



Tombstone of Vice President Henry Wilson — 1812-1875 Vice president 1873-1875 during Ulysses S. Grant's presidency



Grant's Tomb



Cal Coolidge: no mention that he was a U.S. President

"Honest Abe"



## TJ FALLON, Grave Visitor, Jackson, New Jersey

"I asked to be May in this calendar because May is the friendliest towards presidents," TJ said. "May is the only month in which no president died."

TJ's passion for visiting graves — 165 graves in five months in 2020, averaging more than a grave a day — was not a life-long dream. It came about from the pandemic. He had free time on his hands after being furloughed.

"I grew tired of being locked down and wanted to get out. I googled for ideas. I don't know why, but I typed in 'famous gravesites in New Jersey'. Grover Cleveland's grave in Princeton popped up."

The next day, he hopped in his car and drove to Princeton. "The grave was stunningly simple. It didn't even have President of the United States written on it."

When he returned home, he did more research and noticed two founding fathers' graves, Aaron Burr and John Witherspoon, were also at the Princeton cemetery: He returned for a second visit.

"I began to wonder whether anyone had ever visited all of the graves like this. From out of nowhere, the idea that I could do that popped into my mind. I started researching and making lists (I love ticking things off lists.) And making travel plans."

My mother, a nurse for 45 years, was concerned about my visting cemeteries because of COVID. I pointed out to her dead people don't have COVID.

TJ visited all 39 graves of presidents, all 34 graves of vice presidents, 53 of the 56 graves of signers of the Declaration of Independence (one was buried at sea, two are buried on inaccessible private property), and all 39 signers of the Constitution.

The pandemic was a good time to visit the graves. Normally they are crowded, especially the big three: Washington's, Lincoln's, and JFK's. Most of the graves lack the grandeur of these three and Grant's Tomb in New York City. Most are in humble locations with crumbling tombstones and illegible epitaphs.

"The visits spiderwebbed out. I'd spot tourist signs I felt compelled to follow. On the way to Eisenhower's grave in Kansas, I followed a sign to the house where the In Cold Blood murders took place. Ironically, when I got there and stepped out of the car, a barking watchdog ran towards me, chased me away."

"It's gratifying to be asked to speak about what I've been doing. I've been busy speaking to historical societies, libraries, and schools. They are truly interested. The Q&As last longer than my talk."



## DAVE CLARK

'Dustbin Dave', Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk



With his boundless enthusiasm for rubbish bins, Dave is truly celebrating the ordinary. Put a bin in front of him, he'll talk about it for hours. He'll cover all aspects: shape, size, colours, signage, size of the opening, and location.

"For me, a fun bin is one that makes you smile as you walk pass by it. It brightens your day. Attractive bins draw people in. The more people notice a bin, the more likely they will use it, every bin has its own unique qualities."

Dave has created a lot of "binterest". Bins have been under the radar for far too long. This is changing. Bin awareness is finally on the rise thanks to people like Dave talking about bins on radio, TV, and social media. People have posted hundreds of bin photos on his "Bins Fantastic" page on Facebook.

"My favorite bin is one advertising Fab ice cream lollies. "They are so colourful and expressive. The company, BDH Tullford, offered one to me so went to their office in Norwich to collect it. I was gobsmacked. I now use it as a home recycling unit."

"I like the plain, simple bins local councils issue as well. There's an elegance about them. Subtle differences. The colors vary from area to area, which makes them even more interesting."

"I became fascinated with watching binmen when I was seven years old. I'd watch them empty the bins on our street, the way they put them on the back of the truck, the hoist lifting the bin and tipping it into the truck, tipping it several times to get it all out."

"I loved it when my dad, who passed away last year, took me along on trips to the dump. It blew my mind looking at all the stuff people were unloading from their cars. There were skips for everything, all neatly arranged: books, clothes, appliances, fences, concrete, carpet, recyclable paper and plastic, scrap metal, asbestos."

Self-employed, Dave mainly does gardening and window cleaning. "I'm constantly filling bins with waste. I have a small ladder for climbing into the bins and pack down the waste. It's surprising how much more room this makes. I haul waste and other unwanted items to the dump in my trailer. I arrange it the same way the skips at the dump are arranged." Something to behold indeed.

