

"The First Lady is, and always has been, an unpaid public servant elected by one person, her husband." ~Lady Bird Johnson

CLAUDIA ALTA TAYLOR JOHNSON

First Lady (1963–1969)

Claudia (Lady Bird) was born on December 22, 1912 in Karnack, Texas, the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Taylor and Minnie Patillo.

Lady Bird was given her nickname at birth and when her mother died when she was only five years old, she was raised by her aunt. She obtained her B.A. from the University of Texas in journalism and also received a teaching certificate.

Lady Bird met Lyndon Johnson while visiting a family friend and they married two months later on November 17, 1934 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas. Lady Bird was 21 years old. Lady Bird and Lyndon had two children: Lynda Bird and Lucy Baines.

They settled in Washington, D.C. where Lady Bird began to build bridges to her husband's constituents. She also bought radio station KTCB and made it a success.

When Lyndon was elected Vice President, Lady Bird saw her role as a helpmate to Jackie Kennedy and in that role, she traveled over 120,000 miles and visited 30 countries.

When she became First Lady unexpectedly, she moved into a black-draped White House. It took some time for the public to accept her in her new role.

In 1964, Lady Bird became the first First Lady to campaign for her husband by herself. She left Washington on a train (known as the "Lady Bird Special") and traveled 1,682 miles and spoke at 47 stops.

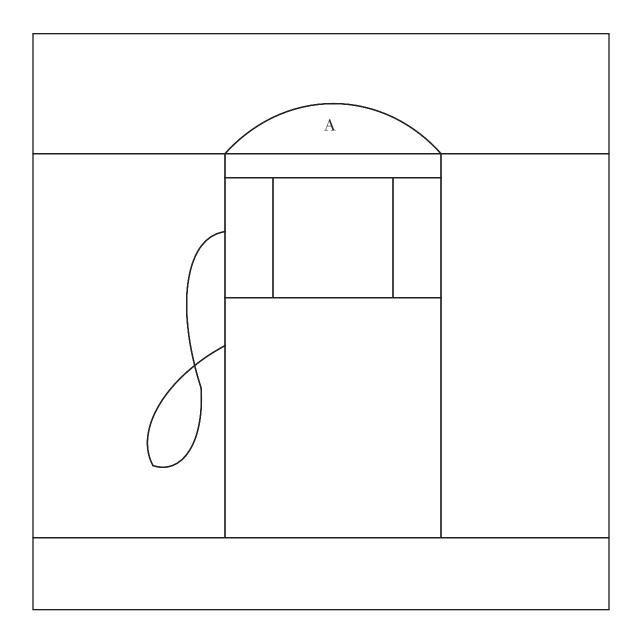


She was well known for her interest in beautifying the landscape of America and the Highway Beautification Bill of 1965 was dubbed the "Lady Bird Bill." She kept a diary that was later published and became a best seller.

Lady Bird died of natural causes in her home on July 11, 2007 at the age of 94.

Lady Bird's Campaign

Lady Bird's block recognizes that she never put more than five gallons of gas in her car while campaigning, giving her an excuse to stop in rural towns and make connections with the local town folk.



Lady Bird's Campaign Making the Block

Cut:

Color	Number of Pieces	Size
Brown	1	1½" x 7"
Red	1	2¾" x 3"
	1	1¾" x ¾"
	2	1" x 2"
	1	Template A
Yellow	1	1¾" x 1¾"
Blue	1	2" x 7"
	2	2½" x 4½"

Piece together the background and appliqué Template A according to the block design. Embroider the gas hose as illustrated or use a ribbon. Draw or embroider the word "GAS" on the bottom red section of the gas tank.