

features

©2011 by Robert H. Leos

Visiting Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan

In late October and early November, Nancy and I embarked on a two-pronged excuse to take a driving trip to the west coast. The first reason was for a celebration of Nancy's decision to "retire" from the full-time medical transcription work she has performed for the past twenty something years. The second reason was to attend the American Evaluation Association conference in Anaheim, California. Both reasons were enough to warrant a trip by car so that we could visit friends in El Paso before the conference, in West Covina, California after the conference and in Oceanside, California after the visit in West Covina.

Prior to making final arrangements for the trip, it occurred to us that there are two presidential libraries within two hours of each other. The closest one to Anaheim, the Richard Nixon Library, is in Yorba Linda, California, a mere half hour away from Anaheim, the conference location. We decided to stop in Yorba Linda before checking into the conference hotel.

The second presidential library, the Ronald Reagan Library, is in Simi Valley, about two hours north of Anaheim, through downtown Los Angeles, and west toward the Pacific Ocean. We decided to visit that library on Wednesday morning before any of the formal conference activities began later that afternoon.

Paisano Pete, welcoming visitors to Fort Stockton, Texas, a regular stop for gas after a long stretch from Austin and before a long stretch to El Paso, the first real stop on this trip.



Visiting the Richard Nixon Library was relaxed, very calm, with staff exceptionally eager to speak with visitors and show them through the helicopter that President Nixon used for his last departure from the White House. Nixon's birthplace is on the grounds of the library, and contrary to what even many Californians believe, the house was there before the library. In other words, they built the library around the childhood home. The only alteration to the house was installation of a foundation, installed while the house was raised in its entirety. Both President and Mrs. Nixon are buried on the library's grounds.

Photos: Richard M. Nixon's birthplace and childhood home in Yorba Linda, California, a bust of President Nixon at the library, the helicopter that carried Nixon from the White House for the last time, the reflecting pool on the grounds of the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library.



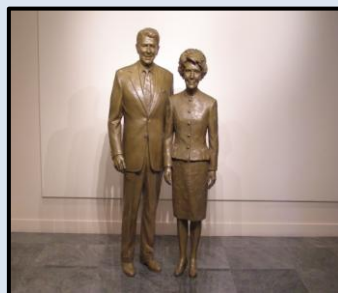
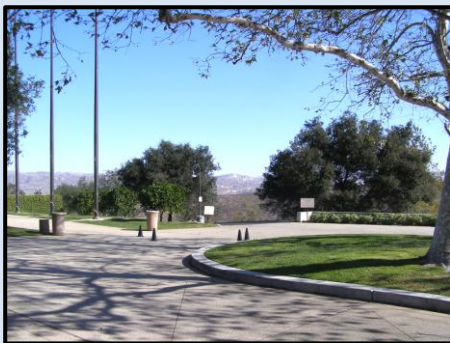
The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Making the trip to Simi Valley, California, to visit the Reagan Library was not calm and relaxed as was the trip to Yorba Linda. We knew that the trip through downtown Los Angeles at rush hour would be a challenge but we had satellite radio, music, and coffee for the trip. What we didn't know was that the infamous Santa Ana winds would begin kicking up about mid-morning.

The trip through the traffic gridlock in Los Angeles was slow and go for about an hour or so until we cleared the downtown area on "the 5," as Interstate 5 is known. We passed through Burbank and continued north until we reached the westward bound highway leading to Simi Valley. This leg of the trip is the most memorable, but not necessarily in a positive way. The winds were ferocious! The gusts would hit the car so hard that I had to work hard to keep the car in the lane.

We reached Simi Valley and toured the library with many more visitors than we had seen at the Nixon Library the day before. The CIA was having an event at the library so the atmosphere and security was at a totally different level. The staff were monitors more than helpful and informative. All in all, however, it was fun touring Reagan's Air Force One and visiting the Ronald Reagan Pub.

Photos: Panoramic view of Simi Valley from the Reagan Library, a section of the Berlin Wall at the Reagan Library, a statue of President Reagan at the entrance to the library, Air Force One used by President Reagan, a statue of President and Mrs. Reagan, and a statue of Reagan and Gorbachev.



Robert H. Leos, Ph.D.

Consulting Services

ROBERT LEOS, Ph.D.

Consulting Services

Advisory Services

- Policy Analysis
- Strategic Planning
- Editorial Review
- Executive Training, Texas Process

Research and Evaluation

- Focus groups and field research; case studies
- References on request

FEATURES is a publication of www.robertleos.com. All photos by Robert H. Leos
Copyright 2011 by Robert H. Leos.

See my LinkedIn website: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/robertleos>

Follow [@rhomer23](https://twitter.com/rhomer23) on Twitter

