



# Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

Spring 2020



## The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum Virtual Experience



Clare Shubert, Foundation Director of Engagement and Programming, interviews Curator Don Holloway in the Museum's Oval Office exhibit.



Museum Curator Don Holloway during a short-guided video tour.



Children's story time with Clare Shubert, Foundation Director of Engagement and Programming.

## New Virtual Experience!

Although we are experiencing temporary closure of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum, we are excited to share some new virtual experiences showcasing the Museum's exhibits, and youth-centered programs offered through the DeVos Learning Center.

In the midst of the current situation, we are committed to bringing you powerful educational experiences for individuals of all ages. With the goal of engaging audiences interested in the life and legacy of President Ford during these unprecedented times, we developed a way to highlight the Museum's exhibits and Learning Center's programs and educational materials virtually to all viewers with a computer or mobile device anywhere in the world. In addition to current available materials, new virtual experiences can be found online at the Ford Library & Museum and the DeVos Learning Center, as well as, their social media pages.

New videos bring the Museum exhibits to the viewers through several short guided tours led by the Museum's Curator Don Holloway. The videos begin by showcasing the early childhood years of Gerald R. Ford, expanding through the funerals of President and Mrs. Ford, and include the journey of his political and personal successes in between.

The Learning Center's new virtual programs designed for children will feature story time with Clare Shubert, Director of Engagement and Programming with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. In addition to story time, Mrs. Shubert takes our young viewers inside the Oval Office and into the campaign exhibit where Mr. Holloway shares insights into President Ford's character. In addition to these new resources, the Learning Center's website also features links to the PBS LearningMedia and National Geographic Educational pieces, which look into the life and legacy of President Ford.

We are hopeful that during this time of temporary closure, individuals and families will enjoy these virtual experiences provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum and DeVos Learning Center.

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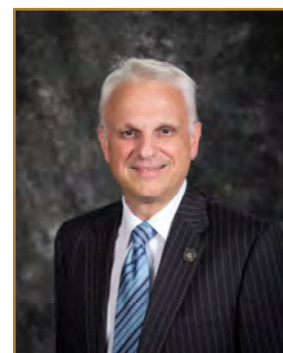
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*Letter from the Executive Director,  
Joseph S. Calvaruso*



Dear Friends of Ford,

As together we confront the challenges and heartbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, our hearts and prayers go out to each of you and your families. The Foundation staff and I are working remotely, as, no doubt, are many of you.

Unfortunately (but, of course, unavoidably), the many Foundation events, programs, and on-site learning activities that had been planned for this spring have been postponed. They included:

- Former Vice President Dick Cheney and former Secretary of State Jim Baker were scheduled to deliver important lectures at the Ford Presidential Library and Museum, respectively
- Foundation Trustee and former White House Special Assistant to President Ford Roger Porter had planned to present important lectures at both the Library and Museum
- The 2020 First Ladies Luncheon was planned as a special tribute to the friendship and legacies of Mrs. Pat Nixon and Mrs. Betty Ford. A special thank you goes out to our Luncheon Chair Liesel Meijer who works tirelessly each year to make the First Ladies Luncheons so memorable
- Performances of the remarkable documentary play about Mrs. Betty Ford, "SHE DID ALL THAT- Betty Ford: Speaking Out, Saving Lives" were scheduled for the Library and Museum

Hopefully, we'll be able to reschedule each of these events when the safety of our guests and attendees can be ensured. Further information will be posted to the Foundation's website and Facebook page as soon as it's available.

Featured in this newsletter is new material that was developed for the Foundation's website as the impacts of the coronavirus began to affect our on-site learning activities. Excellent teamwork and creativity were shown by the working group who made this happen very quickly. Please check out those new additions to our virtual learning experiences. These new resources complement the innovative learning experiences currently housed on our site, including those we've developed with our colleagues at National Geographic, PBS, and Map & Tour.

This first 2020 newsletter issue pays tribute and thanks to those individuals and organizations who so generously support the Foundation's mission and vision. As a direct result of that generosity, President Ford's and Mrs. Ford's extraordinary legacies are stronger and more widely celebrated.

And finally, a special thank you goes to the Foundation Trustees and staff for their time, talent, and tireless support!

In closing, please know that in these difficult days my fondest hope is for your continued health and safety.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe", written over a light blue circular background.



## USS Gerald R Ford (CVN 78) Conducts Solemn Ceremony At Sea



Burial At Sea ceremony aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78); photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Brett Walker, U.S. Navy.

On Sunday, February 9, 2020, Sailors aboard *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) interred 23 veterans during a Burial At Sea ceremony, a time-honored naval tradition. For one Sailor in particular, the ceremony held special importance. During the ceremony, Commander Philip Brown, Ford's air operations officer, committed the ashes of his grandfather, Leland Brown Jr., who served as a Yeoman in the United States Navy, and the ashes of six other veterans. Yeoman Brown and CVN 78's namesake President Gerald R. Ford shared a special bond. Like President Ford, "my grandfather joined the Navy and served during World War II," said Cmdr. Brown. "He was a 1940s Sailor, and I was able to honor him on the world's newest, most technologically advanced aircraft carrier that's named after a fellow World War II comrade and U.S. president. He would be thrilled."

The ceremony began with a command issued over the ship's announcement system:

*"Maintain silence about the decks in honor of our departed comrades in arms. All hands, bury the dead."*

The ship's chaplain then delivered an elegiac invocation as a formation of Ford Sailors stood at attention. One by one, urn bearers laid the departed to rest. A rifle detail rendered a salute with a 21-gun burst, and the ceremony closed with the tolling of three bells and the somber playing of Taps. "I felt incredibly privileged to bury not only my grandfather, but six other veterans as well," said Cmdr. Brown. "There were a range of emotions. The firing detail and Taps is such a solemn moment; you can't help but be moved by it, especially when you are burying a loved one in a setting like that. To be able to bring my grandfather and the others here to close out that chapter of their lives and in this extraordinary way on USS Gerald R. Ford is the honor of a lifetime. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to honor his life and the others and to thank them one final time for their service to our nation."

The ceremony was marked by an additional honor as part of the solemn farewell – for the first time in the ship's history the rifle team was composed entirely of women. "We previously inquired as to the possibility of an all-female rifle team?" said Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Gesette Mason, assigned to Ford's weapons department. "It highlights that there are more females now in the Navy than ever before and who are prepared to do things that 'all males' used to do." Historically, women served vital, but limited, roles in the U.S. military. Not until 1917 was the first woman officially enlisted and not until 1948 was their place in the military secured by legislation. And in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford made history by becoming the first U.S. president to order that women be admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy and the other service academies.

Chief Mason noted that for decades women in the military "were limited to what they could do. We are honoring their legacies and struggles by serving as a rifle team for a burial at sea - something they never would've been permitted to do." The rifle team worked diligently for weeks to perfect every movement so as to be prepared to honor those who were to be buried at sea. And the team's dedication was evident at the final ceremony, as the three volley salute was rendered with precise perfection. Chief Mason, who started her naval career 13 years ago, reflected on the team's unique tribute. "It motivates all of the women on the crew and shows how far we've come and how far we'll continue to go. It doesn't stop here."



Burial At Sea – USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Firing Party; photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Prill, U.S. Navy.

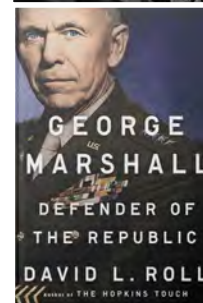
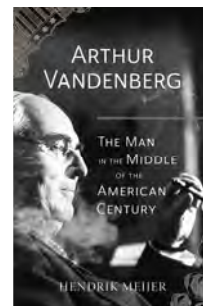
*Ceremony information courtesy of Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Murray and Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Angel Thuy Jaskuloski, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)*



(l-r) Hank Meijer and David Roll

Hank Meijer and David Roll  
“General Marshall and Senator Vandenberg”  
Joint Program with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

When asked who the greatest general of the Second World War was, Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein would, without fail, say George C. Marshall. The twentieth century gave the United States many of its best military leaders and statesmen ever. Guided by a strong moral compass, these leaders held deeply to the value of self-sacrifice and public service. Along with Marshall in this gleaming constellation of leaders, stood Grand Rapids’ own Arthur Vandenberg, quite possibly the best senator Michigan ever sent to Capitol Hill. Through their statesmanship, they fielded one of the nation’s most ambitious



foreign policy plans in history. After Europe was left in rubble at the conclusion of the Second World War, they helped pass The Marshall Plan, an industrious economic initiative to rebuild Europe.

The Foundation along the Hauenstein Center and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, welcomed David Roll, author of *George C. Marshall: Defender of the Republic*. West Michigan’s own Hank Meijer, author of *Arthur Vandenberg: The Man in the Middle of the American Century*, joined Roll on stage for a lively discussion about the relationship between General Marshall and Senator Vandenberg. Photos and website video courtesy of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

## Advise the President: Deliberations from the Classroom to the Cabinet Room



Middle school students participate in the new *Advise the President* class in the Cabinet Room replica at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

This school year, our education team developed a new program for students in grades 6-12 titled, “Advise the President: Deliberations from the Classroom to the Cabinet Room.” The course was created with materials and support from the Kettering Foundation, of which Trustee David Mathews serves as president and CEO.

Through a collaboration with Kettering and NARA, several “Advise the President” guides were designed to give students an opportunity to learn about historical issues, as well as practice an important democratic skill: deliberation. The guide developed with the staff of the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum focuses on the New York City financial crisis of the 1970s.

Last summer the Foundation’s education team worked to develop a day-long class centered around the deliberation guide. After learning and practicing the basics of deliberation, students study the details of the New York City financial crisis and the options that faced President Ford as he sought the best possible solution. Students then take on the role of a presidential advisor and deliberate with one another to arrive at what they feel is the best course of action. One high school student who participated in the class commented that she preferred the deliberation method over her experiences on the debate team. When asked why she responded, “Because no one is trying to win; we’re actually listening to each other.”

## Coming Soon!

### “Truth and Honor: the President Ford Story”



We are thrilled to share with you that this summer a brand new book about President Ford will be gracing children’s bookshelves everywhere. The book, “Truth and Honor: the President Ford Story”, is an illustrated biography written for children ages 6-10 and will be released this July by Sleeping Bear Press. Author Lindsey McDivitt and illustrator Matt Faulkner tell the story of Gerald R. Ford beginning with his childhood in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and following his path of challenges and successes throughout his life and career. Readers will come away understanding how the influences of family, sports, Scouting, and the West Michigan community positively impacted Ford’s life from a very young age. Look for the book this summer – a must-read for all of our young learners!



Lindsey McDivitt



Matt Faulkner





A very special Thank You to Peter Secchia and his family for the 2020 Cornerstone Endowment Gift and years of continued support of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Their contributions will preserve the legacy of President and Mrs. Ford for generations to come. Thank you, Peter!

*We wish to thank all of those who have contributed so generously to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Your dedication and continued support honor the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his life and allow the Foundation to continue sponsoring exhibits, programs, research grants and awards at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.*

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**We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or [klecceedone@38foundation.org](mailto:klecceedone@38foundation.org) with any corrections.**



## Letter from the Library and Museum Director, Elaine K. Didier, Ph.D.



Dr. Elaine K. Didier

After a busy winter of wonderful programs and the opening of two new exhibits in February, we are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 virus, and all Library and Museum staff are teleworking from home. This was not our plan for this spring!

Depending on when we are allowed to re-open, we hope you'll be able to visit the extraordinary exhibit of Brian Washington's charcoal pieces, titled *The Continual Struggle*. The exhibit features thirty works of Civil Rights-themed art, presented in partnership with Fifth-Third Bank. Mr. Washington, a Cincinnati-based artist and attorney, was able to be with us for the grand opening in February, and our audiences enjoyed engaging with him about his work, as well as his plans for future exhibitions.

We also opened a lobby exhibit, *Wounded Warriors: War Dogs*, featuring 12 life-size carved wooden sculptures of wounded dogs from several American wars. Created by artist James Mellick, this exhibit was an ArtPrize winner in 2016, and we are honored to be able to display these pieces and honor these special veterans in this way.

Looking ahead, our exhibit team is working hard on plans for *Election '76: The Making of a Presidential Campaign*, which is scheduled to open on June 20 and run through November 20. Stand by for further details!

In addition to our exhibits, the Library and Museum continued to present

outstanding public programs through the winter, each of which is summarized elsewhere in this issue. As you can appreciate, our programs for March through May had to be cancelled, and will be rescheduled for the fall.

Among these will be presentations of Lisa Rafferty's play about Betty Ford, *She Did All That*, at both the Library and Museum. These productions will be presented with support from both the Ford Presidential Foundation and a \$15,000 grant to the Library and Museum from the National Archives Foundation. In addition to the play, we are planning to bring in special speakers to discuss women's suffrage during this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment authorizing women's right to vote.

While we are busy planning programs and exhibits for our re-opening to the public, we hope you will check out our website for new virtual tours of the Museum conducted by our Curator, Don Holloway. In addition, there are photo tours of the two feature exhibits described above. Thus you can still visit us virtually even while we are closed! Go to: <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov>. And be sure to check regularly for new postings on social media!

Thank you for your continuing support for all that we do!

## Welcome to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum



Lauren White

We are delighted to announce that Archivist Lauren White joined the Ford Library team on January 6, coming from a position as a Project Archivist and Associate Librarian at the University of Michigan's Special Collections Research Center.

Lauren worked previously as a Manuscripts Librarian and Associate Lecturer at the University of Toledo's Canaday Center for Special Collections, a Project Archivist for University Records at Purdue University's Archives and Special Collections, and an Archives Consultant with Facilities Management at Western Michigan University, as well as several archival internships.

Over the course of her career, she has worked with textual and AV materials, electronic records/digitization, social media, and a wide-range of software. Lauren also has extensive experience in leading teams/training staff, developing/managing complex projects, planning public programs/exhibits, lecturing at the university level, and presenting at professional conferences.

Lauren earned her B.A. from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she double-majored in English and Spanish, and her M.S. from the University of Michigan School of Information, with specializations in Preservation of Information and Archives and Records Management.



Susan M. Camp

Please join the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum staff in welcoming Susan M. Camp as our first Lead Docent! In this role, Susan will assist the Docent Coordinator with recruitment, training, scheduling and planning extracurricular opportunities for docents and volunteers.

Ms. Camp has an extensive background in volunteerism both here in Grand Rapids and throughout the United States. Highlights in Grand Rapids include her work with the Grand Rapids Sister Cities Program and the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Her prior experiences range from involvement in multiple museums to overseeing high profile events while her husband served as Commanding Officer of the Presidential Retreat, Camp David. Please join us in welcoming Susan Camp to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum team. If you are interested in more information about becoming a docent or volunteer - please call Kristin Mooney at 616-254-0374 or email [kristin.mooney@nara.gov](mailto:kristin.mooney@nara.gov).



(l-r) Museum Curator Don Holloway and Artist Brian Washington at the Exhibit Opening.



In "The Continual Struggle," artist Brian Washington portrays a long line of protesters marching in support of civil rights.

### Exhibit Opening With Artist Brian Washington "The Continual Struggle: The American Freedom Movement and Seeds of Social Change" Thursday, February 20, 2020

**Grand Rapids:** *The Continual Struggle* is artist Brian Washington's ongoing body of artwork documenting the Civil Rights Movement and America's historical struggle against segregation and other forms of race-based disenfranchisement. Washington employs visual art as a means of storytelling, vividly recalling a time when people were willing to go into the streets to protest injustice and inequality. He shared his personal experiences that helped shape his drawings, as he spoke with the Museum's curator, Don Holloway, near the exhibit, referencing his drawing and explaining his process to the audience. To Washington the images are more than just drawings, they are layered stories of perseverance and triumph -- traits Washington hopes that visitors will find in their own personal narratives as they look upon his artwork.

Mr. Washington's in-depth depiction of sharecropping, non-violent protest, freedom rides, marches, voter registration campaigns, police violence, and the realities that provoked those actions vividly demonstrate the conflict-ridden nature of social change. Each individual piece is the result of Washington's research and reflection on this critical era of American history. The use of color has been restricted by the artist in an attempt to show that the feelings of man are ageless and everlasting. ***This must-see exhibit will be on display at the Museum until May 31, 2020.***

### Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks "With This Faith: Black Freedom Struggles and Democratic Faith" Thursday, February 27, 2020

**Grand Rapids:** In celebration of Black History Month, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum welcomed Grand Rapids native Dr. Randal Jelks to discuss Black Freedom Struggles throughout the United States. The lecture was in conjunction with the Museum's Temporary Exhibit *The Continual Struggle: The American Freedom Movement and the Seeds of Social Change*.

Black American communities have exhibited an abiding faith in democracy based in religion and culture. Dr. Jelks' talk explored how various participants in Black Freedom Struggles thought about democratic governance and the faith that it takes to live out its principles.

Randal Maurice Jelks is an awarding winning Professor of American Studies and African American Studies at the University of Kansas. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan (BA), McCormick Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Michigan State University (PhD). Dr. Jelks has authored two award-winning books: *African Americans in the Furniture City: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Grand Rapids*, and *Benjamin Elijah Mays, Schoolmaster of the Movement: A Biography*. Jelks has most recently written *Faith and Struggle in the Lives of Four African Americans: Ethel Waters, Mary Lou Williams, Eldridge Cleaver and Muhammad Ali*.

He has participated in The Oxford Conference for the Book at the University of Mississippi; South Florida Book Festival; Southern Book Festival in Nashville; appeared on *C-Span*; and written op-eds in media outlets around the country. He is currently researching and writing several other books. Additionally, Jelks serves as an executive producer of the documentary *I, Too, Sing America: Langston Hughes Unfurled*.



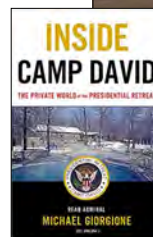
Dr. Randal Jelks and Library and Museum Deputy Director, Joel Westphal.



Michael Giorgione  
 "Inside Camp David: The Private World of the Presidential Retreat"  
 Wednesday, January 29, 2020

**Grand Rapids:** Rear Admiral Michael Giorgione (Ret.) presented a fascinating talk, based on his role as commander of Camp David 1999-2001, spanning the Clinton and G. W. Bush presidencies.

*Inside Camp David* details first-ever insider accounts of life and activities at this intensely private and secret hideaway used by presidents and their families for over 75 years. Camp David allows the First Family to relax, and escape from the incessant gaze of the media and the public. It has hosted decades of family gatherings and high-level summits with foreign leaders to foster diplomacy.



Rear Admiral Michael Giorgione (Ret.) during presentation at Museum.

Mary Evans Seeley  
 "Seasons Greetings from the White House"  
 Thursday, December 12, 2019

**Grand Rapids:** Historian, author, and collector Mary Evans Seeley presented highlights from her book to a rapt audience. Evans Seeley has published two books about Christmas at the White House. Through her extensive research she is able to share the human side of Christmas at the White House and preserve an important, but often overlooked, part of presidential history. Mary and her husband, Ronald, have the most extensive collection of Presidential Christmas memorabilia in the country. Parts of the Seeley Collection have



Mary Evans Seeley in the Museum's Gift Shop.

been on display at the White House on two occasions and have been on exhibit at ten Presidential Libraries.

Her book, "Season's Greetings from the White House" is now in its eighth edition, and documents nearly a century of presidential Christmas cards, messages and gifts from Presidents Calvin Coolidge to Donald Trump. This historical book is filled with captivating behind-the-scenes stories and personal recollections of every First Family beginning with the first National Christmas tree in 1923.

Throughout her presentation, Evans Seeley highlights stories from her research and conversations with eight First Ladies, including Mrs. Betty Ford. Evans Seeley remarked on the openness of Mrs. Ford, with a gracious, down to earth personality during their discussions. Memorable Christmas-themed reflections from Mrs. Ford included: "The family that skis together, stays together"; how Mrs. Ford appreciated being familiar with Christmas at the White House because the Fords had been in Washington 25 years during Gerald R. Ford's terms as a U. S. Congressman; and "I wanted Christmas at the White House to be fun" Mrs. Ford said of her favorite Christmas there in 1976.

## 2019 Holiday Open House and Train Opening



The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum partnered with the Salvation Army and the Grand Rapids Public Library to open the holiday train exhibit this year. Santa along with Mrs. Claus (above left photo) and several reindeer welcomed over 500 visitors to the Museum on the afternoon of December 1, 2020. The holiday musical acts included The Salvation Army Band and Voices of Freedom. The Grand Rapids Public Library shared stories throughout the afternoon in the story nook near the train (above center and right photos).



# Gerald R. Ford Legacy Award Announcements

## University of Michigan President Gerald R. Ford Lifetime Impact Award

Michigan Football Head Coach Jim Harbaugh presented Tom Maentz with the inaugural "Michigan Football President Gerald R. Ford Lifetime Impact Award" at the 2019 Michigan Football Awards Show at Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan on December 15, 2019.

*Photos courtesy of University of Michigan Football.*



(l-r) Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh and Tom Maentz.



Rimington Trophy

## The Rimington Trophy Committee Proudly Announced its 2019 Gerald R. Ford Legends Award Recipient, Dominic Raiola

After being created in 2005 by the Rimington Trophy and the office of President Gerald R. Ford, the **Ford Legends Award** has been presented annually to a former collegiate or professional center who, like the award's namesake, distinguished himself above and beyond the football field.

It is our pleasure to introduce Dominic Raiola as the winner of this year's Gerald R. Ford Legends Award! Since 2005, this award has been presented to former collegiate or professional centers who, in addition to standout football careers, have also made significant contributions to the football and/or business communities, or through philanthropic endeavors.

## Longtime Broadcaster Dick Vitale to receive 2020 NCAA Ford Award

Dick Vitale has been named the 2020 recipient of the **NCAA President's Gerald R. Ford Award**, which recognizes an individual who has provided significant leadership as an advocate for college sports. Named in recognition of Gerald Ford, the 38th U.S. president and a member of Michigan's football team when it won two national championships, the award was established in 2004 by the late NCAA President Myles Brand. It was first awarded to the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, former president of Notre Dame. Olympian and philanthropist Jackie Joyner-Kersey received the award in 2019.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



*Yes, I want to be a member of 'Friends of Ford'*

*For further information, please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or email [kleceadone@38foundation.org](mailto:kleceadone@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.*

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*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.*