



MEDIA RELEASE
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BRICK STORE MUSEUM SALUTES PRESIDENT'S 85th BIRTHDAY

KENNEBUNK, MAINE – With former President George H. W. Bush's 85th birthday on June 12 comes an opportunity to reflect upon what he has meant to the Kennebunks, as well as what the Kennebunks—so often referred to as his “anchor to windward”—have meant to him. The Brick Store Museum unveils *Happy Birthday, “41”!* on Friday, June 12, as its newest History Showcase display, made possible by the Museum's business partners, Ocean Bank, Captain Jefferds Inn, Captain Lord Mansion, and Kennebunk Savings Bank. History Showcases are temporary displays that change throughout the year and address a timely theme, current event or new acquisition, thus ensuring that visitors are always seeing something new.

President Bush has frequently stated that he has returned to the Kennebunks every year but one, when he was serving his country in WWII. While the world has come to know George H. W. Bush as congressman, ambassador, Director of the CIA, Vice President and 41st President of the United States, to many locals he is the neighbor, friend, golf or fishing companion affectionately known simply as “41.” This commemorative display draws primarily from the Museum's Bradbury and Kippax collections, replete with memorabilia telling not so much the national story as the story of the unique Maine connection. Personal snapshots, thank-you notes, Kennebunkport souvenirs, local headlines, campaign buttons, and invitations to area events juxtapose statesman Bush with citizen Bush and illustrate the intersection of the international political stage with the village green. The iconic home on Walker's Point that served as the “Summer White House” and backdrop to so many news anchors' reports is also a retreat, a gathering place where the Bushes reconnect with family and friends, relive memories and create new ones.

This birthday salute includes a giant card upon which visitors can pen their greetings, which will be presented to the President later this summer. In addition, the display encourages locals to document their own recollections of the President, First Family, press corps, and Secret Service over the years. These anecdotes will be added to the Museum's archival collections chronicling the President's enduring presence in the community.

Happy Birthday, “41”! will be on view throughout the summer. The Brick Store Museum is located at 117 Main Street, Kennebunk. Hours are Tuesdays – Fridays, 10 – 4:30 and Saturdays, 10 – 1 (closed holidays). Admission is by donation, suggested \$5 per person. Visit www.brickstoremuseum.org or call 207-985-4802 for further information.

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