His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, joins the Ford Family at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford

“To Dad, Grand Rapids was all about family and all about friendship. Therefore, it is so appropriate that Ambassador Fujisaki is here today and has presented this wonderful gift of friendship from the Japanese people.

Mr. Ambassador, every morning the sun will rise in the eastern sky here in Grand Rapids. And each morning from this day forward, its rays will cast a warm glow over Dad’s Tomb as they shine through the branches of this Japanese Maple Tree. May those soft shadows be a constant reminder of the lasting friendships forged in Dad’s historic visit to Japan that have been renewed here this morning. And may this lovely tree and its morning shadows forever symbolize those timeless friendships between great friends and great nations”. ~ excerpt from Susan Ford Bales’ remarks at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

Susan Ford Bales joins Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki in planting the Burgandy Lace Japanese Maple tree on the site of President Gerald R. Ford’s Tomb at the Museum in Grand Rapids, MI. Vaden Bales (son-in-law of President Ford) and Dick Ford (President Ford’s brother) also participated in the tree planting ceremony.

Granite marker placed at the base of the Japanese Maple Tree.
Dear Friends,

In 2007, Mrs. Betty Ford and the Ford family began a personal family tradition here in Grand Rapids. On July 14 of each year, personal wreaths from Mrs. Ford and the family are presented at President Ford’s tomb, along with the Presidential wreath, a long-standing presidential honor by which the incumbent president, on the birthday of each deceased president, sends a tribute wreath to be presented at their tomb.

This year a special ceremony was added. On behalf of the People of Japan, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki presented the Ford Family a Japanese Maple Tree. As we watch this tree grow and stand guard over the president’s tomb, we will forever be reminded of the friendships forged by President Ford over 35 years ago when he was the first U.S. President to make a state visit to Japan.

I hope you will enjoy this special edition newsletter prepared in honor of our distinguished guest to Grand Rapids, His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony on July 14, 2010.

I would first like to thank Doug & Maria DeVos, Hank & Liesel Meijer and Steve & Cindy Van Andel for their generous contributions and support, for whom without, this visit would not have been possible.

In addition, many thanks go to the host committee and community organizations for their tireless work in preparing for the Ambassador’s visit: Marty & Sue Allen; Jim & Kathy Hackett; Doyle Hayes & Kathy Fore; Mayor George & Susan Heartwell; Dave & Linda Mehnery and Gleave Whitney along with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce; the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies; the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids; The Economic Club of Grand Rapids; The Right Place, Inc.; the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan; the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital and the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

A special thanks to Mr. Rick Albin, WOOD TV8, not only for his longstanding friendship and commitment to the Ford Family but for helping to set up the live webcast of the events so Mrs. Ford would be able to view them from her home in California. In addition, WOOD TV8 provided us with the videos so we could share them with you on our website: www.geraldfordfoundation.org.

Thank you to the National Archive Staff of Mark Jonick for his help with the grave site markers and to Don Holloway and Jamie Draper for researching and displaying Japanese artifacts.

Last but not least, our sincere thanks to all those who joined us in honoring President Ford on the anniversary of his birth.

Joseph S. Calvaruso

Letter from the Foundation Executive Director,
Joseph S. Calvaruso

Foundation News

Gerald R. Ford Council - Boy Scouts of America


Steve Ford, son of President Ford, spoke on the importance of scouting to his dad, President Gerald R. Ford. A number of Foundation Trustees took part in the event.

The program was emceed by Danny Gaydou, Foundation Trustee. Honorary Trustees Ralph Hauenstein and Peter Cook were recognized during the event for their dedication and support of the Gerald R. Ford Council as well as Honorary Trustee Seymour Padnos as a Distinguished Boy Scout.
Over 700 people attended the luncheon honoring His Excellency, Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on July 14, 2010.

Doug DeVos presented opening remarks at the luncheon honoring Ambassador Fujisaki.

“A wonderful tradition has been started by the Ford Family, in which those of us in Grand Rapids are able to participate. President Ford’s legacy and the entire Ford Family are such an important and loved people in our lives and such an important fabric of our community. We are grateful that they continue to choose Grand Rapids to participate, to be part of this legacy and to be part of these wonderful memories and moments with us. This is a celebration of the relationship between Japan and the United States that President Ford was very instrumental in developing during his presidency. The relationship between our nations is very important to many of us in the business community..., we have gotten to love the Japanese people and the Japanese culture and the entire country and so it is an honor for us to be able to welcome you, Mr. Ambassador, as a representative of your people here today”.

~ excerpt from Doug DeVos’ opening remarks

Steve Van Andel introduced Ambassador Fujisaki at the luncheon.

“It is an honor for me to introduce our special guest this afternoon. Ambassador Fujisaki has a long and distinguished career in public service in Japan. He began his duties as the Ambassador of Japan in June 2008. As a diplomat, Ambassador Fujisaki served in Jakarta, Paris and London. Prior to his current post, he served as the Ambassador to the United Nations and to the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was appointed as the Deputy Foreign Minister and served as the representative of the Prime Minister at G8 Summit meetings. His Excellency is a well-known researcher and lecturer. He has spoken at various universities including Harvard and Yale as well as several think tanks in Washington, D.C. He and his wife enjoy teaching children about Japan and its culture and they have visited many elementary schools in the Washington, D.C. area. In the 1960’s His Excellency spent a year in high school in Seattle and a year at Brown University...so I think he has a great affinity for the United States”.

~ excerpt from Steve Van Andel’s introduction

Hank Meijer presented closing remarks and a gift to Ambassador Fujisaki.

“Many of you may not realize, and President Ford’s brother Dick, who is with us today, reminded me recently that the government of Japan was a very generous benefactor in the creation of the Ford Museum...that’s such a big part of our lives...we have that particular thanks for you as well.”

Hank Meijer presents Ambassador Fujisaki with a token of gratitude and friendship from the people of Grand Rapids. An earthenware bowl created by a Michigan artist, Patrick Dragon. Mr. Dragon’s pieces are in collections around the world including the White House Collection of American Crafts.
Susan Ford Bales’ remarks at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony

Good morning, what a great day in Grand Rapids. Thank you all very much and, Ambassador, welcome to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Welcome to a place where for his entire life, my dad proudly called home, and welcome to a place where friendship is not just a word here but friendship is a way of life. And to Dad, Grand Rapids was all about friendship. Dad was the first president to visit Japan and on that historic visit dad spoke of that special part of his life. Dad said “Although Japan and the United States are separated by the broadest of oceans, on the other hand we are the warmest of friends”. This morning at Dad’s Tomb we have been presented a magnificent gift of friendship from the Japanese people, a lovely Japanese maple tree. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Every morning the sun will rise in the eastern sky here in Grand Rapids and each morning from this day forward, its rays will cast a warm glow over dad’s tomb. As they shine through the branches of that Japanese maple from you and the Japanese people, may those soft shadows be a constant reminder of the lasting friendships forged in dad’s historic visit to Japan that have been renewed by you and your visit here to Grand Rapids. And may this lovely gift and its morning shadows symbolize those timeless friendships between our great nations, and between you and the city of Grand Rapids. Mr. Ambassador, on behalf of Mother and the Ford family, welcome to Grand Rapids and Mr. Ambassador, thank you from the bottom of my heart for this very special gift of friendship.
A soldier from the Michigan National Guard observes a 38-second moment of silent tribute to our 38th President.

Ambassador Fujisaki’s remarks at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony

Thank you very much, please be seated. Ladies and gentleman, it’s a great honor for me to be here this morning. There is a figure of an astronaut in front of the museum. When landing on the moon, Captain Neil Armstrong said “it’s a small step for man but a great leap for mankind”. One man’s life, even at 90 years old is a short time in history. But one man can make a great difference. President Ford, when he was a soldier, fought the Japanese bravely in WWII for the United States and 30 years later in 1974 he made the first historic visit to Japan, the first time an incumbent president of the United States. This was a great leap in our bilateral history. He is remembered fondly by the people of Japan. He will be remembered fondly by the people of Japan. Today, I am greatly honored to see the flag of Japan here and able to plant the Japanese Maple tree on this site. I thank you very much.

Rick Albin presents remarks at Wreath Laying Ceremony. Below is an excerpt of Mr. Albin’s remarks.

I want to thank Mrs. Ford in California who is watching this morning and the Ford family for once again honoring me by allowing me to be here. I couldn’t help but think a moment ago it has been more than ten years since the President and I sat in an office and had a warm, wonderful conversation. When we were done the President stood up, looked out over his beloved Grand Rapids, and told me about things that were there years ago and how things have changed and how the City has developed. And I thought now - a decade later - how proud he would have been to walk across here on this beautiful morning and look at the City he loved so much; and how proud he would have been of you, his family, and the Foundation for continuing your connection to this community that meant so much to him. So thank you for that, and thank you for allowing me to be here this morning...

It is a great honor for me to be here today. If you think that ambassadors are trained to say, “it’s a great honor” after each meal every day, that’s wrong, I mean it today!

President Ford was an all American hero. Not only a hero of Grand Rapids, not only a hero of Michigan but of all America. I was just visiting the museum. He excelled in his academic record, he excelled in sports. He turned down the offer of profitable gain and went to Yale Graduate School, became a Congressman, Minority Leader, Vice President, and President of the United States. What else can one dream of in his lifetime? But he was not respected and admired because only of what he achieved, what his position was. He was admired and loved because of his down to earth attitude, high morale, caring family type, modesty and humility. But you all know that, the people of Grand Rapids. So I’ll talk only about his relations with my country.

Yes, he was the first incumbent president to have visited Japan and this was only three months after his assuming the post as President of the United States. It was not an easy time, high inflation, high unemployment. These are terms that are not too unfamiliar today, but still that was so at the time as well as the Middle East crisis. Some of the newspapers said, “Jerry stay home”, but nonetheless he decided to go. He writes in his excellent memoir, A Time to Heal, that he thought it was time to go. Japan and the United States started diplomatic relations in 1860. The first Samurai Mission came from Japan. So this year, 2010, is the 150th Anniversary. And up until 1974, many Japanese Prime Ministers came to the United States, but no President had ever visited Japan.

So he thought, it was the time. Also during President Nixon’s days, there were some issues. For example, the Japanese were a bit disappointed with President Nixon’s overtures to China in 1971 and 1972. Also, the sudden devaluation of the dollar. These issues had given some shocks to the Japanese and it was a time of healing for us as well. All the presidents after President Ford; President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush 41, President Clinton, President Bush 43, President Obama have visited Japan so what President Ford did was really icebreaking. We remember President Ford for that. I said this morning, “It’s a fond memory that will never be forgotten”.

I personally remember this visit too. When President Ford visited Japan, young diplomats were gathered because there was a state banquet and reception, and diplomats were assembled to be interpreters. I happened to be one of them. I didn’t have the honor to interpret for the President, but I was the interpreter for the Presidential Suite just a few meters away. That was an exciting period and experience for me, and I still remember it. That was a great honor. So to come here to Grand Rapids and to be in the assembly today was a great honor for me.

I was sharing with Mrs. Susan Ford Bales that I have a medal of President Ford placed on my desk because of the memory. This was not given, I bought it at an auction. (laughter). But as I was showing it, I was presented with a medal today. A very special one. It’s the commemorative medal of President Ford’s name on an aircraft carrier. So again it’s a great honor.

President Ford was very much welcomed by the Japanese people, Emperor and Empress of Japan, and he extended an invitation to their Majesties Emperor and Empress to visit the United States. In 1975, their Majesties Emperor and Empress visited the United States and were very warmly welcomed by President and Mrs. Ford. When they were preparing the schedule for the visit, the Emperor expressed his desire to visit and see a football game in New York. This was such a rare thing, usually these requests are not made. The Japanese Ambassador brought that request to the State Department and the State Department was a little hesitant (laughter). It’s a huge crowd so they thought the security would be rather difficult to provide. They reported back to Tokyo. However, the Emperor insisted. This is a very rare thing, and later it was found that previously when President Ford visited Japan, a top player of University of Michigan himself, he strongly suggested to the Emperor to watch a football game when he visited the United States (laughter). So that is the story behind it.

President Ford is also remembered for what he did in 1976. It was a bicentennial year. As many of you know, Japanese Americans were interned in camps during WWII. He signed the proclamation to admit that this was wrong. He said that to learn from the wrong is difficult, but you have to do it in order that history would not repeat itself. He is right. That has made America today. That has made the United States this great nation.
Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki Visits the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital

Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki delighted children during a visit to the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. The Ambassador’s visit to Grand Rapids was sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. After speaking at a luncheon at the Amway Grand Plaza the Ambassador toured the construction site for the new Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, scheduled to open on January 11, 2011.

Following a brief tour of the $286 million hospital project, Ambassador Fujisaki asked to visit patients at the hospital. While touring the outpatient cancer therapy program with Joe Calvaruso of the Ford Foundation and representatives of Amway Global, the Ambassador gathered children around him and reached into what literally was his “bag of tricks.” He did magic tricks with lengths of string and that brought smiles to the children’s faces. He also gave gifts to the children.

It was a heartwarming moment for the patients and the staff alike and was a highlight of the Ambassador’s visit to the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.
In honor of the 97th anniversary of President Ford’s birth and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America with the country’s only Eagle Scout president, Madame Tussauds Washington D.C. branch displayed its wax figure of President Ford at the museum during the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. The figure is part of Madame Tussauds’ upcoming U.S. Presidents Gallery, debuting completely in February 2011, featuring three-dimensional tributes to all 44 U.S. presidents. President Ford’s likeness was one of nine presidents to be crafted first. Each Madame Tussauds figure averages around $200,000 and takes about six months to create.

Following the wreath-laying and tree-planting ceremonies, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki joined Susan Ford Bales, Library Director Elaine Didier, and Museum Curator Donald Holloway for a tour of the museum’s exhibits.

Earlier the staff had prepared two exhibit cases with artifacts from President Ford’s historic 1974 visit to Japan and documents from the Emperor and Empress’ historic visit to Washington in 1975. One case was lined with a beautiful Sounji silver brocade fabric, a gift of Japan’s Prime Minister, Kakou Tanaka. The Ambassador also saw a silver fountain pen presented to President Ford by the Nippon Kisha Club and gifts given to the President at the Akasaka Palace by the Nippon Boy Scouts. A photograph of President Ford planting a dogwood tree on the grounds of the palace and the painting “Summer Mountain with White Clouds” by famed Japanese artist Kaii Higashiyama also were on display.

The museum’s curator pointed out to the Ambassador an ornately framed photograph of Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. The photograph had been autographed and presented to President Ford by the Emperor. The President kept the photograph in his California office until it was sent to the museum in 2007.
President Gerald R. Ford’s Historic Visit to Japan in 1974

President Ford’s trip marked the first time a sitting U.S. President traveled to Japan. In November 1974, Air Force One touched down at Tokyo International Airport to begin the historic visit. President Ford later met with Emperor Hirohito at the Akasaka Palace. Marking the event and as a sign of friendship between the two countries, President Ford planted a dogwood tree at the palace.

Eleven months later, Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako made their own historic visit when they came to Washington for the first state visit of an Emperor. Only 30 years before, Japan and the United States were locked on opposite sides in a brutal conflict. Yet by 1975, the bonds of friendship were strengthened between the two nations - - a friendship that continues to prosper today.

New Markers Unveiled at President Ford’s Tomb

On July 14, 2010 identical markers at each gate heading to President Ford’s tomb were unveiled to the public for the first time. The three thousand five hundred pound markers are made of black granite. The markers rest upon a base of Aquila Sandstone. This sandstone was used in the construction of the White House and U.S. Capitol.

“We’ve been so excited that Mom has been personally involved throughout the design and development of the markers.”
Remarks of Susan Ford Bales and Vaden Bales at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Left Picture: Front view of one of two identical markers placed at the gate to President Ford’s Tomb.

Right Picture: Back view of one of two identical markers placed at the gate to President Ford’s Tomb.

### Betty Ford – An Extraordinary Life
**October 27, 2010 through February 27, 2011**


### Steve and Dick Ford
**Gerald R. Ford, The Early Years**
**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**
**8:00 p.m.**

Please join President Ford’s son Steve and bother Dick for an in-depth discussion of Gerald R. Ford’s early years. The talk is being held in conjunction with the feature exhibit From School House to White House: *The Education of the Presidents*. For reservations call (616) 254-0384 or email ford_events@nara.gov.

### ArtPrize
**September 22 - October 10, 2010**

This year the Ford Museum welcomes 20 artists to the lobby and grounds surrounding the Museum. For more information visit fordlibrarymuseum.gov.

### ArtPrize Artist Meet and Greet
**Monday, September 27 and Thursday, September 30, 2010**
**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Each night will highlight different artists whose work is on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. No reservations are required.

### Rosalynn Carter
**Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis**
**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**

Mrs. Carter’s discussion of her newly published book is co-sponsored by GVSU’s Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. For reservations and event details visit allpresidents.org.

### Susan Ford Bales
**Betty Ford–An Extraordinary Life**
**Wednesday, October 27, 2010**
**7:30 p.m.**

Join Mrs. Ford’s daughter, Susan, as she discusses the life and character of her mother, one of the most important First Ladies in our nation’s history. This is the opening program for the new exhibit *Betty Ford–An Extraordinary Life*. For reservations call (616) 254-0384 or email ford_events@nara.gov.

### A Visit Fit for a King

After being sworn in as President on August 9, 1974, Gerald Ford had to hit the ground running. The same held for his wife. Betty Ford, had not sought the office of First Lady, but once ensconced, she proved her versatility. Within twenty-four hours, she was told that King Hussein and Queen Alia of Jordan were to attend a state dinner at the White House in less than a week. Though she had attended state dinners, she had not hosted one. Nor had she gotten acquainted with her East Wing staff, all of whom were holdovers from the Nixon White House. Additionally, the Fords were not yet living in the White House, complicating coordination all the more. Still, though the First Lady might be a rookie at hosting state dinners, the staff was quite accomplished at the task. They just needed direction. With the help of a friend, the newly minted First Lady crafted a plan. The menu included cold salmon, roast beef, artichoke salad, Brie, and mousse. Mrs. Ford wore a white crepe gown collared and cuffed with ostrich feathers. It was designed and made by Frankie Welch, a dressmaker who owned a boutique in Alexandria, Virginia, whom Mrs. Ford had known for years. The dinner was a success, with the Queen marveling at Mrs. Ford’s fortitude.
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.

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

“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

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.

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.geraldfordfoundation.org. For further information, please contact Diane VanAllsburg at 616.254.0396 or email dvanallsburg@38foundation.org.

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

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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.