

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute and elect this 22nd President for the United States of America, Harry S. Truman.



## ELIZABETH VIRGINIA WALLACE TRUMAN

*First Lady (1945–1953)*

Elizabeth (Bess) was born on February 13, 1885 in Independence, Missouri, the daughter of David Willock Wallace and Madge Gates.

She grew up with Harry Truman and graduated Independence High School with him. Because her father committed suicide that year and her mother retreated into herself, Bess took on family obligations and postponed furthering her education. She later attended the Barstow School in Kansas City and enjoyed participating in tennis, basketball and shot put.

Over her mother's objection, Bess and Harry began to date and they were engaged in 1913. After 4 years of engagement, Bess wanted to get married when the war started in 1917 but Harry had enlisted and wanted to wait until he returned from the conflict. When she was 34, Bess married Harry on June 28, 1919 in Independence, Missouri. They had one child, Mary Margaret.

When she became First Lady, she decided to be different from her predecessor, and she immediately cancelled the weekly press conferences which led to a cool reception with the press corps.

She was a close advisor to her husband during his presidency and was so miffed that he dropped the atomic bomb without consulting her, she left the White House and went home to Missouri.

Bess died on October 18, 1972 at the age of 97.

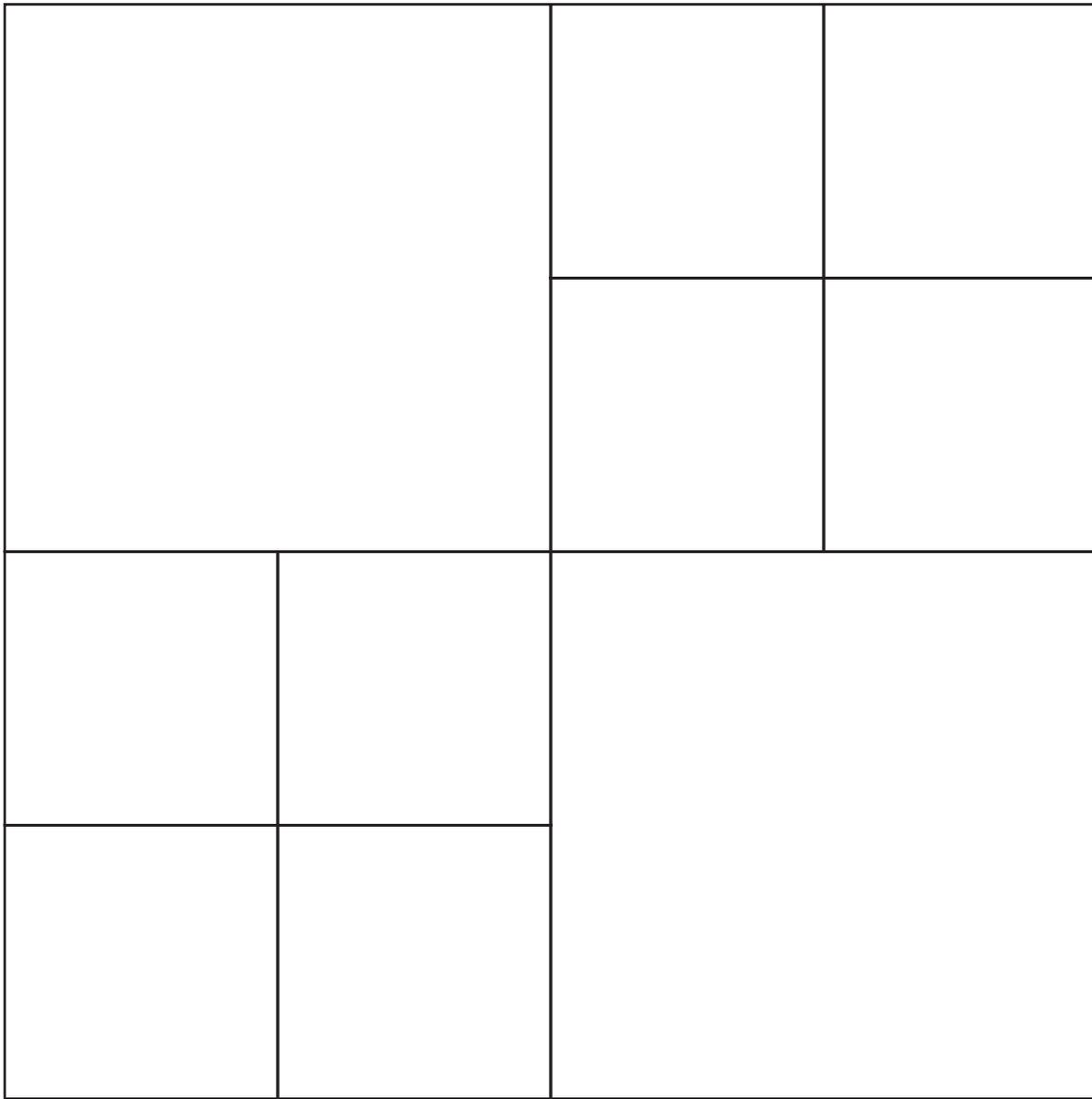
*"A woman's place in public is to sit beside her husband, be silent, and be sure his hat is on straight."*

*~Bess Truman*



### No Mess Bess

Bess's block was created to portray her dedication to order and cleanliness. She spent the beginning of her time in the White House cleaning and cooking.



**No Mess Bess**  
 Making the Block

Cut:

| Color     | Number of Pieces | Size      |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Red       | 2                | 3½" x 3½" |
| Blue      | 4                | 2" x 2"   |
| Off White | 4                | 2" x 2"   |