shot by a would-be assassin, but quickly recovered and served as President until 1989.
- In 1994, he disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease earlier that year, and he died at the age of 93 in 2004.

#### **Harrison Ford (July 13, 1942)**

- He is an American film actor and producer who has had five of his films inducted into the National Film Registry.
- His career has spanned six decades and includes roles in several Hollywood blockbusters, one of which he was nominated for the 1985 Academy Award® for Best Actor for his role in *Witness*.
- He is best known for his performances as Han Solo in the original *Star Wars* trilogy and as the main star of the *Indiana Jones* film series.

#### **Meryl Streep (June 22, 1949)**

- She is an American actress who has worked in theatre, television, and film and is considered to be one of the most talented film actresses of the modern era.
- In 2009, she starred in the film, *Julia and Julia*, playing the role of Julia Child.
- She has received a record 17 Academy Award® nominations and has received three Academy Awards® for her roles in *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), *Sophie's Choice* (1982), and most recently for her role playing Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady* (2011).

#### **Michael Jackson (August 29, 1958 – June 25, 2009)**

- He is an American musician and entertainer whose successful music career and controversial personal life have been at the forefront of pop culture for the last quarter-century.
- He began his musical career at the age of seven as the lead singer of The Jackson 5 and made his first solo recordings in 1971 while remaining a member of the group.
- In his solo career, he recorded and co-produced the best-selling album of all time, *Thriller*, received 13 Grammy® awards, charted 13 No. 1 singles in the U.S., and has estimated sales of over 750 million records worldwide.

### **Oprah Winfrey (January 29, 1954)**

- She is an American media proprietor, talk show host, actress, producer, and philanthropist, who according to some assessments, is the most influential woman in the world.
- She has been ranked the richest African-American of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the greatest black philanthropist in American history, and was, for a time, the world's only black billionaire.
- She has been seen nationally since September 8, 1986, when her TV show became the No. 1 daytime talk show in national syndication in less than a year.

### **Mary Lou Retton (January 24, 1968)**

- She is an American gymnast and Olympic gold medalist.
- For her performance in the 1984 Olympics, she was named *Sports Illustrated* magazine's "Sportswoman of the Year" and appeared on a Wheaties® box, becoming the cereal's first official spokeswoman.
- She was the first female gymnast from outside Eastern Europe to win the Olympic all-around title, also winning four additional medals in the 1984 Olympics including silver in the team competition and horse vault and bronze in the floor exercise and uneven bars.

### **1990s**

### **George Herbert Walker Bush (June 12, 1924)**

- At the age of 18, he became the Navy's youngest commissioned pilot, serving from 1942 to 1945, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- He served as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the United States from 1981 to 1989, a congressman, an ambassador, and director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- He was the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the United States from 1989 to 1993, and his eldest son later served as President from 2001 to 2009.

### **William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton (August 19, 1946)**

- He was the 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States, serving from 1993 to 2001.
- Prior to his election as President, he served a total of nearly 12 years as the 50<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Arkansas.
- He was one of only two Presidents in American history to be impeached and is married to the current U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary.

### **Thomas Jeffrey "Tom" Hanks (July 9, 1956)**

- He is an American actor, producer, writer, and director, who has starred in Oscar®-nominated roles in *Big*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Cast Away*.
- He received the Distinguished Public Service Award, the U.S. Navy's highest civilian honor, on Veterans' Day in 1999 for his work in the movie *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).
- He won the 1993 Academy Award® for Best Actor starring in *Philadelphia* and the 1994 Academy Award® for Best Actor starring in *Forrest Gump*.

### **Whitney Houston (August 9, 1963 – February 11, 2012)**

- She is an iconic American pop and R & B singer, songwriter, actress, film producer, and former model.
- She is the only artist to chart seven consecutive No. 1 *Billboard* Hot 100 hits, and has won six Grammys® for her songs including *Saving All My Love for You*, *Greatest Love of All*, *I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)*, and *It's Not Right But It's Okay*.
- Her first acting role was as the star of the feature film *The Bodyguard* in 1992, whose original soundtrack won the 1994 Grammy® Award for Album of the Year, and her lead single, *I Will Always Love You*, became the best-selling single by a female artist in music history.

### **William Henry "Bill" Gates III (October 28, 1955)**

- He is an American business magnate, investor, philanthropist, and author and best-known entrepreneurs of the personal computer revolution.
- He is consistently ranked among the world's wealthiest people and was the wealthiest overall from 1995 to 2009, excluding 2008, when he was ranked third.
- During his career at Microsoft, he held the positions of CEO and chief software architect and remains the largest individual shareholder, with 6.4% of the common stock.

### **Lance Armstrong (September 18, 1971)**

- He is a retired American professional road racing cyclist who was named the *ABC Wide World of Sports* Athlete of the Year in 1999.
- He is most famous for winning the Tour de France a record of seven consecutive times from 1999 to 2005.
- These amazing feats were accomplished several years after brain surgery and extensive chemotherapy in 1996 to treat cancer that had metastasized to his brain and lungs.