

David Hume Kennerly

Pulitzer Prize Winner and Former Chief White House Photographer

Behind the Scenes of History. A magical mystery tour with Kennerly through some of the major events of the last 50-plus years as seen through his eyes and camera. From the night Robert Kennedy was shot, to the battlefields of Vietnam, Watergate, the resignation of Nixon and the swearing-in of President Ford. His talk takes you in the room with President Ford as he ended the Vietnam War; Egyptian President Sadat's historic trip to Israel; the horrors of Jonestown; inside Reagan and Gorbachev's Fireside Summit in Geneva; in the governor's mansion with George W. Bush as the 2000 election ended in a tie; riding with President and Mrs. Obama's in an elevator on Inaugural night 2009, and with Trump the night he won the presidential election in 2016. Kennerly was there for all of that and more. He will take you along for the photographic ride of your life.

Presidential Imagery from George Washington to Joe Biden. When we think of George Washington the image that comes to mind is his face as depicted on the dollar bill. But we don't know what he really looked like because the pictures of him are all paintings. John Quincy Adams, our 6th president, was the first to be photographed in 1843 after he left office. Abraham Lincoln was the first American politician to really understand the power of an image. John F. Kennedy used his family and youthful good looks to photographic advantage and to win the election. LBJ had the first civilian photographer documenting his presidency, and so it went with all the presidents after. David Kennerly was the third civilian to be the personal photographer to the president, and he will illustrate the importance that image and photography have played in shaping our understanding of US Presidents, including his own experiences and pictures of eleven of them, from LBJ to Biden.