

**50 Years of The Beverly Hilton
Business / Politics Narrative Highlights**

- **The Bi-Partisan Beverly Hilton:** Every President from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton has stayed in The Beverly Hilton's prestigious Presidential Suite within the Penthouse Collection. With a legacy of political involvement by the Hilton family, The Beverly Hilton became a stomping ground for Democrats and Republicans alike from the day it opened in 1955.
- **A Warm Welcome:** A close friend of the Hilton family, then Vice-President Richard Nixon, participated in the flag raising ceremony for the grand opening of the hotel on August 10, 1955. In Nixon's speech, he launched The Beverly Hilton in a category all its own, recalling a time when Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills was mostly farmland, but had now been replaced by "the most sumptuous hotel in the world."
- **The West Coast White House:** In 1960, The Beverly Hilton was the home of the Democratic National Convention's closing ceremony. The Democratic nominee – John F. Kennedy, who was running against Republican candidate Richard Nixon – chose to make camp at The Beverly Hilton. Throughout the election and JFK's tenure as President, the charismatic leader resided in the Presidential Suite while in Southern California, becoming a regular among the Hollywood starlets and crooners who were fixtures at the legendary hotel. The only downside of his stays at The Beverly Hilton ... landing Marine 1. Since the hotel's main driveway could not aptly accommodate the president's helicopter, JFK often had to "park" (or "land" as the case may be) on the Robinson's parking lot next to the hotel or the field at Beverly Hills High School.
- **A Long Way to the Top:** Eccentric billionaire, movie mogul and pioneer aviator Howard Hughes frequented The Beverly Hilton in the early 1960s. Fred Hayman, the hotel's original Director of Banquets, who lived in the hotel during his tenure, recalled the momentous occasion of sharing an elevator with Hughes once. Why was the event such an occasion? It's rumored that despite the fact that the idiosyncratic entrepreneur only reserved rooms on the eighth floor; Hughes always took the stairs all the way to the top.
- **Actor Turned Governor – Part One:** As California natives and great friends of the Hilton family, Ronald and Nancy Reagan shared many important memories at The Beverly Hilton. Not only did both President and First Lady Reagan attend the hotel's grand opening in 1955 (then of course, they were "Hollywood couple" Ronnie and Nancy Reagan), when President Reagan began his gubernatorial race in 1966, he chose the iconic hotel as the location for his largest press conference. Nearly 30 years later, the famous couple singled out The Beverly Hilton as the most fitting place to celebrate President Reagan's 80th birthday dinner gala.

- **Actor Turned Governor – The Sequel:** After the 2004 elections, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger hosted a “Join Arnold” victory party at The Beverly Hilton sponsored by the California Recovery Team. The bi-partisan affair to celebrate the success of state propositions supported by the governor was deemed the hottest election night ticket for Republicans.
- **If These Walls Could Talk ...:** As home of the Milken Institute’s Global Conference and the 2005 California State of the State Conference, The Beverly Hilton plays host to nearly 3,000 of the world’s most extraordinary thinkers and decision makers in the fields of business, politics, science and medicine, including media mogul Rupert Murdoch, General Wesley Clark, Vice-President Al Gore and seven Nobel Prize winners. Within the walls of The Beverly Hilton’s International Ballroom, these leaders discussed issues such as the future of Social Security, the intersection of politics and the media, the economic impact of growing countries and how to cure diseases more efficiently.