Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Stamp Unveiled

The Ford children and Vice President Dick Cheney joined Postmaster General John E. Potter in the unveiling of the Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Stamp at the annual dinner of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation in Washington, D.C. on June 11, 2007. Nearly 200 persons were present, including many who had served with President Ford during his congressional and White House years. The 41¢ stamp will be issued nationwide on August 31, with special stamp dedication ceremonies taking place at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids and in Rancho Mirage, California.

President Ford’s daughter Susan Ford Bales stated, “Dad would be very proud to be honored by the Nation through this U.S. postage stamp. Mother and our family are deeply grateful to the Postal Service for creating this wonderful tribute to Dad.”

“Throughout his more than three decades of public service, Gerald Ford gave so much to this Nation. This stamp personifies his strong character as a courageous and principled leader who successfully healed the nation at a critical time in our history.” —Postmaster General John E. Potter

James Baker and Lee Hamilton Receive the 2007 Gerald R. Ford Medals for Distinguished Public Service

In awarding the Ford Medals to James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, the Foundation cited each man's distinguished career and extraordinary public service over decades, and most recently their demonstration of bipartisanship in co-chairing the Iraq Study group (ISG), also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission. Foundation Chairman Jack Ford, along with siblings Susan Ford Bales, Steve Ford, and Mike Ford, made the presentations.

Established in 1988, the Ford Medal recognizes outstanding public contributions by individuals who reflect the qualities demonstrated by President Ford during his public service career: strength of character, integrity, trustworthiness, fidelity to principles in decision-making, sound judgment, decisiveness (particularly during periods of crisis), determination in the face of adversity, diligence, self-confidence balanced with respect for the views of others, and self-discipline in personal life.
Letter from the Director

As you can see in the coverage included in this issue, the brisk pace of activity at the Ford Presidential Library and Museum continued through the spring and summer months. On July 14, the Museum hosted the first annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony in honor of President Ford's 94th birthday. Wreaths were presented from President Bush and Mrs. Ford and the Ford Family, and Ford son-in-law Vaden Bales made formal remarks of tribute to the President. In keeping with a twenty-five year tradition, admission to the Museum was free, drawing more than 1,500 visitors throughout the day. As we go to press, the Museum is working with the U.S. Postal Service to host on August 31 a First Day of Issue Ceremony, unveiling the new stamp honoring President Ford. Simultaneous events were held in Grand Rapids and Rancho Mirage, CA.

Throughout the summer, the Museum continued to draw numerous visitors to see The Enemy Within exhibit on loan from the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. Feature speakers Peter Earnest, Jerrold Post and Daniel Levitas all filled the auditorium for their insightful and thought-provoking presentations. Check our website for photos.

Looking ahead to the fall, the Museum will host a feature exhibit from the National Archives. Eyewitness offers gripping eyewitness accounts of key moments in our nation’s history, including Thomas Jefferson’s firsthand account of the fall of the Bastille in July 1789, Lady Bird Johnson’s moving memories of the assassination of President Kennedy, and the Apollo 8 crew’s amazing view of the earth while in lunar orbit for the first time. The exhibit opens October 5 with Congressman John Lewis discussing his experience as a part of the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama.

On October 18, the Museum will host Foundation Trustee Professor Benton Becker who will share his own eyewitness account of the transition in power from President Nixon to President Ford. Other speakers scheduled for the fall include Barry Landau, author of The President’s Table: Two Hundred Years of Dining and Diplomacy, Charlie Savage of The Boston Globe, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize and this year’s Ford Journalism Prize for Reporting on the Presidency, and author of Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy, and Tom DeFrank, Washington Bureau Chief for the New York Daily News and winner of last year’s Ford Journalism Prize, to discuss his soon-to-be-released book Write It When I’m Dead: Conversations with Gerald Ford, based on private conversations with President Ford over the past sixteen years.

Finally, I want to express our deep appreciation to Joseph Albritton for his unrestricted gift of $1 million to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation in memory of President Ford. This contribution will provide critical support for our future exhibits, speakers and educational programs.

ELAINE K. DIDIER, DIRECTOR
Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Library and Museum

Program Highlights

Operation Babylift: A Tribute to President Ford.
Dozens of individuals involved in Operation Babylift gathered at the Museum to witness multiple tributes to President Ford for his April 1975 actions that saved the lives of over 2,500 Vietnamese orphans and thousands of other Vietnam refugees. Steve Ford made remarks and read a letter from Mrs. Ford to close the program. Attendees expressed their deep appreciation and personal thanks for President Ford’s leadership at a most difficult time.

The Enemy Within: Terror in America, 1776 to Today opened at the Museum in Grand Rapids with a talk by International Spy Museum Director Peter Earnest (below), about this, his institution’s first traveling exhibit.

Dr. Jerrold M. Post delivered When Hatred is Bred in the Bone: Psychocultural Foundations of Contemporary Terrorism.
New Foundation Trustees

David Brandon
Chairman of the Board,
Chief Executive Officer of Domino’s Pizza
Former Regent of the University of Michigan

Stephen McConahay
Chairman of SGM Capital, LLC,
a Colorado-based private and
public investment firm
President Ford’s Director of the
White House Office on
Intergovernmental Affairs

Richard Norton Smith
George Mason University Fellow,
and noted historian and author
Ford family historical advisor
Former Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential
Museum and Library

Frank Ursomarso
President of Union Park Automotive
Group, Inc.
Deputy Assistant for Communications to
President Reagan
President Ford’s Deputy Director of the Advance Office

Ronald Weiser
Founder of McKinley Associates,
a national real estate investment company and
Chairman of the McKinley Foundation
Former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia

Don Rumsfeld Honored

At the annual dinner meeting on June 11, Trustee Don Rumsfeld received
special honors for “his extraordinary service to our nation and the
Gerald R. Ford Foundation and his special friendship
with the Ford Family.” Steve
Ford presented the former Secretary of Defense with
a crystal image of the U.S.
Capital with a plaque signed
by President and Mrs. Ford.
The Foundation’s executive
committee approved the
special recognition on Nov-
ember 8, 2006.

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Administrative Assistant
The 2006 Gerald R. Ford Foundation Journalism Prizes

James Astill
South Asia bureau chief for
*The Economist*
- Brings an exceptional level of literary journalism to his craft.

Charlie Savage
Washington correspondent for *The Boston Globe*
- Awarded the 20th annual Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency.
- Exposed a persistent and unprecedented expansion of Presidential authority that infringed on the separation of powers imbedded in the Constitution.

The Spring 2007 Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Travel Grant Awards

Nigel Bowles
**Oxford University, England**
*Ford, Carter, and Reagan: Presidents and Congresses after Watergate*

Christian Collet
**Doshisha University, Japan**
*A Profound Moral Obligation*: The Impact of Gerald Ford and His Administration’s Policies on the Construction and Politics of the Vietnamese American Community

Benjamin Looker
**Yale University**
*A Place Apart: Imagining the American Neighborhood, 1940–2000*

Donald Maxwell
**Indiana University**
*Unguarded Border: The Movement of People and Ideas between the United States and Canada in the Vietnam War Era*

Mark Nevin
**University of Virginia**
*The Rise of Political Polling and the Battle for Public Opinion during the Nixon Presidency*

Thomas Schwartz
**Vanderbilt University**
*Henry Kissinger and the Dilemmas of American Power*

Katherine Scott
**Temple University**

Min Song
**University of Georgia**
*Sino-American Economic Relations from 1971–1980*

Excerpt from Letter to Supervisory Archivist from Spring 2007 Grant Recipient...

"May I thank you and through you, all of your colleagues who ensured that the three weeks that I have just completed at the Gerald R. Ford Library were so busily successful? Not only did I collect much useful material, but I learned a great deal. There is, I think, a wider point: the Library is a remarkable and remarkably successful institution. Its focus on researcher’s needs is exemplary, and its support for their work definitive. Scarcely a day passed in the last three weeks without Bill, Donna, and others enquiring about the direction, pace, and scope of my research. Help was always at hand when needed. I hope that you and your colleagues draw real pleasure from the knowledge that the Ford Library has set and maintained such exceptional standards. The scholarly community is indebted to you all."

—Nigel Bowles, *Honor Balfour Fellow in Politics*
**St. Anne’s College, Oxford**

The 2007 Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award in Honor of Robert M. Teeter Goes to Vanessa Walker

Vanessa P. Walker, selected as the recipient of the 2007 Teeter Scholar Award this past June, visited the Library in July to conduct research on her doctoral dissertation, *Ambivalent Allies: Advocates, Diplomats, and the Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America,* at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Visit our websites for more information on the above awards, current and past recipients and the next application deadlines: [fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://fordlibrarymuseum.gov) and [geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://geraldrfordfoundation.org).
Presidential Visitors

Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton visited President Ford's burial site on April 24 and June 18, respectively, laying flowers and spending a quiet moment.

First Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony on President's Ford's Birthday, July 14

Tributes to President Ford continue, ranging from resolutions and plaques to the renaming of buildings to honor his memory. These include:

- The President Ford Boys and Girls Club of La Quinta (CA) was dedicated on April 13.
- Beaver Creek's Village Hall was re-dedicated as Gerald R. Ford Hall on June 23 during the 26th annual AEI World Forum, a gathering of political and business leaders founded by President Ford. Vice President Dick Cheney and Vaden Bales, President Ford's son-in-law, participated in the ceremony.
- The Vail Post Office was renamed for President Ford on July 27. During her remarks, Susan Ford shared fond memories of numerous visits to the area.
- President Ford's elementary school in Grand Rapids, MI was renamed Gerald R. Ford Middle School in a ceremony on August 23.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler laid a Presidential Wreath from President George W. Bush at President Ford's burial site, as part of a long-standing tradition to honor deceased presidents. President Ford's brother, Dick Ford, and his son-in-law, Trustee Vaden Bales, placed a Personal Wreath from Mrs. Ford and the family. Inside the Museum guests viewed memorial displays of shell casings from the State Funeral and a painting by Stan Stokes of the USS Gerald R. Ford, the new aircraft carrier class which will debut in 2015.
Every Friday night at 8 pm ET, from November 7 through December 18, C-SPAN will air a live, 2-hour program on location from one of the National Archives' 12 presidential libraries. In addition to never-before-rarely-aired archival materials, each program will feature interviews and viewer call-in segments with respected experts, such as curators, archivists, historians, and other "witnesses to history." Live segments will take viewers to the exhibit halls and into the archives of each library where rare artifacts are preserved. Richard Norton Smith, nationally-recognized presidential historian who has served as director of four Presidential Libraries is a consultant to C-SPAN for this series and will take part in all 12 programs. The Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor will be featured on October 26.

Visit: c-span.org/presidentiallibraries/

Coming Up!

**EYEWITNESS**

American Origins from the National Archives

**EYEWITNESS**, Presenting firsthand accounts of watershed events in American history, October 5, 2007 - January 6, 2008 at the Museum in Grand Rapids

**Charlie Savage**, October 2: ANN ARBOR

**John Lewis**, October 5: GRAND RAPIDS

**Benton Becker**, October 18: GRAND RAPIDS

**Richard Norton Smith**, October 24: GRAND RAPIDS

**Tom DeFrank**, November 7: ANN ARBOR

**Barry Landau**, November 14-15: GRAND RAPIDS/ANN ARBOR

Thank you, Friends of Ford

**Friends of Ford** membership more than doubled this past year and we thank you heartily. All those who graciously sent memorial contributions were automatically enrolled. Your membership is an important element in the Gerald R. Ford Foundation's sponsorship of the many exhibits and programs at both the Library and Museum. We hope you have enjoyed participating in our programs and activities and in receiving this newsletter as a benefit.

For more information about Friends of Ford membership, go to our website geraldrfordfoundation.org or contact Diane Van Allsburg (see bottom of address column).