Secretary Paul O'Neill presents “lost” Gerald R. Ford Portrait to Susan Ford Bales.

2015 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service
June 1, 2015

(l-r) Trustees Mike Ford, Steve Ford and Susan Ford Bales present 2015 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service to Senator Carl Levin (left) and Congressman John Dingell.
Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Foundation

Letter from the
Foundation Executive Director,
Joseph S. Calvaruso

Forty years ago, President Ford made historic decisions to do the right thing with his Operation Babylift and Frequent Wind. This courage was marked at the Simon Lecture with the Republic of South Vietnam Veteran Color Guard presenting the colors, and the singing of the National Anthem by Ashley Trieu. You can view the luncheon program and Paul O'Neill’s lecture on the Foundation’s website: http://geraldrfordfoundation.org/paul-oneill-2015-william-e-simon-lecture-in-public-affairs/

Progress continues with plans for the new Museum Permanent Exhibit and construction of the Foundation’s new Learning Center at the Museum. Contractors are now in place, and utility line movement at the Museum has started in preparation for construction. The Museum will remain open through ArtPrize this fall and then will close for several months as the exhibits are removed and the new exhibits installed. This fall we’ll be adding a special section in our website so you can track our progress. We are so pleased that the new permanent exhibit and the Learning Center will highlight President and Mrs. Ford’s characteristics of Character, Integrity, and Public Service.

We are proud to welcome two new Trustees: John Kennedy and Margaret Tutwiler. We also thank Bob Barrett, who retired from the Board after over three decades of service.

We continue to host distinguished guests as they visit us to pay their respects to President and Mrs. Ford. I want to thank the many supporters of the Foundation, especially our Trustees, and volunteers, as we continue the extraordinary legacy of President and Mrs. Ford. Thanks for all you do!

Best,

Foundation News

In Memoriam

Benton L. Becker

Trustee Benton L. Becker passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, August 2, 2015. We were grateful to have had the chance to know Benton as both a Trustee and a cherished friend.

Benton played an integral role in important events in Gerald Ford’s career, including the investigation of Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, Gerald Ford’s confirmation as Vice President, the Nixon Pardon, and the disposition of President Nixon’s papers. Benton Becker counseled President Ford throughout the 1974 Presidential Transition and continued to advise President Ford during his presidency.

On behalf of all Trustees, our deepest sympathies, condolences, and prayers are extended to his wife Joanne and the entire Becker family.


Senator Gary Peters signs the guest book in President Ford’s Foundation office during his visit to the Museum on June 19, 2015.

July 14 marked President Ford’s 102nd birthday. The day started with the wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb. This was followed by a community-wide luncheon where the William E. Simon Lecture was delivered by former Treasury Secretary and Foundation Trustee, Paul O’Neill.

Paul’s wonderful lecture concluded with an incredible story and surprise gift from Paul to Susan Ford Bales. You can read the details in this newsletter. Thank you, Paul, for your service to the Foundation and the American people.

President Ford and Benton Becker in the Oval Office, December 8, 1976.

Cover Photos: Portrait photo courtesy of Mike Carter for Yahoo News; and Annual Dinner photo courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.
Welcome New Members of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees:

John C. Kennedy has served as the president and CEO of Autocam Corporation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, since 1988 when he purchased the company. Today, Autocam Corporation boasts more than $280 million in revenues from operations around the globe. He currently serves as a trustee of Grand Valley State University and an advisory board member of the University of Michigan Ross School of Business’ Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies. Kennedy also is a board member of Lacks Enterprises, and the Van Andel Institute. Additionally, he is a founding board member of Grand Rapids University Prep Academy. Mr. Kennedy received his BA from the University of Detroit Mercy and his MBA from the University of Michigan.

Margaret D. Tutwiler has served as Executive Vice President and Head of Communications and Government Relations at CIT since August 2010. Prior to joining CIT, Ms. Tutwiler served as Senior Vice President and Head of Global Communications and Public Affairs of Merrill Lynch and Bank of America Corporation from December 2007 to February 2009. Before that she was Head of Global Communications and Government Relations of NYSE Euronext (NYSE: NYX) and its predecessor company NYSE Group, Inc. from 2004 to December 2007. Ms. Tutwiler has also spent 16 years in government service, including various senior level positions in the Reagan and both Bush Administrations. She was Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy from 2003 – 2004 and served a US Ambassador to Morocco from July 2001 – June 2003 (2 years). She graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of Alabama. Ms. Tutwiler was the first paid staff on President Ford’s 1976 election campaign.

USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Update

June 16, 2015:  USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) EMALS Testing from Newport News, VA. Foundation Trustee and Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales participated in the electromagnetic catapult testing, toured the building process of CVN 78 and spoke with fellow shipbuilders as they work to complete CVN 78 for its Commissioning in 2016. Susan continues her substantial personal involvement that she’s maintained throughout the construction of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), named in honor of her father, the 38th President of the United States. She personally thanked shipbuilders for their commitment and told them how proud she was to see first hand the results of their hard work in bringing the ship to life.

Following the tour, Susan joined personnel from the US Navy and Newport News Shipbuilding on CVN 78’s flight deck for the EMALS (Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System) catapult testing. She issued the command signals as dead loads, large sleds on wheels used to simulate the weight of an aircraft, were tested and successfully launched. The launch uses electromagnetics as part of the new system on CVN 78 to increase flight deployments from the ship.

Retiring Board Member: Robert E. Barrett

Robert Barrett served as the Army Military Aide to President Gerald R. Ford. After leaving the military, Mr. Barrett served for several years as former President Ford’s Chief of Staff.

Fellow members of the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation extend its sincere gratitude to Robert E. Barrett for his devoted pioneering spirit and outstanding service as Trustee of this Foundation since its inception in 1981 until 2015; and to express their sincere appreciation for his wise leadership, helpful counsel, and great contribution during these years to the growth and success of the Foundation.
Family and friends gathered at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford on the morning of July 14th for the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in honor of President Ford’s 102nd birthday. This ceremony is a combination of two special traditions. The first is part of a long tradition of the United States Presidency. The Presidential Tradition is conducted on the birthday of each deceased president. The incumbent president sends a tribute wreath to be presented by a military officer at that deceased president’s tomb. The second tradition is a very personal one that Mrs. Betty Ford established in 2007.

Shortly after President Ford’s death, Mrs. Ford learned of the Presidential Tradition. She wrote a personal letter with instructions that the letter recipients plan and conduct each year on her behalf an additional ceremony in conjunction with the Presidential Tradition. She specifically requested that persons who were special to President Ford be included, along with military, Boy Scouts, and individuals who were important parts of President Ford’s life. And she wanted particular consideration given to inclusion of a lecture as part of the tributes. This year’s Ceremony and the Simon Lecture by President Ford’s dear friend, Paul O’Neill, and the wreath presentation by United States Secret Service Agent Jeff Frost are shining examples of Mrs. Ford’s wishes being fulfilled.

Major General Gregory Vadnais carried on the Presidential Tradition by laying of the tribute wreath from President Barack Obama. In addition, wreaths were presented on behalf of President Ford’s family, President Ford’s Cabinet and White House Staff, and the United States Secret Service.
On Monday, July 13, the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, Starlifter, performed a free concert in Ah-Nab-Awen Park, just outside the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, in conjunction with the West Michigan Jazz Society’s “Jazz in the Park” in honor of President Ford’s 102nd Birthday. Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney (photo left) welcomed the band and guests to the presentation. On hand to enjoy the music was President Ford’s daughter, Susan Ford Bales and former Secretary of the Treasury, Paul O’Neill among other trustees of the Foundation.

The band performed a high energy concert for over an hour to a large crowd of about 2,000 people. Starlifter is a seven-piece band, which performs music from all genres, including rock, jazz and country. Starlifter is a component of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, which was established in 1942 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. In 1960, the band began working from its present home at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America and its component units perform more than 400 engagements for over one million people annually.
On July 14, 2015 former Secretary of the Treasury and Foundation Trustee Paul H. O’Neill presented the 2015 William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids. A transcript of his presentation follows:

Susan, thank you so much. It’s hard not to be emotional after that introduction. I didn’t bring you a tome, or a weighty numbers-filled set of ideas to burden you today. I just thought I would do what I really enjoy most -- talking from the heart about President Ford.

I said earlier today at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, I never felt I worked for President Ford. He made me feel every day that I worked with him. I was recounting last night at dinner that I initially went to Washington in 1961. I was recruited as a management intern and left graduate school in Claremont, California. I promised my wife we would only stay 18 months; that didn’t work out just exactly like I said! But I went because I had studied economics in graduate school and I was working on a doctoral program in economics at Claremont Graduate School. I was really taken with the idea that life needs to be about something. There needs to be a way to make a contribution. When President Kennedy gave his inaugural speech he basically said if you want to make a difference come here and help. I had an opportunity to go…actually, July 3, 1961. The reason the 3rd was so important is because, of course, the 4th was a holiday. They let me come to work on the 3rd and I got paid an extra day. In those days if you were an entry-level, well actually mid-level career civil servant, you got paid $6,435.00 per year. So an extra day was really welcome, especially coming out of graduate school!

I didn’t know exactly how I was going to be able to make a contribution. I had an additional opportunity to go to night school at George Washington University for more graduate work. People gave me assignments that were really helpful to me.

On July 14, 2015 former Secretary of the Treasury and Foundation Trustee Paul H. O’Neill presented the 2015 William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids. A transcript of his presentation follows:

Susan, thank you so much. It’s hard not to be emotional after that introduction. I didn’t bring you a tome, or a weighty numbers-filled set of ideas to burden you today. I just thought I would do what I really enjoy most -- talking from the heart about President Ford.

I said earlier today at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, I never felt I worked for President Ford. He made me feel every day that I worked with him. I was recounting last night at dinner that I initially went to Washington in 1961. I was recruited as a management intern and left graduate school in Claremont, California. I promised my wife we would only stay 18 months; that didn’t work out just exactly like I said! But I went because I had studied economics in graduate school and I was working on a doctoral program in economics at Claremont Graduate School. I was really taken with the idea that life needs to be about something. There needs to be a way to make a contribution. When President Kennedy gave his inaugural speech he basically said if you want to make a difference come here and help. I had an opportunity to go…actually, July 3, 1961. The reason the 3rd was so important is because, of course, the 4th was a holiday. They let me come to work on the 3rd and I got paid an extra day. In those days if you were an entry-level, well actually mid-level career civil servant, you got paid $6,435.00 per year. So an extra day was really welcome, especially coming out of graduate school!

I didn’t know exactly how I was going to be able to make a contribution. I had an additional opportunity to go to night school at George Washington University for more graduate work. People gave me assignments that were really helpful to me.

I went to the Veterans Administration where they offered, in effect, a continuation of graduate school. The first year that I was there my boss told me, “I want you to draft remarks for President Kennedy for Veterans Day.” It was such an enormous thing, because for the first time someone asked me to think like a President - not what I say but what would a President say? What would the rhythm of that President’s language be? That was really a life-changing idea to think about what the country should do about important public policy issues and ceremonies to remember the history of our country. I was endlessly having these kinds of opportunities. While I didn’t know that they would eventually be pearls that make a necklace, there were little things along the way that were privileges.

You can’t imagine what it was like when President Ford became Vice President. I had known him and worked with him when he was the Minority Leader in the House. He was always interested in "why". He didn’t want somebody to tell him: here is this issue and this is what we should do about it; instead he wanted to know why. He would have you tell him all the facts you had at your command and what all of the possible policy alternatives were. It was a privilege for him to say to you “What would you do?” But he didn’t want the answer; he wanted the knowledge.

For someone who went to Washington with the idea that we can make a difference with ideas, facts, and knowledge and insight, it was like the last stop before heaven working for Gerald R. Ford. That’s what he was like every day! Never in my time with him, in or out of the government, did I find him diminishing people with remarks or disrespect. It wasn’t in his nature. I was delighted when he was given the Profiles in Courage Award by the Kennedy family. No one deserved it more than he did for the Nixon Pardon. Eighty percent of the people thought it was the wrong decision at the time he made it. But, it was the right thing to do, and it’s nice that he was finally honored for it. We’re kind of straightening out history, but I’ll tell you my insight about Gerald R. Ford. It wasn’t a profile in courage because of some calibration he made, instead, it was from his value system of what’s the right thing to do for the American people. It wasn’t any calculation; he just couldn’t help himself other than to do the right thing! Think about it. The things that he did in his life; he didn’t labor over them and wring his hands about ‘oh my God is this the right decision’. Once he had knowledge and command of the facts and the best possible opinions, he was serene in his decision making. It was a wonderful thing to be a part of.
I was asked yesterday in a television interview “Why do you keep coming back here?” I feel that I have an honor and an opportunity and an obligation to help people understand and carry forward to young people the greatness of this human being. It’s not that he was a saint; but by God he was pretty close! When I say that to you, I am not speaking for myself as an individual; it’s for those of us who were privileged to sit at the corner of his desk. It was just a remarkable time in life to be in a place where everything that was being done mattered a lot. The economy was in a disastrous condition. To be there with someone whose rudder was knowledge and facts and every question framed by this proposition was remarkable. At the end of the day for him it was: what’s the right thing to do that will advance the American society.

If Gerald Ford were here today he would agree that’s how he thought about things. He’d ask: how do I, by my actions and pursuit of knowledge, do things that will make this a better society for us and for the generations to follow. Fabulous human being!

Well, I am a radical in a way and I do things that are unexpected. So, today I want to do something you didn’t expect to encounter. Hopefully you will take it away fondly.

I want to tell you a story. Some of you know for a long time I’ve been deeply involved in health and medical affairs in many different ways. One of the things that I do is to be a board member of the Lucian Leape Institute in Boston, which is a part of the National Patient Safety Foundation. I am one who believes if we could help ourselves to do the right thing every day in health and medical care we could make an enormous difference. Right now there are two million people every year who get an infection when they go into the hospital. I am here to tell you that every one of them is preventable if we did things right. There is a demonstration that this is true.

At the end of February there was a Lucian Leape Institute board meeting in San Diego. My wife and I arrived in San Diego on February 28th and I went to dinner with my fellow board members. About 15 minutes into dinner, one of my fellow board members Susan Edgman-Levitan said “Richard and I were talking and didn’t you have a serious past relationship with President Ford?” I said “Yes, that’s right,” and I explained it to her. She said “Well that’s what we thought, so we want to send you something”. I said “Okay, tell me about it”. She said, “Well, Richard and I have been living in this townhouse on Beacon Hill for a long time. Our family has grown up, and one of our daughters had gone away to Africa. She came back and brought a bunch of paintings with her. We decided we needed to clean up our attic. So the two of us went up to the attic, and we found this bundle wrapped in brown craft paper. We said we have to get rid of stuff so let’s see what this is”.

So they commenced opening up this bundle of paintings. There were mostly African landscapes that their daughter had brought back from her semester in South Africa. And then they stopped! She said to Richard “Look at this!” And he said, “What is it?” And she said, “Look at this!” And she said “This is a picture of President Ford. It’s a portrait of President Ford.” They both thought it was a pretty good portrait and wondered how it could get there with their daughter’s paintings from South Africa. They were bundled up from the framer and were never examined when they arrived at their house. So they said “Well, we have to figure it out.”

They called the framer. Three years had passed since he had done this work. They told him that they had this painting and asked how could it have gotten confused with their daughter’s South African paintings? And would he please look into it and get back to them? After about three weeks he called them back and said, “I have checked every way I know how, and I can’t figure it out. So the painting is yours.” And they said “Oh my goodness!”

So…back at the dinner now in San Diego… they said to me “This is the story of how we came about this painting. We thought you had this connection with the Ford family. So, we want you to have it because we are sure you will do the right thing with it. We don’t know what that is, but you’ll know.” So I said, “Sure”, I figured they would send it to me and jokingly it would be something done by a 17 year old in a finger painting class. After about three weeks, my wonderful assistant Janice Celedonia in Pittsburgh said one morning “Mr. O’Neill, there is a package here for you from Federal Express”, and I said, “Well open it up Janice”. I hear her opening up the package and then there is a bit of squealing. She came trotting down the hall and said “You aren’t going to believe this; look at this!” She turned the painting around, and it is this magnificent painting of Gerald R. Ford - a painting that captures the character of the President whose desk I sat at for two and a half years. It is fantastic!

So I looked at the painting and it says on it - Margaret Holland Sargent. Having learned a little bit about technology, I got on my iPhone and googled Margaret Holland Sargent. What came up was a whole series of paintings, including a little thumbnail of Gerald R. Ford. It said that this portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery and it measures 28 x 22. There wasn’t anything more about it, except that at the bottom there was a quote from John Howard Sanden, who is a famous portrait painter saying “Margaret, Congratulations, this is a great portrait”. Just by coincidence, John Howard Sanden painted my official portrait for the U.S. Treasury. So, I know John Howard Sanden. I decided to call him and find out

Continued on page 8.
about his affiliation with Margaret Holland Sargent. But before I did, I thought I needed to find out more. So I said “Janice I want to talk to the Curator at the National Portrait Gallery”. It’s amazing how the right words open up doors. Janice called the Curator’s office and said the former Secretary of Treasury would like to talk to the Curator and she was instantly on the phone. If she had told them it was Paul O‘Neill, I would have probably had to wait a couple of months!

The Curator came on the phone. I told her the story. I have this painting, and it says it is in your collection at the National Portrait Gallery, it said that it is 28 x 22. I then told her I measured the painting that I have, but it’s 24 x 20. She said “Mr. Secretary, we are in the middle of launching a new exhibit. This is a very fascinating story and I want to deal with it. But it is going to be a week or 10 days before I will have time to look into this and figure it out.” But, I wasn’t done. I had the name of the person who painted this and I googled her. It turns out Margaret Holland Sargent lives in Hollywood, California. She is 83 years old, and when you speak to her on the phone it’s like speaking to a 33 year old! She’s lively and spry and I told her why I was calling. I said I had this painting, and it’s this big mystery. I said, “The National Portrait Gallery’s website says it is 28 x 22, and the one I have is 24 x 20. Did you paint more than one of these?” She said “No, I only painted one; and it was 24 x 20!”

So then a couple things went through my mind. One thing was I now possess stolen property (laughter) and what the hell am I going to do!

Margaret said, “When you figure this out, please call me and tell me.” I then called John Howard Sanden. He said that indeed he and Margaret, his wife, and maybe 20 other people were members of a portrait society group in New York in the 1970’s. When Margaret painted this painting, he saw it and made the compliment that now appears on the National Gallery website. He said “Paul, she is the real deal. She is really an excellent artist”. When I had talked to her I discovered that she had painted it as a cover for Time Magazine.

Interesting, it never appeared on the cover of Time Magazine. But it did appear in Time Magazine in 1976 when they ran a special feature on U.S. Presidents. It (the painting) was published there. It’s the only place I can find it was ever published. Remarkably, Margaret told me she painted this painting overnight. As an amateur painter myself, I can tell you, it makes me want to burn my brushes, that somebody could do this magnificent thing overnight!

Finally, the National Portrait Gallery person called me back, very graciously, and said “We actually have a Special Curator for Time Magazine covers. We have exhaustively checked our files and all of the records we have. And we can’t find that we have actually ever had possession of the painting you are talking about. We have also talked to our people and we don’t think we have any rights to it. So it’s yours!”

I have to wing my way back in the story for a minute. My son runs a hedge fund and has work space close by me. When he saw this painting, he said, “I know where it goes.” He got a hook and hung it up in our conference room - and that’s where the painting has been. But I said, “That is really cool Paul, but…it’s not the right thing”. I thought: I already have an engagement scheduled to go to Grand Rapids to commemorate President Ford’s 102nd birthday. I am going to take this portrait with me and give it to Susan Ford and let her decide what should be done with it -- with my suggesting that it would be wonderful for it to hang in the Museum in Grand Rapids where people can see it every day. [Paul O’Neill then unveiled the painting on stage and gave it to Susan. Thunderous applause filled the room!]

So that’s my radical surprise for today! Thank you all so much for letting me come here. I feel increasingly like I am part of the Grand Rapids family. And for a long time I felt like I was part of the Ford family. Thank you all very much. God Bless You!
Gleaves Whitney, Director, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies (right) presents the COL Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship to Secretary Paul O’Neill following the Simon Lecture. Davis S. Hooker, Chairman of the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees (left) and Gayle Davis, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs participated in the presentation.

Ashley Trieu sang the “National Anthem”.

Ashley Trieu sang the “National Anthem”.

Presentation of the Colors by the Republic of South Vietnam Veteran Color Guard: (l-r) Brian Ngo, Hiep Vu, Anh Duong, Loc Nguyen, Hung Vu, Trang Huynh, Phuoc Nguyen, and Jake Ackerberg. Our many thanks to Phillip Nguyen for coordinating the presentation of the colors.

Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell gave the luncheon invocation.

Stan Greene presents “Tribute to President Ford’s Operation Babylift.”


Right: Paul O’Neill, Doug DeVos and Susan Ford Bales.

(l-r) Tom Schlueter, Paul O’Neill, Susan Ford Bales, and Ken Miller.

View the luncheon video at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org
The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Annual Dinner was held at the Capitol Hill Club on June 1, 2015 in Washington, D.C. The Annual Dinner brought together Ford Family members, Foundation Trustees, Ford Administration Alumni and ‘Friends of Ford’ from throughout the country. The Foundation presented former Senator Carl Levin and former Congressman John Dingell with the 2015 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service for their years of honored service to the State of Michigan and the nation.

Honorable Mention for Reporting on National Defense.

The Reporting on National Defense recipients provided remarks after accepting their awards. W.J. Hennigan thanked his wife who had just delivered their first child two weeks earlier. He also thanked the Foundation for the honor in receiving the Prize and also his co-recipient Ralph Vartabedian, who was one of Hennigan’s inspirations as he worked towards a career in journalism. Vartabedian thanked the Foundation for recognizing their work and was gratified that the Foundation provided another avenue of public awareness for the importance of nuclear arms in our defense.

Reporting on the Presidency recipient Peter Baker provided remarks after accepting his award for his repeated consistent analysis of the United States failed attempts to influence Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Obama Administration’s perspective on the rise of ISIS and insights into President Barack Obama’s restoring US diplomatic relations with Cuba. Baker thanked his two editors at The New York Times and his editor at home, his wife. Baker acknowledged how Gerald R. Ford liked journalists, understood their role and believed journalism had a role in American society.

Following the Journalism Prizes Presentation, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Commanding Officer John Meier provided updates on the completion of CVN 78 and on the Commissioning in 2016.

Together with the Ford Family, including Trustees Steve Ford, Mike Ford and Susan Ford Bales, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation presented former US Senator Carl Levin and former U.S. Congressman John Dingell with the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

When announcing the citation for Carl Levin, Trustee Carla A. Hills stated that Levin was the longest serving US Senator in Michigan history. Levin served as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and prior to his Senate career was President of the Detroit City Council. Levin was also a key figure in naming CVN 76 the USS Gerald R. Ford.

When announcing the citation for John Dingell, Red Cavaney stated that Dingell was the longest serving US Congressman in US history. Dingell’s career began as a Page in the US House of Representatives and then served in the US Army during World War II. Known as ‘Dean’ of the House of Representatives, Dingell fought to improve civil rights, clean air, Medicare and workers rights. He served as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

When receiving the Public Service Award, Levin noted how honored he was to receive the award together along with John Dingell. Levin also shared his admiration of Gerald R. Ford for doing what was needed for the country during a difficult period for our nation. Even in the face of political pressure to not pardon Richard Nixon, Levin felt Ford’s integrity shined brightest for all Americans in making the decision and it was yet another example of Ford’s character.

John Dingell also spoke on how honored he was to join Carl Levin in receiving their award together. He noted during his remarks that while Jerry Ford was not elected to the Presidency nor Vice Presidency, he was a leader who truly brought the nation together and gave the nation peace after years of bitterness following the turbulent times prior to his becoming President in 1974. Dingell felt Ford should be an example for our modern leaders as someone who compromised for the betterment of the country. He also jokingly noted how interesting it was that two long-time Democrats were receiving their awards together in a Republican Club.

A video of the event can be viewed at: www.geraldrfordfoundation.org
Left Photo: (l-r) Peter Baker, Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times, is presented the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency by Trustee Carla Hills and Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney (right) at the Annual Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Annual Dinner in Washington, D.C. on June 1, 2015.

Right Photo: (l-r) W. J. Hennigan and Ralph Vartabedian, Correspondents for the Los Angeles Times, receive the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense from Trustee Carla Hills and Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney.

(l-r) Trustees Steve Ford, Dick Cheney, Susan Ford Bales with Captain John Meier and Trustee Mike Ford.

Senator Carl Levin (right) recognizes Senator John Warner during his remarks.

Congressman Fred Upton and Foundation Trustee Buzz Thomas.

Trustees Dick Cheney (left) and Brent Scowcroft.

Trustees Paul O'Neill (left) and Frank Zarb.
CVN 78 Commanding Officer Captain John Meier
“Creating a Culture of Excellence”

Captain John Meier of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) spoke to a packed auditorium on April 30 about the newest addition to the U.S. Navy’s carrier forces. Captain Meier talked of this being the first of a new line of carriers and the technological advantages it will possess over previous carriers. According to Captain Meier, the only thing that is the same on CVN 78 as the Nimitz carriers is the hull. The new systems, most of which are being used for the very first time, are being learned by the sailors as testing and implementation of the various components come on line.

Captain Meier also discussed the crew being assembled to man the Gerald R. Ford and the culture of excellence being instilled in the entire crew from sailors right up to the Captain himself. The ship’s motto “Integrity at the Helm” is adhered to by all stationed on the Ford, a reflection of the ideals and character of the ship’s namesake.

Earlier in the day, Captain Meier, joined by Susan Ford Bales, spoke to the West Michigan Aviation Academy in Grand Rapids. Captain Meier’s presentation was rescheduled from a freakish snow storm that hit West Michigan back in November, 2014.

Grand Rapids Community College capped off a yearlong celebration of its 100th anniversary with commencement for more than 500 students - representing the more than 1,900 students who graduated this year.

The May 1 ceremony, held in the Van Andel Arena, included the awarding of the President’s Medallion to Gerald R. Ford. A special honor that is bestowed on GRCC presidents, this is only the second time that the medallion has been given. It was awarded to Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Irish leader John Hume in 2009. Dr. Steven C. Ender, president of GRCC, said it was a special honor for him to award the medallion to President Ford.

“The legacy of President Ford’s leadership left an indelible impact not only on our nation, but the West Michigan Community. We take great pride in recognizing him posthumously for his hard work and dedication to serving our great state and country,” Dr. Ender said. Susan Ford Bales, who attended the commencement and accepted the medallion on behalf of her father, shared his connections with GRCC.

“Dad was the college commencement speaker in 1963,” she told the students. “He was a huge supporter of the college as Grand Rapids congressman, as president, and in the decades after the White House. He would have been thrilled to be a part of this 100th anniversary.”

Article courtesy of Grand Rapids Community College.
2015 Meijer Great Choices Student Film Festival

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is proud to be a Legacy Partner in the Meijer Great Choices Student Film Festival. Each year high school student filmmakers from around the state inspire and encourage positive life choices to Michigan’s K-12 youth. This competition seeks 30-second PSA’s (Public Service Announcements) relating to Character, Promoting Health, or Celebrating Diversity. Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso (right) participated in this year’s program. Go to www.meijergreatchoices.com to view some of the fantastic student films. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners!

On June 23, 2015 the Michigan Historical Commission held its meeting at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Photo Left to right: Thomas Truscott*; Michelle Davis, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Elaine K. Didier, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum Director; Richard G. Micka*; Sandra S. Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center; Joe Calvaruso*; Brian James Egen*; Mark Hoffman, Chief Administrative Officer, Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and Jack Dempsey Commission Chairman.

*Michigan Historical Commission Members

Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso was pleased to attend the presentation of the Community Grant from Susan G. Komen Michigan to Spectrum Health’s Betty Ford Breast Health Center on April 16, 2015. The community grant funded by Walgreen’s drugstore chain will focus on patients who have significant access barriers to care.

Susan G. Komen and Walgreens aim to cut breast cancer deaths with millions in new funds for patient navigators in 16 cities. Navigation programs are associated with improved breast cancer survival rates, and may be especially helpful for medically underserved women who lack insurance or adequate resources to see themselves through treatment.

“Our Betty Ford Breast Health Center and now our High Risk Breast Health Clinic are positioned to better help people in West Michigan that are facing a possible breast cancer diagnosis,” said Dr. Judy Smith, Chief, Spectrum Health Regional Cancer Center.
The Library and Museum staff have been busily engaged in reviewing draft scripts for the new core exhibits, and now are working on developing story lines and scripts and selecting materials to feature in the audiovisual interactives for the exhibit. This is an intensive process that draws heavily on our staff members’ expertise and knowledge of President and Mrs. Ford and the content of our collections. In addition, we are providing research support for a documentary about President Ford, and for two biographies now being written about President Ford and another about Mrs. Ford.

Major efforts are also underway to increase the percentage of our holdings that are processed and open for research. We are currently 70% processed and have a goal of reaching 78% by this fall. Among the files or collections opened recently are the papers of several significant individuals, including Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney (White House Domestic and Family Trip Advance files), Arthur Burns (correspondence), Robert Orben (speechwriter), John Reinhardt (USIA Director), Robert Ingersoll (Ambassador to Japan), and Betty Ford (Betty Ford Center). Some files are reviewed but remain closed due to the presence of Personally Identifiable Information, such as Secret Service files encompassing 226,000 pages of White House visitor logs and appointment cards. The volume is staggering!

This has been a busy period for VIP visitors as well. At the Library in May, Congressman John Dingell was honored at an event organized by the UM’s Bentley Historical Library, recognizing Dingell’s 59 year career in Congress and his donation of 650 boxes of papers to the Bentley Library. The Library also was the site of a dinner honoring Foundation Trustee Ron and Eileen Weiser for their many contributions to the University. The new UM President Mark Schlissel and his wife Monica Schwebs were among the VIPs in attendance, and they expressed interest in returning to the Library for a personal tour. The Library also hosted a dinner for members of three advisory boards of the UM School of Information, featuring a steel drum combo during the cocktail reception. The garden looked beautiful, and right on cue, several deer wandered by during the event! Finally, Foundation Trustee David Hume Kennerly was the keynote speaker for a program at the Library as part of the University Photographers Association of America meeting in June.

At the Museum, Jim Kratsas and Don Holloway provided special tours for House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Energy and Commerce Chairman Congressman Fred Upton in conjunction with a Lincoln Day Dinner, and for Senator Gary Peters as well. In a letter of thanks, Senator Peters wrote: “I thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits as well as the beauty of the museum itself. You and your colleagues do a stellar job of preserving President Ford’s memory, helping visitors to better understand and appreciate his contributions to our Country and the world.” Thurgood Marshall, Jr. and his wife Teddi, also paid a personal visit to the Museum following correspondence and meeting with me. In a note of thanks, Mr. Marshall praised the gracious reception by our Museum Store staff, and commented that he especially enjoyed the exhibit’s references to Speaker Carl Albert as he had served as an intern in his office! We look forward to hosting Mr. Marshall for a tour of the Library in the future.

Looking ahead to the fall, the Museum staff are preparing for the installation of 30 works of art in the lobby, galleries and on the grounds for ArtPrize, which will draw more than 200,000 visitors to the Museum during the three-week period. We are also making plans to close to the public in mid-October, to remove and store artifacts and begin the demolition of the current exhibits in preparation for the new installation next spring. At the Library, hosting researchers and presenting public programs will continue as usual, so watch for announcements of speakers very soon. In each case, our staff are committed to preserving and providing access to the rich legacy of President and Mrs. Ford. The Foundation’s ongoing support for our efforts is a key factor in our success.

Finally, an alert that White House History is preparing a special issue focused on presidential libraries. Each of the library directors was asked to submit an article regarding the planning and site selection process for their library, noting the involvement of their respective president, as well as an overview of the library and museum holdings. It was most interesting to review materials related to the planning process for our two sites – much more complicated than at the other libraries! Look for the special issue sometime in 2016.
“What’s Missing in Presidential Politics”
Al From
May 20-21, 2015

Al From is founder of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) and considered by many to be one of the country’s leading political strategists. He spoke at both the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum on May 20-21, 2015 on political strategy in general and his book, The New Democrats and the Return to Power. Red Cavaney, chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, joined Mr. From in a fascinating discussion of presidential campaign philosophy, political polarization, the often unheard middle, and moving forward with political courage.

Since the mid 1990’s politics has become increasingly polarized, with much attention focused on, and money given to, the extremes. As the divide widens, the idea of reaching across the aisle, something Gerald Ford was lauded for, becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible. Both Mr. From and Mr. Cavaney agreed that while campaign money is important, what the candidates say is more important in winning elections. To be successful, candidates need to articulate ideas, ideas that reflect our core values as Americans. Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton were cited as two presidential hopefuls who ran successful, idea-driven campaigns.

Both From and Cavaney spoke extensively about the vast majority of Americans in the middle who often are not heard over the salvos being fired between the extremes. And both agreed that the only place for real change is that middle. Candidates who engage with this group, who clearly articulate their ideas and vision, and have the political courage to ignore the extremes, are most likely to sway voters in the middle and win elections. That courage is essential for candidates and presidents.

After Democrats suffered a number of major defeats, including George McGovern in 1972 and Michael Dukakis in 1988, the DLC invited then Governor Clinton to work with them to craft a new Democratic agenda. Clinton agreed, and they spent the next months meeting with small groups of citizens around the country. The new document reflected the ideas gathered, including national service, welfare reform, community policing, and more. According to From, successful campaigns need to be bigger than the candidacy and winning. They need to be about the greater good and bringing the country together. Presidents are elected on hope and reelected on results.

When talking about where we go from here, From mentioned the need for a sense of history, new ideas based on our core values, political courage, and a close examination of self and party rather than the opposition.

While in Grand Rapids, Mr. From and Mr. Cavaney also spent time talking with a group of students in the Museum’s Cabinet Room. The Jenison High School sophomores, juniors and seniors, their teacher and superintendent spent much of the morning at the Museum.

Screening of Rory Kennedy’s “Last Days in Vietnam” Documentary

WGVU Public Media partnered with the Vietnamese-American Communities of Grand Rapids, West Michigan Asian American Association, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum for a preview screening and panel discussion of the documentary, Last Days in Vietnam on Tuesday, April 21. WGVU was proud to host this community event in President Ford’s hometown. President Ford believed the last days in Vietnam were some of the most important times during his presidency. Over 250 people were in attendance for the event which included a tour of the Museum exhibit featuring the stairs from the United States Embassy in Saigon. Panelists included Foundation Chairman and Vietnam Veteran Red Cavaney who served as Senior Staff during the Ford Administration, as well as Vietnam and South Vietnamese Veterans. Guests included Peter Secchia, United States Ambassador to Italy and trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation along with Vietnamese refugees, and community leaders from West Michigan. This was a highly impactful event that WGVU Public Media was honored to bring to our community.

Photos and article courtesy of WGVU Public Media.
A familiar face was seen at both the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum in May. Ken Walsh, White House Correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize winner, and author of numerous books on the presidency and life in the White House, made a return visit to Michigan. He spoke in both Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor about his most recent book, *Celebrity in Chief: A History of the Presidents and the Culture of Stardom*. Following each program, Mr. Walsh signed his book and visited with guests.

“...being a celebrity, when properly balanced with restraint, has become an essential ingredient of modern presidential leadership.”

While much of Mr. Walsh’s focus was on the modern presidency, he did recognize George Washington as our first celebrity in chief, albeit a reluctant one, who understood what his position meant to the new country and how to project the appropriate image. Other attributes contributing to the success of candidates and some earlier presidents were their ability to relate to the “common man,” the ability to tell a story or entertain, here comparing Presidents Lincoln and Reagan, and being a military hero like Andrew Jackson, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower. The book concludes with this advice to candidates in the 2016 election:

“All the candidates need to understand that celebrity, while it has its limits, can increase their effectiveness and their popularity and will be crucial to success in the 2016 election, as it will be to the success of the next president of the United States.”

Susan Ford Bales participated in “The Education of Gerald R. Ford” a College of Education 50th Anniversary Gold Lecture Series event held on April 15, 2015 at the Grand Valley State University, L. William Seidman Center. Susan shared stories about her father’s life, how he grew up in Grand Rapids and attended South High School and then the University of Michigan and Yale Law School. She was joined by Hendrik Booraem, author of “Young Jerry Ford: Athlete and Citizen”. The event was moderated by Gleaves Whitney, Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.
The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum celebrated the top 20 finalists selected in the 2014 President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge on April 28. Each year the theme for the President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge reflects on an important part of Gerald Ford’s character. During the 2014 – 2015 school year students were asked to write about “Integrity”.

This year’s Essay Challenge winner was Elizabeth Dykens, Home School, 10th grade. Second Place went to Kendra Kunst of Calvin Christian High School, 11th grade. Third Place was awarded to Anthony DeWitte also of Calvin Christian High School, 11th grade.

The keynote speaker for this year’s event was Victoria V. Vuletich, Professor, Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Victoria spoke on the theme of Integrity Today. A three stage process narrowed down the field of 600 essays to these 20 finalists. The final selections, 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and 6 Honorable Mentions were made by three judges: Kim Coleman, Grand Rapids Bar Association; Maranda, WOOD TV; and Julie Hoogland, Grand Rapids Press. Honorable Mentions included: Bonnie Chase, Newaygo High School, 10th; Ashley Conrad, Kenowa Hills High School, 12th; Armit Deol, Forest Hills Eastern High School, 12th; Matthew Hartwell, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, 10th; Elizabeth Rott, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, 10th; Faith Smith, Newaygo High School, 10th.

The essays of the top finalists can be found on both the Foundation and Museum's websites. Congratulations to this year’s winners!

Artifact Digitization Project Update

The artifact digitization project continues unabated into its second year thanks to generous support from the Foundation. Jen Vos forges ahead with the monumental task of photographing the entirety of the Museum’s artifact collections. One by one, the artifacts are carefully gathered, staged, lighted, and photographed. Jen then meticulously edits and organizes the digital images.

Museum and Library staff use the artifact photographs in fascinating social media entries and online exhibits. All have been well received. The images allow the Foundation and Museum to share President Ford’s history with increasingly broader audiences. The digitization also results in interesting discoveries and revelations that expand the historical scope of President Ford’s life and times.

The New Year brought new challenges. Jen shifted focus to the Museum’s two-dimensional items. Documents offering more exhibit value over research value commonly end up in the Museum’s artifact collections rather than the Library’s archival holdings. A studio realignment provided Jen the opportunity to digitize thousands of these pieces this year. Here are but a few highlights. ~ Jamie Draper, Museum Registrar

This tally shows the House of Representatives’ final confirmation of Gerald R. Ford as President Richard Nixon’s new Vice President. The vote, which resulted in 387 yeas versus 35 nays, occurred on December 6, 1973. The handwritten message reads: “Dear Gerry, This is it! I’m very happy. I give it to you with congratulations. - Carl Albert, Speaker”. Gift of Carl Albert

One of Lieutenant Gerald R. Ford’s responsibilities as an officer aboard the USS Monterey during World War II was to help print the ship’s newsletter, “Flat-Top Flashes.” This example is from June 17, 1944, includes an article by Lt. Ford as Athletic Officer. Gift of Dean E. Gallaway on April 30, 1984.

Left: On April 14, Gary Walters, former White House Chief Usher (1986-2007) visited the Library and toured the archive with Archivist Donna Lehman and Audiovisual Archivist Ken Hafeli as guides. Mr. Walters, who began serving in the Usher’s office during the Ford Administration, generously shared memories and anecdotes spanning the terms of six Presidents. The visit was mutually beneficial and much fun!

Left: On May 6, the Ford Library hosted an event organized by the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library, honoring former Congressman John Dingell (left) for his donation of more than 650 boxes of papers from his 59-year career in Congress. The collection is filled with correspondence to presidents, scrapbooks, photographs and more. Director McDonald places the total number of pieces in the hundreds of thousands and says it could take years to catalog. He simply says “It’s big!” The program at the Ford Library featured a “fireside chat” with Congressman Dingell and Terry McDonald (right), Director of the Bentley Library, and was followed by a dessert reception in the lobby of the Library. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (standing) joined her husband on stage.

Above: Foundation Trustee David Hume Kennerly (left) and Library Audiovisual Archivist Ken Hafeli at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor. David Kennerly was a speaker during the 2015 University Photographers’ Association of America (UPAA) Technical Symposium on the campus of the University of Michigan. The Library hosted Mr. Kennerly’s presentation as well as a book signing for the Symposium on June 10, 2015.

Congratulations to Library and Museum Staff

We are pleased to share good news about members of the Library and Museum Staff. Archivist Stacy Davis received the Presidential Libraries Achievement Award in July, honored for her exceptional stewardship of the Library’s digitization program. As a result of her leadership and organization of the team implementing this complex initiative, the Library has now digitized nearly 400,000 pages of textual material and 13,000 White House Photographic Office contact sheets since 2009. We continue to be grateful for the wonderful support from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

The Library’s Administrative Assistant, Tina Luckett, was selected as one of six National Archives staff members to participate in the Office of Personnel Management’s Emerging Leaders Program. She was selected from a pool of 41 applicants for this prestigious program. She attended an intensive three-day residential program in May, which is followed by five months of online training and conference calls. There were a total of 19 participants from 10 government agencies in her class.

Three of our staff members have just passed major milestones in their federal service: Bridget Carrigan, Administrative Officer, and Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, have each accomplished 30 years of federal service, and Ken Hafeli, AV Archivist, has completed an amazing 38 years of service! Ken joined the Library staff in July, 1977, nearly four years before the Library opened in 1981. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your service to the Library and Museum!
Yes, I want to be a member of “Friends of Ford”

Become a member of “Friends of Ford” and help support the Library and Museum’s many exhibits and programs. Join us as we seek to enhance public understanding of American history, government, and the presidency.

As a member of Friends of Ford you are invited to participate in many special Library and Museum activities that are not open to the general public.

Members of “Friends of Ford” receive many valuable benefits:

- Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
- 10% Discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
- Advance notification of speakers and exhibits at both the Library and Museum
- Invitation to pre-opening exhibit tours by staff members
- Foundation Newsletter, 5 issues per year
- Free admission to other Presidential Libraries and Museums
- Membership card
- Members at the Family, Associate, Sustaining, Patron, President’s Cabinet and Legacy membership levels receive additional benefits.

For further information, please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or email klecceadone@38foundation.org. Attached is an application envelope for your convenience. Memberships are tax deductible to the limits allowed by the IRS. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
616-254-0396
### Schedule of Upcoming Events

**Save the Date!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/11/2015</td>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Community Day of Remembrance / Scout Salute. Join the Gerald R. Ford Council Boy Scouts of America as they salute the United States Flag from Dawn to Dusk. Check our website for additional programming details as they become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13/2015</td>
<td>Jenison</td>
<td>4:00 - 7:15 PM</td>
<td>Betty Ford Breast Care Services and Spectrum Health Cancer Center present “Candid Conversations in Concert with Amy Grant”. Check our website for more information and to register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/22/2015</td>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Noted author Evan Thomas on his new book “Being Nixon: A Man Divided”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12/2015</td>
<td>Ann Arbor</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>“Lady Bird and Lyndon: The Hidden Story Behind a Marriage That Made a President” by Betty Caroli. Book sales, signing and reception to follow. No reservations required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For Additional Event Information Please Visit Our Website or Call 616-254-0396.*

---

**PLANS FOR THE 2016 COMMISSIONING OF THE USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)**

Planning is underway for the 2016 Commissioning of America’s newest aircraft carrier and carrier class – the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). You can be a part of this historic event and America’s extraordinary tribute to our 38th President. To learn more about the Commissioning and how you can support the ship and her crew, please visit the Commissioning Committee’s website: [USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org](http://USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org)

*Please visit our website: www.geraldfordfoundation.org*

---

*The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation fosters increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of America’s 38th President. It does so through activities designed to promote the high ideals of integrity, honesty, and candor that defined President Ford’s extraordinary career of public service. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to public service and historical legacy of President Gerald R. Ford and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity wherever it exists in the public arena. It supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy; conferences; educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular, including at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.*