



Evans, Michael: Files, 1985

Finding Aid Type

White House Staff and Office File Collections

Subtitle/Office

White House Photographic Office: Personal Photographer to the President

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Record Type

Textual

Biography

Biography

Michael Arthur Worden "Mike" Evans was born on June 21, 1944 and died of cancer on December 1, 2005. Evans was an American newspaper, magazine, and presidential photographer.

Evans was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of a Canadian diplomat and a registered nurse. Evans lived in Havana, Cuba and Cape Town, South Africa during his boyhood years. His first job, at the age of 15, was at the *Port Hope Evening Guide* in Ontario, Canada. Over the years, he had worked as a photographer at *The Plain-Dealer* in Cleveland, Ohio, *The New York Times* and *Time* magazine. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize while working for the New York Times.

He was President Ronald Reagan's personal photographer during his first term as president from 1981 through 1985.

After he left his job at the White House, Evans returned to *Time* as a contract photographer for several years. Evans later became the photographer editor for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, creating computer software for digital cataloging systems.

Evans was married to Story Shem in 1983, a former Carter administration aide and founding partner of Arrive, a Washington communications firm. They had six children.

Evans was a lifetime National Press Photographers Association member and worked as the chief technical officer for ZUMA Press.

Michael Evans began shooting candidate Ronald Reagan as a photographer for *Time*, when Reagan first ran for the Republican nomination for President in 1976. Evans continued to document his political career, moving to Washington, DC, in 1980 as the White House Photographer for four years.

During his "off-hours," he founded The Portrait Project," a nonprofit designed to photograph powerful people in Washington. Evans' portraits of 595 Washington personalities became a 1985 exhibit at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and a 1986 book *People and Power: Portraits from the Federal Village*. This collection of photographs by Evans is currently available for research use and both [the images](#) and the

[inventory](#) can be found on our website (www.reaganlibrary.gov).

Some notable photos by Evans include the iconic photo of [Ronald Reagan in a cowboy hat](#), [Nancy Reagan](#) peering around the press room door with a birthday cake as a surprise for her husband, and various images of the Ronald Reagan [assassination attempt](#) by John Hinckley.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is arranged into one series: SERIES I: Chronological File.

This series consists of material related to requests for appointments with the President arranged by Michael Evans; requests for Presidential messages; equipment in the White House photo office; suggestions for photo opportunities for the President; recommendations for Presidential participation in certain events; various administrative needs for the White House Photographic Office; and personal correspondence particularly to fellow photographers. Most of the correspondence is outgoing from Mr. Evans and much of it is addressed to Michael Deaver, the Deputy Chief of Staff for the President.

A small amount of the material pre-dates the Inauguration, reflecting Evan's association with the Reagans beginning in 1980. The material is arranged in chronological order.

Series List

CONTAINER LIST

Last Modified Date

2024-02-26

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 01/04/1981-01/08/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 01/09/1981-02/26/1981

Status	Title
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 02/27/1981-03/17/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 03/18/1981-03/30/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 03/31/1981-04/09/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 04/10/1981-05/04/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 05/05/1981-06/01/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 06/02/1981-06/10/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 06/11/1981-07/14/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 07/15/1981-09/09/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 09/10/1981-09/30/1981
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 10/01/1981-11/09/1981
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OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 12/11/1981-02/08/1982
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 02/09/1982-03/21/1982
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 03/22/1982-04/20/1982
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 04/21/1982-05/16/1982
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 05/17/1982-06/21/1982
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 06/22/1982-09/19/1982

Status	Title
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 09/20/1982-10/31/1982

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 11/01/1982-02/03/1983
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 02/04/1983-05/22/1983
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 05/23/1983-07/20/1983
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 07/21/1983-10/14/1983
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 10/15/1983-12/03/1983
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 12/04/1983-03/27/1984
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 03/28/1984-07/19/1984
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 07/20/1984-09/17/1984
OPEN	Chron File (Including Memos, Correspondence, Forms, etc.) 09/18/1984-02/28/1985