History of U.S. Presidents visiting Syracuse

Syracuse (WSYR-TV) - President Obama's visit on Thursday is the latest in a long line of Syracuse appearances by American presidents.

The Onondaga Historical Association tells NewsChannel 9 that the very first US president to visit the city was Martin Van Buren back in 1839.

Other visits by sitting U.S. presidents include Lyndon B. Johnson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Bill Clinton.

Lyndon B. Johnson paid two visits to Syracuse during his presidency.

The most famous being at the 1964 dedication of the Newhouse School at Syracuse University.

It was here that he delivered the Gulf of Tonkin speech which ushered in an escalation of fighting in Vietnam.

Bill Clinton also made Syracuse appearances with a trip to the State Fair and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had previously served as New York’s governor, paid a return visit in 1936.

More than a dozen presidents have passed through Syracuse either before, during or after their time in the White House.

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