News from the Ford

Ford Family Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford
July 14, 2009

“To some, the place where we gather this morning is only that, just a place, labeled generically, as a Memorial Site on some government diagram. However, to the Ford family and to those of you here this morning, Dad’s Tomb is more than a Memorial Site – much more. It is a cherished part of our very being.”

~Susan Ford Bales

The complete text of Susan Ford Bales’ remarks can be found on page 10.
Letter from the Foundation Executive Director, Joseph S. Calvaruso

On President Ford’s 96th birthday this past July 14, family, friends, and guests gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan to remember the President at the annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony. Susan Ford Bales delivered very touching remarks honoring her father, and wreaths from President Obama, Mrs. Ford and the Ford family were placed at his tomb. Hundreds of people attended the ceremony and visited the Museum. With local broadcasts of the event by NBC and PBS affiliates, thousands more were able to honor the President from home. If you missed the ceremony, or would like to see it again, it can be viewed in its entirety by visiting our website at www.geraldfordfoundation.org.

Thomas Cutler, Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, presented the wreath on behalf of President Obama. In honor of their special friendship with President and Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Ford requested that her personal wreath be presented by Rich and Doug DeVos, Fred and Hank Meijer, and Steve Van Andel. Dick Ford, Susan Ford Bales, and Vaden Bales presented the Ford family wreath.

Expanding and enhancing our communications has been an important goal of the Foundation. In addition to three newsletters a year, we’ve updated our website to include event schedule information and much more. If you missed an event, we will be posting pictures and videos of it on the website. If you are interested in viewing activities from President Ford’s White House years, the website’s media gallery has photos, video and audio. In addition, we have added e-mail communication through a program called constant contact and will be sending event and exhibit information by email. If you would like to receive these email notices, you can sign up on our website home page or call the Foundation at 616.254.0396.

In November, the Ford family will gather in Newport News, Virginia with distinguished guests, friends, shipbuilders from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding, and men and women of the United States Navy to conduct the Keel-Laying Ceremony for the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78).

On November 19, the annual exhibit Christmas on the Grand will open at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. By tradition, a lighting ceremony will illuminate the Museum grounds and lobby with a dazzling display of holiday trees and lights. The event is free to the public.

In 2010, we anticipate the unveiling of the statue of President Ford in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

I want to thank the Foundation Trustees for the many hours they put forth in fulfilling their responsibilities. Their years of expertise and wisdom is greatly appreciated. Joining the Board this year are David Hoogendoorn, Robin B. Martin and Robert D. Hynes. David Hoogendoorn will also serve as Treasurer.

In addition, I’d like to thank the members of Friends of Ford who make so many of our activities possible through their generous contributions and participation. I look forward to meeting you at one of our many upcoming events.
The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation began monthly drawings for “Betty Ford The Real Deal” DVD. Entry forms are available at the Museum and at our special events. The response to the drawing and interest in the DVD has been tremendous. Susan Ford Bales drew the first two winners in July. This documentary profiles Mrs. Ford, her time in the White House, her advocacy for equal rights and the substance addiction that led to the founding of the Betty Ford Center in California.

The Michigan Sports Hall of Fame’s Gerald R. Ford Award is presented to a distinguished individual who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, vision and has made significant contributions in sports or sports related fields. Marty Allen was chosen as the 2009 recipient because he epitomizes the spirit of the Ford Award. He was a football manager while attending Notre Dame University and has served in leadership positions of the University’s Monogram Club; the Club represents over 4,000 members who have earned their varsity athletic letter. Marty also co-founded the Fifth-Third River Bank Run, a 25K race held in Grand Rapids each year in May. This year marked the 32nd year with runners from all over the world. Marty is Chairman Emeritus and lifetime Trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.
Following a busy summer of activity filled with visitors to the Caroline Kennedy Dolls exhibit and the Musings quilt display, the Museum was beyond capacity with the crowds of visitors during ArtPrize in late September and early October. We were delighted to display seven entries as part of this city-wide event -- see the special report elsewhere in this issue. This was a truly extraordinary happening that drew thousands of people to appreciate and critique art of all kinds and share their views through conversations, blogs and online voting. All of us at the Museum and the Foundation were honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this new venture, and we are already looking forward to next year's event.

At the Library, aided by financial support from the Foundation, Ken Hafeli led a project to digitize over 800 Ford family photographs, providing a copy set to each family member, ensuring the preservation of these unique items. Recent months have been filled with a steady influx of researchers and visitors from around the world, and a record number of applications for the Fall Round of the Research Travel Grants program. The Library participated in a University of Michigan campus-wide “Behind the Scenes Open House” in early October that drew many first-timers to visit. In addition, Library staff have been planning for re-carpeting of the entire facility, a project currently underway, along with the launch of 24/7 on-site security staffing for the first time in the Library’s 28 year history. Enabled by major funding from the National Archives, both projects are going very smoothly thanks to good staff planning.

Public programs for the fall are off to a great start, featuring Michael Kaiser, Director of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, who spoke during ArtPrize, and followed by presentations by the winners of the 2008 Ford Journalism Prize. Kenneth Walsh, U.S. News and World Report, spoke to a full house at the Museum in October, and James Kitfield, National Journal, will speak at the Library in November. In addition, both the Library and Museum are hosting National Issues Forums on healthcare and the economy in the coming weeks. These facilitator-led community discussions are made possible by the generous support of the Kettering Foundation.

On the national level, the presidential libraries just presented another highly successful joint conference on The Presidency in the Nuclear Age, which addressed an array of issues faced by U.S. presidents through the nuclear arms race, Cuban missile crisis, Cold War and disarmament efforts. The conference was held at the Kennedy Library in Boston on October 12, and was covered by NPR and C-SPAN for later broadcast. The stellar cast of presenters included former Secretary of State and Ford Presidential Foundation trustee Henry Kissinger and former presidents Bush ’41 and Clinton (on video), along with Ted Sorensen, Kenneth Adelman, Richard Rhodes and many other senior policy leaders who served in various presidential administrations.

The Ford Library and Museum joined other libraries in providing documents and audiovisual material for an exhibit during the conference, and also provided financial support for the event. Many of the presidential foundations also contributed financial support. This conference was part of an ongoing series of collaborative conferences organized and presented by the presidential libraries.

We are pleased to report that Library and Museum visitation is up 22% over last year. While much of this can be attributed to ArtPrize, we are pleased to see that our feature exhibits, scope of programming, outreach to schools and e-distribution efforts are reaching a more broad audience. We look forward to having you visit us this fall and winter, in person and online!
In October of 1977, nine months after leaving the office of President of the United States, Gerald Ford arrived on the campus of Albion College to dedicate the Institute for Public Service named in his honor. In the Institute’s office hangs a signed copy of his speech given that day, reading “I believe it is...the duty of good men and women to enter public service...our best hope of strengthening the moral fiber not only in but outside of government. In this belief I am honored and I am proud to make the announcement of the establishment of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service here at Albion College...Our forefathers when they wrote the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence had a dream of freedom and liberty and prosperity...That dream has not been fully realized, but...with...the participation of those who go to the Institute...that dream can become a reality.” Now more than 32 years and 700 graduates later, the Ford Institute continues to evolve as it strives to meet the vision instilled in us by Gerald Ford and the challenges of our ever-changing, global society.

The Ford Institute embraces a tradition of serving as a bridge between the academic classroom and the real world. Prospective members must complete a competitive application process demonstrating commitment to their communities, integrity, leadership, and working together towards solutions facing our world. These attributes were fundamental to President Ford and form the foundation of our mission.

President Ford served on the Albion College Board of Trustees from 1963 through 1968. In 1965, the College awarded then Congressman Gerald Ford an honorary Doctor of Humane Arts and Letters for his service to Michigan, the College, and its students, staff, and faculty.

**From the Archives**

The signal event of the past few months has been the digitization and web posting of over 1,000 declassified records of (mostly) presidential meetings on national security and foreign relations topics. These “memoranda of conversations” were created from notes of meeting attendees.

For example, if you want to read a transcript-like record of the November 24, 1974 discussion between President Ford and Soviet leader Brezhnev, it is now a computer click away. See [http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/dmemcons.asp](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/dmemcons.asp). This memcons website has already proven very popular with researchers worldwide. The project was a true Foundation-Library partnership. The Foundation funded all of the scanner’s wages, and the Library provided the declassification, project management, equipment, and web construction facets.

The Library recently closed the books on FY 2009 and tallied the reference stats. We hosted over 700 research room visits, answered over 1,000 telephone and email queries, and provided tens of thousands of photo and document photocopies. In addition, researchers with digital cameras assuredly quintupled the final number of reproductions.

Historical material donations are the lifeblood of the archives, and the past several months have been rewarding. Former Grand Rapids mayor John Logie donated copies of home movies from 1936 and 1938 with footage of a young Betty Bloomer in a wedding party. Frank Zarb donated a new collection of original political cartoons, and both he and Michael Moskow gave additional papers. The family of Mayaguez captain Charles Miller gave us dozens of telegrams he had received or sent at sea in the days immediately after the recovery of ship and crew from the Khmer Rouge. Our oral history materials were greatly augmented when the Nixon Presidential Library gave us 34 DVDs of oral histories conducted by their director, Tim Naftali. Political analyst and former Robert Teeter-associate Fred Steeper donated an extensive collection from his polling for Republican presidential and other candidates over many decades.

If you have questions about the Library’s acquisition program, please contact David Horrocks, Supervisory Archivist at 734.205.0562 or david.horrocks@nara.gov.
Program Highlights

Michael Kaiser, Director of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, spoke on arts management at the Museum. Left to right: Ford Presidential Foundation Director, Joe Calvaruso, Michael Kaiser, Ford Presidential Library/Museum Director Elaine Didier.

Kenneth T. Walsh spoke at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Walsh is the White House Correspondent for U.S. News and World Report. His talk focused on President Obama and his first year in the White House. Following the lecture, Mr. Walsh autographed copies of his book, From Mount Vernon to Crawford.

Rushmore Live—A Constitution Day Celebration

Over 600 persons enjoyed portrayals of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln at a Constitution Day celebration in September. Originally scheduled for the Ford Presidential Museum, the event was moved to East Grand Rapids High School to accommodate the large number of attendees. Sharing their cumulative onstage experience of over 100 years were Dean Malissa, Mount Vernon’s George Washington; Bill Barker, Colonial Williamsburg’s Thomas Jefferson; Jim Foote, Sagamore Hill’s Theodore Roosevelt; and Jim Getty, Gettysburg’s Abraham Lincoln.

The program was organized by Grand Valley State University’s Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and co-hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.

High Performance Marks First Recipient
of Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship

Lauren Anderson of Hudsonville is the first recipient of Davenport University’s Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship. Lauren has a strong commitment to civic responsibility and dedication to service that reflects some of President Ford’s most admired qualities. The full-ride scholarship, which requires a minimum ACT score of 31 and high school GPA of 3.75, covers all costs for four years, including tuition, room and board, textbooks and study abroad. More information is available at Fordscholarship.davenport.edu.
September 11th Scout Salute

On every September 11th since 2002 the Gerald R. Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America has honored those who gave their lives on this day and continue to give their lives to protect our great nation.

Among the attendees of this year’s dawn-to-dusk flag salute at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum were 1,700 Scouts, Scout leaders, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and police officers. The Gerald R. Ford Council is the only Boy Scout Council in the United States that has honored our heroes on this day for the last eight years.

Susie Blake, Development Director
Gerald R. Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America
Grand Rapids, MI

Dr. Bruce Bustard, senior curator at the National Archives exhibits branch, poses with Dr. Elaine Didier, Library and Museum director, and Joe Calvaruso, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Dr. Bustard spoke at the Ford Museum before a large crowd of visitors gathered for the opening of Picturing the Century, an exhibit of over 100 photographs depicting the sweep of 20th century America. Dr. Bustard served as lead curator for the exhibit.

The Kennedy Library held a forum on May 3rd entitled “The Presidency of Gerald Ford”. Participating in the forum was Steven Ford, son of President Ford, Carla Hills who served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Ford Administration, Benton Becker, advisor to President Ford, and historian Richard Norton Smith. Bruce Schulman, professor of history at Boston University was moderator. This forum was part of the Kennedy Library’s series examining 20th century Presidents.
For nearly three weeks, Grand Rapids became the epicenter of the art world as ArtPrize debuted its first annual competition. Boasting the largest prize money in the world with $250,000 for first place, over 1,200 artists from around the globe entered their works in this wide open contest.

The public response has been no less enthusiastic. On Sunday, September 27 alone, some 20,000 people descended on the city’s Monroe Mall. And in the first week over 15,000 came into the Ford Museum to view the art housed in the lobby. Thousands more walked the grounds to see works on the exterior of the facility.

The Museum was an avid and willing partner in ArtPrize from the outset. Offering itself as a venue for the art contest, the Museum received well over 200 requests to host artworks. Those requests went through a two stage vetting process by senior staff and the curator. The initial list was pared down because of size or physical constraints and then appropriateness to the Museum’s mission. With the list down to the last 20%, the art entries were judged on their merit as well as aesthetics.

In the end, seven artists were selected and two of those wound up in the top 25 as the public’s favorites—Scott Hessels’ moving water wheel, The Image Mill and Derek Maxfield’s ice sculpture, Surf-and-Turf. Also chosen by the Museum were: Jonathan Hils’ sculpture Vinculum, Ken Cadwallader’s oil on canvas On Their Way to the Reception, Brett Grill’s oil on canvas Supine, Ralph LaGro’s oil on canvas For Every Soul, A Song, and Margaret Vega’s oil on canvas Recoleta series.
The portrait models, Elise and Rebecca, attended the reception for the ArtPrize artists at the Ford Museum.

ArtPrize artists whose work was on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum met with visitors at a reception held in their honor.

Derek Maxfield’s Ice Sculpture: 
Surf-n-Turf

Ken Cadwallader:
On Their Way to the Reception

Jonathan Hils:
Vinculum

Additional information about this year’s competition is available at www.artprize.org
Annual Ford Family Wreath-Laying Ceremony

At the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford on July 14th, 2009

Remarks of Susan Ford Bales

Let me first extend Mother and our family’s heartfelt thanks to President Obama for the honor he has bestowed upon Dad this morning through the Presidential Wreath. We’re grateful to President Obama for his honor, and for the many courtesies he and the White House have afforded to us.

As Rick Albin and Vaden explained, this annual ceremony is much more than a yearly reminder on the calendar. It is very, very personal to Mother and our family. And that is why we’re humbled by the presence of so many distinguished guests and friends who have joined with us to honor Dad.

Of course, we could celebrate Dad’s birthday at any number of locations and venues. But, if I may, please permit me to share with you the very personal feelings of Mother and me as to why holding this ceremony here, at Dad’s Tomb, is so special to us.

To some, the place where we gather this morning is only that, just a place, labeled generically, as a Memorial Site on some government diagram. However, to the Ford family and to those of you here this morning, Dad’s Tomb is more than a Memorial Site—much more. It is a cherished part of our very being.

Thus, when I arrived in Grand Rapids Saturday evening, Vaden, Greg Willard and I came here and sat in the ever-present tranquility—just the three of us, with three different perspectives and three different relationships with Dad:

- Me—Dad’s daughter;
- Vaden—his beloved son-in-law; and
- Greg—Dad’s long time friend and advisor;

all three of us, sitting quietly together in this hallowed place. And just as in each prior visit, we remembered Dad, we reflected on the magnificence of his life, and we gave thanks for a life well-lived. You see, to Mother and my family, Dad’s Tomb and the words you see upon it represent in a very personal way the boundless love he gave to Mother and me and my brothers and the similar degree of lasting friendships he shared with many of you.

Perhaps nothing better symbolizes the depth of those friendships than a very private moment here at the Tomb at the conclusion of Dad’s State Funeral. Near where I’m standing, Vice President Cheney presented Mother with the American Flag from Dad’s casket. We said our farewells and went inside the Museum. Then, very quietly, Honorary Pallbearers Rich DeVos, Fred Meijer, and Steve Van Andel each approached the casket. And just as Vaden, Greg, and I did last Saturday, the three of them stood here and remembered Dad; they reflected on the magnificence of his life; and they gave thanks for a life well-lived. Amongst tears of pride and gratitude, Rich, Fred and Steve then bid their final farewells.

Those are the depth of friendships that Dad held dear. Those are the friendships that sustained him. And those are the friendships that led him to reflect in the twilight of his life:

“...When I wake up at night and can’t sleep, I think of Grand Rapids.”

And in so doing, Dad, no doubt, recalled a line from Yeats who wrote:

“Think, where one’s glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was that I had such great friends.”

In November, we will gather in Virginia with distinguished guests, friends, and the men and women of the United States Navy to conduct the Keel-Laying Ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford. Soon thereafter, a similar group will convene in Washington to unveil the new statue of Dad in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. And so it is this morning in Grand Rapids that a wonderful group of guests and friends have come together to remember Dad.

Thank you for the love you gave to Dad. Thank you for continuing to watch over him here in Grand Rapids. And thank you for honoring him with my family and President Obama on this, his 96th birthday.

May God Bless and watch over Dad and each of you.

And may God Bless America.

Thank You.

Presenting Mrs. Ford’s Personal Wreath are:

Yes, I want to be a member of “Friends of Ford”

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

“I am profoundly grateful for the kind words that have been said about me, but the finest tribute of all will be to see the Gerald R. Ford Museum living and growing and constructive and useful.”

Gerald R. Ford
Museum Dedication
September 18, 1981

Members of Friends of Ford receive many valuable benefits:

★ Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
★ Advance notification of speakers and exhibits at both the Library and Museum
★ Invitation to pre-opening exhibit tours by staff members
★ Foundation Newsletter, “News From The Ford”
★ 10% Discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
★ 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

To join the Friends of Ford, please mail the completed application form to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the address below or visit our website at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org. For further information, please contact Diane VanAllsburg at 616.254.0396 or email diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov.

Please mail your application to:
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
303 Pearl Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353

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For information about Foundation programs:
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
303 Pearl Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
Administrative Assistant: Diane VanAllsburg 616.254.0396
Website: www.geraldrfordfoundation.org

For information about Library programs:
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
1000 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2114
734.205.0555
Website: www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov

For information about Museum programs:
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
303 Pearl Street, NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
616.254.0400
Website: www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov

The mission of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is to support the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum by sponsoring historical exhibits, educational programs, conferences, research grants and awards. In fulfilling its mission, the Foundation honors the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his public service career. The Foundation also aims to educate Americans about the unique history and significant events of the Ford presidency. Finally, the Foundation seeks to enhance public understanding of American history and government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Joe Calvaruso, Executive Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353.

Upcoming Events:

Grand Rapids:
Christmas on the Grand
Annual Outdoor Tree Lighting Ceremony
Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:00 PM
Join in the fun as the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum lights up the Grand with its annual display of holiday trees and lights. Also lighted will be the Children’s Tree located inside the burial site of President Ford. This towering blue spruce was given to President and Mrs. Ford for their 45th wedding anniversary. A sing-a-long, refreshments and free Museum admission are all part of the evening’s activity.

Holiday Open House - Free Admission
Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Once again the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum will open its doors from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., inviting one and all to celebrate the holiday season. This year will include a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus along with a few of his reindeer! Holiday music will be provided throughout the afternoon by local choirs. For additional information call the Museum at 616.254.0400.

On Exhibit:

Grand Rapids:
Picturing the Century: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives (September 12, 2009 through January 9, 2010)
The exhibit commemorates the end of the 20th century with a selection of photographs from the vast and varied holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration. The photographs vividly capture the sweeping changes of the last one hundred years, both the mundane and high political drama, society’s failings as well as its triumphs, war’s ugliness as well as its bravery.

Ann Arbor:
Economy in Crisis, 1974-1975 (February 17, 2009 to Winter 2010)
Economic crises on an international scale are not new, and President Ford inherited a tough one in 1974. A lobby exhibit at the Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor shows how he attacked a witch’s brew of inflation, recession, budget deficits, and oil supply worries. The exhibit features rarely seen artifacts and archival materials from the Ford Presidential Library and Museum collections.

We look forward to seeing you!