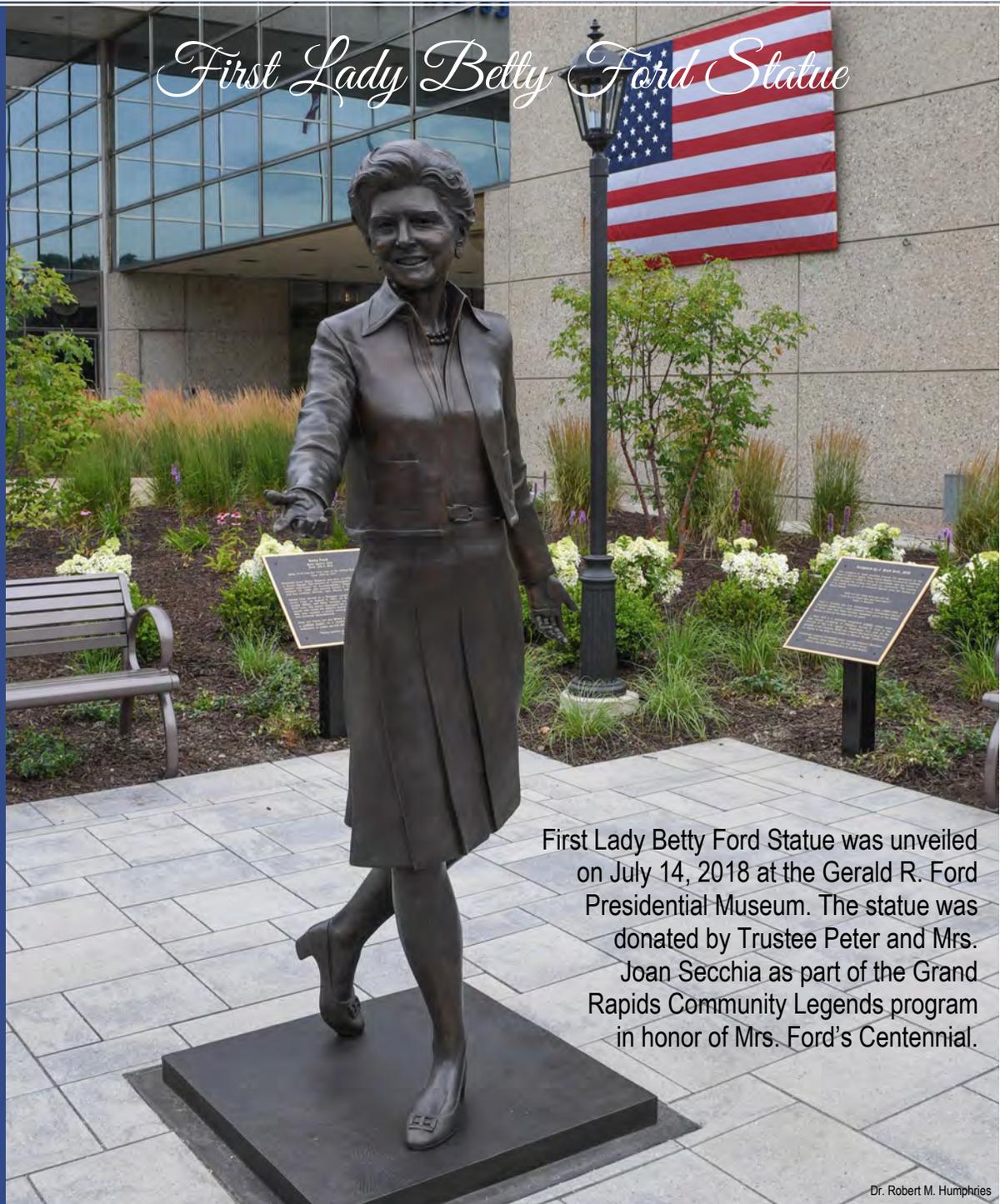




Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2018

First Lady Betty Ford Statue



First Lady Betty Ford Statue was unveiled on July 14, 2018 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The statue was donated by Trustee Peter and Mrs. Joan Secchia as part of the Grand Rapids Community Legends program in honor of Mrs. Ford's Centennial.

Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Letter from the Executive Director,
Joseph S. Calvaruso



**Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Foundation**

Michael G. Ford
Chairman

Hank Meijer
Vice-Chairman

Terrence O'Donnell
Secretary

David C. Hoogendoorn
Treasurer

Martin J. Allen, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Alan Greenspan
Seymour K. Padnos

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John G. Baab
James A. Baker, III
Susan Ford Bales
Brian C. Becker
David A. Brandon
Robert W. Browne
James H. Cavanaugh
Red Cavaney
Richard B. Cheney
Maria Cimitile
Douglas DeVos
John M. Engler
Steven M. Ford
David G. Frey
James P. Hackett
Bryce "Larry" Harlow
Carla A. Hills
Laura Hills
David S. Hooker
J. C. Huiזenga
Robert D. Hynes
Michael Jandernoa
Fred P. Keller
John Kennedy
David Hume Kennerly
Henry A. Kissinger
John O. Marsh, Jr.
Robin B. Martin
William Martin
F. David Mathews
Stephen McConahey
M. Peter McPherson
Mark A. Murray
Paul H. O'Neill, Jr.
Leon W. Parma
Richard D. Parsons
Roger B. Porter
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Mark S. Schlissel
Bill Schuette
Karen Scowcroft
Peter F. Secchia
J. Donald Sheets
Samuel "Buzz" Thomas, III
Margaret Tutwiler
Frank A. Ursomarso
James P. Ursomarso
Steve Van Andel
Stephen C. Waterbury
Teresa Weatherall Neal
Ronald Weiser
Gregory D. Willard
Albert C. Zapanta
Frank G. Zarb
Frank G. Zarb, Jr.

Joseph S. Calvaruso
Executive Director

Elaine K. Didier
Library/Museum Director



(l-r) Museum Supervisory Curator Don Holloway and Executive Director Joe Calvaruso at the statue of First Lady Betty Ford in front of the Museum.

On Thursday, September 6, Honorary Trustee Richard Devos passed away in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to Trustee Doug DeVos and his entire family. Rich DeVos was a cherished friend of President and Mrs. Ford and will be deeply missed.

July 14, 2018 was the 105th anniversary of President Ford's birth. For the twelfth consecutive year, the annual Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony was conducted at President and Mrs. Ford's tomb in accordance with Betty Ford's wishes. Just prior to the Wreath Laying Ceremony, crewmembers from the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78), along with members of the Ford family, planted a sugar maple tree adjacent to the tomb in honor of CVN 78's namesake. The crewmembers also spent several days in Grand Rapids and participated in a number of public service and community outreach activities.

Following the Wreath Laying Ceremony, a statue of Mrs. Ford, generously donated by Trustee Peter and Joan Secchia, was unveiled outside the Museum. The statue is in a new park-like setting, greeting visitors to the Museum. It was wonderful to have Susan Ford Bales, Mike and Steve Ford present for the day's activities.

Lisa McCubbin's wonderful new biography of Mrs. Ford, "Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer" has just been released. Lisa is making several public appearances this Fall to discuss her book, including at the Library and Museum. The Museum recently hosted *The Today Show* correspondent, Jenna Bush, who interviewed Lisa McCubbin and Susan Ford Bales about the new Betty Ford biography. Earlier this year, Trustee Don Rumsfeld's book "When the Center Held: Gerald Ford and the Rescue of the American Presidency" was released. The book is a compelling portrait of our 38th president written with special insights and impeccable research by one of the president's closest friends and advisers. I highly recommend both books to everyone.

A Michigan Historical Marker, recognizing President Ford's distinction as the only president to have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, was dedicated earlier this year. It has since been permanently installed in front of Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids by the church's Boy Scout troop.

After months of development and collaboration with local PBS affiliate, WGTV, the Foundation's *PBS Learning Media* lesson is now fully operational and available to millions of educators and students nationwide. The lesson can be accessed by visiting: pbslearningmedia.org. The three-part lesson takes students on a virtual tour of selected galleries in the Museum and teaches students to analyze primary sources for learning history. Special thanks and congratulations to Clare Shubert, the Foundation's Director of Engagement and Programming, for a job very well done.

Exciting news was recently announced by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Trustee Ron Weiser and Mrs. Eileen Weiser made a \$10 million gift to the Ford School to establish the *Weiser Diplomacy Center*. The new Center will bring a wide array of diplomats and foreign policy experts to campus and provide unique educational opportunities for students through workshops, simulations, conferences, and internship opportunities in the U.S. and abroad.

We look forward to the Foundation's Fall and Winter programs, many of which will be available for viewing via Facebook Live. You can get information on these upcoming programs and other activities on the Foundation's website: geraldfordfoundation.org.

All the best,



President Gerald Ford and Richard DeVos were lifetime friends.

Remembering Richard DeVos
1926 - 2018

"Honorary Trustee Rich DeVos and father of Trustee Doug DeVos passed away on September 6, 2018 at his home in Ada, Michigan. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to Doug and their entire family. Rich was one of the founding Board members in 1981, and in 1998 he became an Honorary Trustee. We are grateful for the extraordinary leadership and support he provided to the Foundation through the years. His legacy will continue through the DeVos Learning Center for generations. Rich was a cherished friend of Mom and Dad and will be missed by us all".
~ Mike Ford, Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

Trustees Frank and James Ursomarso Reflect on President Ford's Character, Integrity

As appeared in the *Delaware Online* – Opinion Contribution on July 19, 2018
Frank Ursomarso served in the Ford White House. He and his son, James Ursomarso, both live in Wilmington and serve as trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

“President Gerald Ford was Defined by Character, Integrity”

July 14 is the birthday of President Gerald R. Ford, born in 1913 in Omaha, Nebraska. Character and integrity defined Jerry Ford's long life in private and in his decades of public service.

Jerry's mother Dorothy fled with the baby shortly after his birth on July 30, 1913, leaving her husband in Omaha. Jerry's mother moved them to live with her parents in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She divorced and eventually met and married Gerald Rudolph Ford, Sr. and Jerry took his new father's name as his own (Jerry was born Leslie Lynch King Jr.). Ford was a football star in high school, going on to play center for the then (as now) national powerhouse University of Michigan Wolverines. During Ford's years at Michigan, the football team won two national titles, but it was during one of Michigan's worst football seasons ever, in 1934, that young Ford showed the qualities that would characterize his life.

Ford's close friend on the team was Willis Ward, an African-American from Detroit and former Michigan high school athlete of the year. Ford and Ward were the same year and had always roomed together during the team's road trips. The two players stand next to each other in the 1934 team photo. In the 1934 season, Michigan agreed to host Georgia Tech for a game in November. As the game date drew closer, Georgia Tech insisted that they would call off the game if Willis Ward played: The Georgia team would not take the field with a black player on it.

Ford was incensed, as were many at Michigan. Ford decided not to play if Ward did not play. After talking to his father, Coach Kipke, and Willis Ward, Ford decided to play, played an outstanding game, and in doing so made his own statement against racism. Jerry Ford and the rest of the Michigan team rose to the occasion, beating Georgia Tech in the only game Michigan would win that season. The story of that game and Ford and Ward's friendship was recently turned into a play, titled “Victors of Character.”



President Ford greets Frank Ursomarso in the Oval Office on December 10, 1976. Frank served as the White House Staff Assistant to President Ford in the Office of Presidential Advance.

After Michigan, Willis Ward went on to law school, eventually serving as the first African-American probate judge in Wayne County, Michigan. In 1976 Ford was the first president to recognize Black History Month, calling upon Americans to “... seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” No doubt President Ford was thinking of his friend Willis Ward when he uttered those words.

Many thought Jerry Ford would go on to play professional football after college, but instead he chose to go to Yale Law School, working as a coach to help pay his way. Leaving his fledgling law firm to join the Navy in 1942, Ford served with distinction in the Pacific and left the Navy in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

After returning to law practice in Grand Rapids, Ford ran for Congress in 1948. To the surprise of many, he won, beginning at age 35 his first of 13 terms serving Michigan in Congress, ending his congressional career as House minority leader.

Ford's personal life was equally successful. He married Elizabeth Ann Bloomer Warren, the charismatic, spirited woman whom so many Americans came to admire as Betty Ford.

Ford's political career culminated in his appointment to the vice presidency (to replace the

resigned Spiro Agnew of Maryland) and his assumption of the presidency when Richard Nixon resigned in August of 1974.

Ford's legacy lives on today, although his achievements in public service and his personal qualities deserve far more attention. Ford learned his commitment to public service early, earning the rank of Eagle Scout (the only president to achieve that mark). Putting his country first above his political life, Ford made the unpopular decision to pardon Nixon in order to help heal the nation. That decision may well have cost Ford the 1976 election, but he chose to do, as he

always did, what he believed was in the best interests of the country.

While many remember President Ford mainly for the Nixon pardon, Ford's life and presidency swept a great arc of history and accomplishments, accomplishments always marked by his characteristic good humor, humility and clear conscience to do the right thing.

The quality of a great leader can often be judged by the quality of the people who surround him or her. Ford, never one threatened by the outstanding merits of others, attracted a constellation of respected advisers who would go on to some of the highest leadership positions in the nation over the subsequent three decades.

The newest aircraft carrier in the U.S. fleet launched in 2017, and is aptly named the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. The carrier recognizes the man for the full sum of his life and accomplishments with its ship's motto of “Integrity at the Helm,” a fitting tribute to an exceptional American.



Trustee James Ursomarso

Courtesy of James Ursomarso

2018 Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford

On July 14, 2018, the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford, marking the 105th anniversary of his birth. Michigan National Guard Major General Gregory J. Vadnais provided the keynote address. Major General Vadnais was joined by Foundation Trustees, staff of the Foundation and Museum, as well as friends from throughout Western Michigan.

During his remarks, Major General Gregory J. Vadnais noted that “Throughout his life, Gerald R. Ford demonstrated rare, intelligent, enthusiastic, steady, and modest leadership that provided confidence and surety to the people he loved – his family, his teammates, his sailors, and the citizens of Michigan and all the citizens of this great nation. Gerald R. Ford is an example of an American leader.”

General Vadnais placed the official presidential wreath sent by President Donald J. Trump. In addition, wreaths were presented on behalf of the Crew of USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Trustees, Children and Grandchildren of President Gerald R. Ford, and Nieces and Nephews of President Gerald R. Ford. The USS Gerald R. Ford Crew Members presented a Maple tree, which was ceremonially planted at the Tomb.

The program for the Wreath Laying Ceremony included: Presentation of the Colors by the President Ford Field Service Council, Boy Scouts of America; *National Anthem* by Grand Rapids Police Department Officer Wally Tett; *Pledge of Allegiance* by Whitaker Oosterman; Welcome Remarks by Trustee Susan Ford Bales; Invocation by Reverend Stephen Holmgren; the keynote address by Major General Gregory J. Vadnais; and Benediction by Foundation Chairman Mike Ford.



Left: Major General Gregory Vadnais remarks at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. **Center:** (l-r) Trustee Steve Ford, Major General Gregory Vadnais, Trustee Susan Ford Bales, and Foundation Chairman Mike Ford present General Vadnais with a state funeral cannon shell that was fired at Andrews Air Force Base on January 2, 2007, as President Ford's casket was placed aboard Air Force One for his return home to Michigan. The shell was encased in a special shadow box with President Ford's three seals etched in the glass. This year General Gregory Vadnais, Michigan's Adjutant General, will complete forty-eight years of distinguished military service. **Right:** General Vadnais places the official presidential wreath from President Donald J. Trump at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford.



Left: Crew members from the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) presented a wreath on behalf of their ship and her crew. **Right:** (l-r) Grand Rapids Police Officer Wally Tett performed the “National Anthem”; Presentation of the Colors by President Ford Field Service Council, Boy Scouts of America; and the “Pledge of Allegiance” was given scout Whitaker Oosterman.



Crewmembers of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) are joined by family and friends as they plant a maple tree in honor of President Gerald R. Ford. The ceremonial tree planting was performed at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford prior to the Wreath Laying Ceremony. (l-r) Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Major General Gregory Vadnais, Trustee Susan Ford Bales, Congressman, Bill Huizenga, Foundation Chairman Mike Ford, Gayle Ford, Trustee Steve Ford during the ceremonial tree planting.



Trustee Susan Ford Bales welcomes guests to the 2018 Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Left: "Echo Taps" are sounded by First Sergeant Tim Bender and Sergeant Jeff Bender. **Right:** Foundation Chairman Mike Ford gave the Wreath Laying Benediction.



Left Top: Personal Remembrances to President and Mrs. Ford placed by Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer, Trustee Maria Cimitile, and Trustee Teresa Weatherall Neal.

Left Middle: Personal Remembrances placed by (l-r) Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, Treasurer David Hoogendoorn, Trustees John Baab, David Fry, David Hooker, and Peter Secchia. **Left Bottom:** Wreath Laying Procession to the Tomb of President Ford led by Bagpiper Jerry Dibble.



Three Volley Salute by the Firing Party from the Kent Metro Honor Guard.

Jim Hill



First Lady Betty Ford Statue Unveiling at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. (l-r) Foundation Trustees Ambassador Peter Secchia, Susan Ford Bales, Steve Ford, Mrs. Joan Secchia, and Foundation Chairman Mike Ford.

First Lady Betty Ford Statue Welcomes You to the Museum!

Artist J. Brett Grill Remarks at Statue Unveiling
July 14, 2018

Thank you for letting me be here and be a part of this project.

It would be very easy for me to come in at this stage and reap the praise, but that would be a little disingenuous. There is so much ground-work that is laid in a project like this before the artist gets involved. Thank you to the Ford Museum and Foundation. Thank you to Joe Calvaruso and Don Holloway. Thank you to the Ford family: Susan, Mike, and Steve for generously sharing your stories and recollections of your Mother. Thank you to Community Legends: Joe Becherer and Jim Ens. Last and most important thank you goes to the Secchia Family, Joan and Peter, who remind us that our histories matter and that when we are surrounded by stories of great people of our past, we can be inspired to do great things as well.

All of you people are out here today on a rainy day. I believe that events like this are important because they are an expression of our community's values. Who we choose to celebrate as a city, as a community, this is important!

In July 2011, shortly after Mrs. Ford passed, there appeared little posters in the windows of various businesses in the area. They were pink

posters that featured a graphic silhouette of a hairdo and no face. Where the face would have been, there appeared three letters "B F F": Best Friends Forever, Betty Ford Forever. I loved the poster because it signified a couple of important things. First, it showed the love that Betty Ford had for her hometown and the love that her hometown returned to her. And second, it displayed that her story has currency, that her story is shared by people who would use the expression "B F F"; the younger generation. It meant that her story is still vital as ever and her legacy will live on long after she had passed.

Throughout her public life Betty Ford welcomed us to share in her triumphs and her failures: when she was strong and also when she was weak. The idea was that your community, your family, and your support structure would help you flourish in both situations if you let them in. So, every time we see pink shoes on a basketball court, we should hear echoes of Mrs. Ford's life. When we are with friends, and they confide in us, they share their struggles, we should think of Betty Ford. When we think about our culture and the way that we now deal with addiction and depression, not as signifiers of moral failure, but as a sickness, we should also think about Betty Ford.

Our sculpture takes dance as its primary metaphor. It focuses on the moment when Mrs. Ford was thrust into the spotlight and given her chance to shine. Like a dancer she stepped forward in the only way that she knew how: by being herself. She took on the role of First Lady and as a public figure without any glimmer of self-importance and shared with us honestly and fearlessly.

Our sculpture welcomes visitors to the Museum. It welcomes the world into her personal journey. And, it welcomes the rest of us into a world of grace, where we too can move forward unafraid, knowing that no problem is insurmountable; no personal demon is too shameful; no weakness cannot be overcome with the help of people that we love. In welcoming, our sculpture offers her hand to visitors. Here I am as myself, Betty Bloomer Ford, the only person I know how to be. Let me hear your story and join with me in the dance of life. We have a sculpture and a life that embody the values of honesty, courage, lightness and grace. These are values that we as a city and a community are happy to celebrate together.

Thank you all for being here. Thank you, Grand Rapids, thank you Secchia Family, and thank you Betty Ford.



Top Left: Joe Becherer, Chairman of the Community Legends Project, welcomes guests to the statue unveiling of First Lady Betty Ford. **Top Center:** (l-r) Trustee Steve Ford, Artist J. Brett Grill, Trustee Susan Ford Bales, and Foundation Chairman Mike Ford at the statue of First Lady Betty Ford. **Top Right:** Trustee Ambassador Peter Secchia and Mrs. Joan Secchia during the Betty Ford Statue Unveiling.

*Don Holloway Remarks at Betty Ford Statue Unveiling
July 14, 2018*

Welcome to the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. It's a special day and we are very grateful that you are here.

Ambassador Secchia and Mrs. Secchia, we are very proud of what you, your family and the Community Legends Committee have brought to the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. So, we thank you.

Joe Calvaruso, we are very grateful for the generous help that the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation has provided in bringing this project to completion, so we thank you. Brett, with this your second installation here, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have such a gifted artist among us who so masterfully sculpted confidence and resolve to the President and now his graceful and welcoming wife First Lady Betty Ford. So, we thank you!

May this sculpture remind those who see it of a woman, wife, and mother who was once playful and loving, fragile yet determined, who was filled with faith, and who gave of herself. Like this statue, Betty was grounded. "I can only be myself" she said. Mike, Steve, and Susan can attest that in their mother one would find no pretense, but an honesty that helped heal America. An honesty that brought needed attention to women's health, which itself helped heal families. And, an honesty that helped bring strength to the voice of half our country when she said with characteristic candor and grace "Being ladylike does not require silence".

We also thank you Mike, Steve, and Susan for giving of yourselves to this institution and to our community so that we might more fully celebrate your mother's centennial with the dedication of this beautiful work of art. Thank you.

Don Holloway, Supervisory Curator at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Left: (l-r) Author Lisa McCubbin, and former United States Secret Service Agent and author Clint Hill at the Betty Ford statue.

Right: (l-r) Trustee Greg Willard, Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso, and Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer during the Betty Ford statue unveiling.



All statue unveiling photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries unless otherwise noted.

BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE

★★★
**PRESIDENTIAL
 SITES SUMMIT**
 ★★★

AUGUST 27-30, 2018 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

In August, the *Back to the White House Presidential Sites Summit* was held in Washington D.C. This national conference is held every four years and is hosted at a site with connections to the American presidency. Over 100 presidential sites from around the country -- birthplaces, homes, museums, and libraries were represented at the summit. Also, 40 presidential descendants, from James Monroe to George W. Bush attended.

President Ford's former Press Secretary Ron Nessen (photo below) participated in a panel discussion on *Presidents and the Press Throughout History* and Susan Ford Bales participated in *The Stories of Presidential Descendants* panel (right). The Descendants Panel was held at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The historic gathering included entertainment at the Lincoln Memorial, panel discussions, and on Wednesday evening, a visit to the White House for a reception hosted by President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump.



Above: (l-r) Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President Gerald R. Ford; Tweed Roosevelt, Great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt; David Rubenstein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Kennedy Center; Lynda Johnson Robb, Daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson; Massee McKinley, Descendant of Presidents William McKinley and Grover Cleveland; and Clifton Truman Daniel, Grandson of President Harry S. Truman.
Left: (l-r) Author Ken Walsh and President Ford's former Press Secretary Ron Nessen during a panel discussion. ~ Photos courtesy of The White House Historical Association.

The Today Show visits the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



The *Today Show* correspondent Jenna Bush Hagar stopped by the Museum on July 12, 2018 to interview Susan Ford Bales and Lisa McCubbin about the Centennial of First Lady Betty Ford and the release of a new book by Lisa McCubbin "Betty Ford; First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer".

2018 University of Michigan Commencement and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellowship



Left Photo: After working in the Detroit Mayor's office this summer, Megan Nestor (MPP '19) is continuing her studies as a second year Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellow. Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellows are charged with exemplifying the president's commitment to bipartisan cooperation and civility as well as deeply and positively engaging in community service with the intention to pursue a lifelong career in the public sector.

Right Photo: Nadine Jawad (BA '18), recently named a Rhodes Scholar, spoke at the University of Michigan commencement ceremony this spring. In her speech, she reflected on the courage and service of President Gerald R. Ford and urged her classmates to commit to following his example. *Photos Courtesy of the University of Michigan.*

USS Gerald R. Ford Sailors Visit Grand Rapids...*Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Pastrick*

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation hosted a wreath laying ceremony where Sailors were invited to lay a wreath bearing their ship's crest at the tomb of Gerald and Betty Ford. The ceremony occurs as part of a long-standing tradition in which the current president sends a wreath to the grave of every past president on their birthday. Ford Sailors were also invited to take part in a commemorative tree planting at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

"It's really important to be here," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Chris Atwood, from Livonia, Michigan, assigned to Ford's command religious ministries department. "To learn the history of our namesake shows us why he was such a great human being, a great president, and a great man."

Five Ford Sailors, most of them Michigan natives, made the three-day trip to honor their ship's namesake and support the local community. "As Michiganders, the opportunity to come back to our home state is truly special," said Lt. Sarah Brower, from Grand Haven, Michigan,



Dr. Robert M. Humphries

USS Gerald R. Ford Crew with the statue of First Lady Betty Ford.

tunities with local organizations, including the Salvation Army Ray and Kroc Corps Community Center, Boy Scouts of America, and Kid's Food Basket, a local non-profit that grows and provides after-school meals for children in need. "I was profoundly humbled by the work and spirit of the citizens of Grand Rapids," said Brower. "The organizations that we visited are doing impressive and impactful work in the community. It was unbelievable."

The group also received a personal guided tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum from the museum's curator.

"As a lover of history, this trip really strengthened my knowledge and connection to the Ford family and what we as CVN 78 Sailors should strive to stand for and emulate," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Jeremy Stoecklein, from Hutchinson, Kansas, assigned to Ford's air department. "Representing the namesake of an incredibly dynamic leader in our nation is no small task. But, after this trip and spending time with President Ford's loved ones and friends, I truly believe that he would be excited to witness the hard work and dedication that our team displays every day and how integrity is at the forefront off all we do."

Stoecklein serves as the ship's historian and has personally mentored hundreds of Sailors through the command's indoctrination program.

The event concluded with the Ford family and members of the Ford Foundation unveiling a statue dedicated to former first lady Betty Ford in honor of what would have been her 100th birthday. As the sheet was pulled away, Grand Rapids was introduced to Betty's smile and outstretched hand, welcoming all who visit the Ford Museum.

"This trip showed me that President Ford and 1st Lady Betty Bloomer Ford still impact Americans every day in the most positive ways and their legacy will no doubt live on for years to come," said Stoecklein. "I will never forget the experience, stories, organizations, and people from this amazing town, and they will always hold a special place with me as I move on in my career and life."



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

USS Gerald R. Ford Crew volunteered at the Kid's Food Basket garden.

As the Sailors prepared for their return to USS Gerald R. Ford, pride and humility were unanimous among the group.

"For us, it's an honor to be able to come back home and give back to a community that already held a place in our hearts," said Brower. "I feel privileged to be part of the crew and to carry forth the legacy of such a distinguished figure in the nation's, particularly Michigan's, history."



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

The USS Gerald R. Ford crew toured the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids.

assigned to Ford's medical department. "It's very exciting to be able to share our stories and experiences with the community, and also to be able to serve in a different way by supporting the organizations that President Ford and his family were dedicated to."

The weekend included several volunteer oppor-

Foundation Chairman Mike Ford Visits with Scouts in the Learning Center

During a visit to the Museum for the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony for his father, Mike Ford made a stop in the Learning Center to visit with a group of Boy Scouts working towards their Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badges. A requirement of earning the badge, Scouts were tasked with listening to and analyzing a presidential speech. As a class, they watched as President Gerald Ford delivered a national address issuing the pardon of former President Nixon. After some reflection and group discussion about both the decision and the address, the Scouts were visited by Mike Ford who shared his memories of receiving a phone call from his father during which he shared with him the decision to issue the pardon. Mr. Ford also discussed his memories of visiting the White House and what it felt like to have his father become the president. Talk about a fantastic primary source! Many thanks to Mr. Ford for this special presentation and congratulations to all of the Scouts who have earned their Citizenship in the Nation badge through our program!



Chairman Mike Ford visits with Scouts in the Learning Center classroom.

You just never know who might pop into a classroom here at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation!

July 3, 2018

During a visit to the Learning Center to participate in our "Unlock the Character Code" program, students from the GR Kroc Center were treated to a visit from Trustee Steve Ford, son of President and Mrs. Ford, who was visiting from out of state. Mr. Ford shared his experiences as the son of a President who suddenly found himself living in the White House surrounded by ten secret service agents!

For more information about educational programs with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, visit: devoslearningcenter.org.



Trustee Steve Ford (standing left) participated in the "Unlock the Character Code" program at the Learning Center.

Junior Girl Scouts Agent of Change Journey

This summer, the Learning Center hosted its second Junior Girl Scouts Agent of Change Journey program. Girl Scouts participated in a three-day program during which they discovered the ways Mrs. Ford used her voice to be a change-maker in the areas of women's health and women's rights. The girls then each chose an issue that they cared about and produced a public service announcement video in an effort to bring awareness to their chosen issue. The girls had a ball but most importantly learned that they can be powerful agents of change in their communities.

One of the Girl Scouts, Lulah Ottenwess, was inspired to take her idea further. During the program, she chose to focus on the issue of keeping pollution out of our waterways. After the conclusion of the class, Lulah developed an idea to build stream-side recycling stations for fishermen. She first participated in a stream clean-up event so that she could see the problem firsthand. Afterward, she pitched her idea for the recycling stations to the mayor of Grandville. She was then introduced to the department of public works to arrange for installation. Once they are installed, the contents of each station will be regularly collected

and melted down to making fishing tackle boxes. We are so proud of the level of civic engagement this young lady has shown and we are excited to follow the progress of her project!



Lulah Ottenwess participated in stream clean-up event.

Tomorrow's Leaders Summer Day Camp

For four days in July, our Learning Center was buzzing with the energy of young change-makers participating in our Tomorrow's Leaders Summer Day Camp for 9-12 year-old students. Campers toured the Museum to learn about the leadership of President Ford and then created their own comic books starring "Gerald Ford—Super Leader!" They participated in team-building challenges and a group service project to learn about the importance of working together and serving others. They wrote letters to their Representatives to learn how to use communication as a tool for change. After reflecting on their own leadership qualities and strengths and watching the 1976 campaign commercials for President Ford, campers produced their own campaign commercials highlighting their positive character traits. On the last day of camp, families were invited into the auditorium to view these fantastic campaign videos and then went on a guided tour of the Museum, led by their new resident experts—their children!



Summer Day Camp students holding items from President Ford's 1976 campaign.

Internship Programs at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

Interns visit the Foundation office of President Ford with Library Staff. (L-R) Intern Nicole Wenstrup, Intern Olivia Oudsema, Intern Cari Griffin, Library Administrative Assistant Tina Luckett, and Library Archivist Stacy Davis.

documents on deteriorating thermo- fax paper, transferring photographs to the audiovisual department, and identifying any other immediate preservations needs. The students also participated in a project to locate press releases issued by the Office of the Press Secretary to Betty Ford throughout Mrs. Ford's White House Papers and other east wing staff collections.

In addition, the Library hosted six digitization interns this summer with the generous support of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation: Henry Brown, Joe Lueck, Olivia Oudsema, Kari Theisen, Nicole Wenstrup, and Chris Yelonek. These students were from Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University, and they made significant contributions by scanning both documents and photographs this summer. First, the interns digitized over 24,000 pages of Betty Ford White House Papers. The scanning is complete and the materials will be available on the Library's website in late September. Next, they digitized over 5,500 photographs from the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials and the Ford Family Photographs collections. Finally, they digitized nearly 500 photographs from the Larry and Pauline Asmus Papers. These photographs document the Ausmus family's participation on the Bicentennial Wagon Train, especially along the Santa Fe Trail.

For over 20 years, the Padnos Museum Internship Program has provided undergraduate and graduate students with valuable experience in a professional museum setting. In return, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum has benefited greatly from the work of over 100 students who have completed internships. The program balances lessons on preventive conservation with hands-on application. Students become familiar with the basics of artifact organization, preservation, and interpretation. They leave the Ford Museum and Library with skill sets that they can apply to any other museum collections environment. Many veterans of the program use the experience as a springboard to help attain professional positions in the field. The program has also enhanced artifact collections management at the Ford Museum tremendously.

Museum and Library staff are very grateful to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation for their continued support of the internship programs

The Padnos Museum Internship Program made significant headway this summer with the help of two exceptional participants, Bryan Morey and Brad Davis. Bryan came to us from Loyola University's Public History graduate program and Brad from Central Michigan University's graduate program in Cultural Resource Management. They completed a wide array of hands-on projects, which involved making custom artifact storage mounts, Tyvek dust covers, four-flap book enclosures, artifact photography, condition-reporting, and much more. They worked on and edited thousands of entries in the artifact database. Among their most notable tasks, were the researching and writing of nine substantial artifact highlights for social media and the accessioning of a collection of 80 dolls generously donated by Susan Ford Bales.

The Library's two Padnos interns were Tulin Babbitt (University of Maryland) and Cari Griffin (University of Michigan). These students participated in a preservation project to re-house the Legislative File Series in Gerald R. Ford's Congressional Papers. This includes re-folding the material, making preservation copies of news clippings and



A selection of dolls donated to the Museum by Susan Ford Bales.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Ford After Five Series Events:

"Coffee and Canvas" on June 28, 2018 and "Evening with the Duke" on August 8, 2018

Summer fun was in full swing at the Ford Museum this year! Guests created their own personal artwork while sipping on coffee during the *Ford After Five's Coffee and Canvas* and danced to jazz in the lobby during the *Ford After Five: Evening with the Duke*. During the *Coffee and Canvas* the class painted personal portraits of the Betty Ford Daylily, found on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

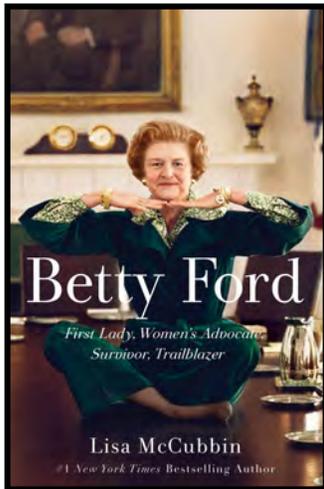
Each artist took home his or her masterpiece! The John Shea Trio with special guest Max Colley III filled the museum with the sounds of Duke Ellington's greatest hits.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Above Left: Guests gathered in the Museum lobby to paint the Betty Ford Daylily during the *Coffee and Canvas* event. **Above Right:** John Shea Trio with special guest Max Colley III entertained attendees with a selection of Duke Ellington's greatest hits.

Get Your Copy of the New Betty Ford Biography by Lisa McCubbin



An intimate and insightful biography of Betty Ford, the groundbreaking, candid, and resilient First Lady and wife of President Gerald Ford, from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *Five Presidents* and *Mrs. Kennedy* and *Me*.

Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer is the inspiring story of an ordinary Midwestern girl thrust onto the world stage and into the White House under extraordinary circumstances. Setting a precedent as First Lady, Betty Ford refused to be silenced by her critics as she publicly championed equal rights for women, and spoke out about issues that had previously been taboo—breast cancer, depression, abortion, and sexuality. Privately, there were signs something was wrong. After a painful intervention by her family, she admitted to an addiction to alcohol and prescription drugs. Her courageous decision to speak out publicly sparked a national dialogue.

Available in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Bookstore
and on-line at : estore.archives.gov/ford/



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
- ★ 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
- ★ 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.

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**



www.facebook.com/geraldrford



Follow Us On Twitter:
[@presgeraldford](https://twitter.com/presgeraldford)



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.