

Presidents With Hearing Loss

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AccuNotes newsletter result:

Open rate	Click through rate
Patients - 27.38%	Patients - 18.8%
Non-patient - 21.37%	Non-patient -21.55%

On September 7, 1983, Ronald Reagan made his first official public appearance while wearing hearing aids.

While this moment may seem insignificant to some, at the time, it sparked debate questioning a number of factors regarding Reagan's role as the leader of the free world. Focus on his political agenda shifted to whether his age would be a factor in his decision to run for reelection the following year, or if his auditory condition could negatively impact his decision-making process.

Needless to say, Reagan continued to serve as President for another five years, cementing his legacy as one of the most revered presidents for his party despite any lingering doubts due to his [hearing loss](#). His decision to make his auditory damage publicly known not only indicated strength in audible impairment activism, but also signaled progression by displaying the utmost confidence in new hearing aid technology.

Reagan's hearing loss dated all the way back to the 1930s, when his right ear became permanently impaired when he stood too close to a gunshot while filming a movie. His hearing problems were definitely not a secret among friends, family and the press, and for the prior four years before wearing hearing aids, he was receiving auditory treatment from Dr. John William House, an associate with the House Ear Institute.

At the time, hearing loss wasn't as widely recognized of an ailment as it is today and seeking treatment for improving your auditory ability was often scoffed at. While wearing glasses to help you see was never questioned as a

sign of weakness, hearing aids were generally considered a trait of aging, despite auditory impairment affecting millions of people of all ages. For those who questioned Reagan's health during his administration, it's difficult to think that hearing loss set back someone who was living with the condition throughout his progression from a notable Hollywood actor to one of the most recognized faces in politics of all time.

A new political face for hearing loss

More than a decade later, President Bill Clinton stepped out in public wearing a new pair of hearing aids. Whereas Reagan was fitted for hearing aids at age 72, Clinton was 51 at the time of receiving his first auditory devices, which helped the country understand that hearing loss is not an issue that pertains only to the elderly.

It was reported that Clinton had complained to those close to him about his worsening hearing condition for several years until finally seeking treatment, emphasizing how the ultimate step toward preventing hearing loss symptoms is through receiving immediate audiological help. Clinton attributed his frequent band practices and saxophone jam sessions as the leading contributor to his auditory damage, and mainly used his hearing aids to help eliminate background noise, a common side effect for sensorineural hearing loss development. The president also used completely-in-ear style devices, a fairly new design at the time that perhaps persuaded people to reconsider the common stereotype that hearing aids are clunky and oversized.

While these two men may differ in politics, what's evident with both of them was that besides being considered some of the most powerful men on the planet, they acknowledged a health imperfection, and chose to act upon it. For those who are audibly impaired, wearing hearing aids is a decision that will improve your quality of life, and it all starts by scheduling an appointment with an [audiologist](#) or hearing health care professional to decide when you want to make a revolutionary change. Prompt treatment is the only way to prolong auditory enhancement.