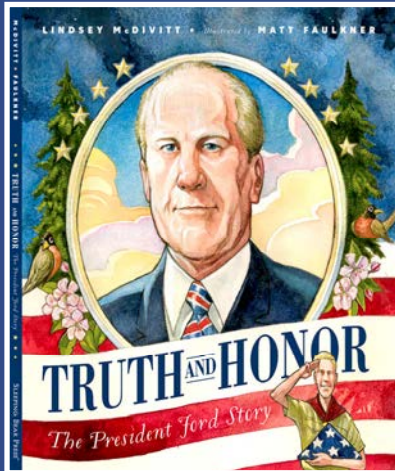




Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

September, 2020

“TRUTH AND HONOR: THE PRESIDENT FORD STORY”



There have been many books written about the life and administration of President Gerald R. Ford, but none had been written especially for young readers—until now! On July 14th, 2020, “Truth and Honor: The President Ford Story” was released by Sleeping Bear Press. The book, intended for readers ages 6-10, is beautifully written by Lindsey McDivitt and illustrated by Matt Faulkner. McDivitt transforms Ford’s biography into a lovely and lyrical narrative of his life following his path from his childhood in Grand Rapids, to his experiences on the football field, his service in the U.S. Navy and Congress, and ultimately becoming the president. Woven throughout are the many lessons he learned that shaped him into the man and leader he would become.

In celebration of the book’s release and to commemorate the birthday of President Ford, a virtual book panel discussion was held online on the evening of July 14th. The event was hosted by local news anchor, Juliet

Dragos, and featured the book’s author, Lindsey McDivitt, along with Mike and Steve Ford. In their lively and entertaining discussion, McDivitt shared highlights from the book as well as a bit about her writing process for this project. The Fords shared personal memories and the lessons they learned as children from their parents, many of which are included in the book. To view the panel discussion, as well as interviews with the book’s author and illustrator, visit: devoslearningcenter.org/truth-and-honor-the-president-ford-story.

“Truth and Honor: The President Ford Story” is available for purchase at schulerbooks.com or on Amazon.

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

During the Covid-19 virus lockdown we were able to safely commemorate President Ford’s 107th birthday with the annual wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on July 14, 2020.

The wreath laying ceremony is a combination of two traditions. First a long-standing presidential tradition of observing each deceased president’s birthday by the sitting president during which the sitting president sends a wreath to be placed by a military officer. This year President Donald J. Trump’s wreath was placed by Brigadier General Paul Rogers.

The second is a personal tribute established by First Lady Betty Ford in 2007 which includes the presentation of a wreath from the Ford Family. This year the family wreath was presented by President Ford’s niece and nephews.

Following the placement of the wreaths, the United States Army Chorus presented a virtual choral tribute to President Ford. This beautiful tribute may be viewed on the Foundation’s website: geraldrfordfoundation.org.



Family and Presidential Wreaths at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



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Gleaves Whitney
Executive Director

Brooke Clement
Library/Museum Interim Director

Letter from the Foundation Chair, Mike Ford

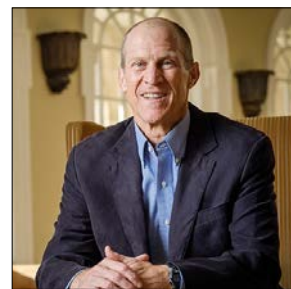
As we find our collective selves, our nation, and our world still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, I hope that you and your loved ones are well and staying strong in body, mind, and spirit. Undoubtedly, these have been challenging times for all people and institutions, and the Ford Foundation is no exception. As you will read throughout the newsletter, with the closing of the Library and Museum, including the Foundation office, we were forced to postpone or modify (via virtual format) all of our public programming to accommodate the public health guidelines. I am very grateful to the Foundation staff working with various partners for their creativity and resourcefulness in producing and delivering such excellent programs as the virtual visits of the Museum, the launch of *Truth and Honor* (children's book on my father), the Wreath Laying ceremony, and *"A Conversation on Civility and Collegiality"*.

The Ford Library and Museum, as well as the Ford Presidential Foundation, find ourselves at a significant milestone moment for both organizations. As you will read, earlier this year Joe and Donna Calvaruso and Elaine Didier decided to formally step away from their respective leadership roles with "the Ford" Presidential enterprise beginning in late August. This is both a sad and happy time for Joe and Donna and for Elaine as we will dearly miss their high level of professionalism and devotion to leading the mission and

work of their respective entities and advancing the legacy of my father. But in the same breath, we are glad they are excited to begin a new life chapter, finding space in their lives for family and friends and their personal interests. On behalf of all the Ford family and our Board of Trustees, I want to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Joe and Donna and to Elaine for their many years of remarkable leadership and service and their many significant contributions to "the Ford". Indeed, we all have been greatly enriched and blessed by the wonderful work and legacy of Joe and Donna and Elaine. Thank you and Congratulations!

With the transition of leadership of the two Ford entities come new faces to pick up the batons as we move forward and build upon our previous achievements. We want to welcome Brooke Clement who will begin on August 31st as the Interim Director of the Ford Presidential Library and Museum. Brooke started her archival career at the Ford Library, but then moved along to take a promotion at the Bush '41 and then to Bush '43. She now serves as the Deputy Director of the Obama Library in Chicago, a role in which she will continue even as she takes on leadership at the Ford Library and Museum.

We also want to welcome Gleaves Whitney as our new Executive Director of the Ford Presidential Foundation, beginning September



1st. Gleaves is no stranger to "the Ford" as he partnered with us for many years as the Director of the Ralph Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. His exemplary leadership, scholarship, and development of the Hauenstein Center will expand our national reach and public programming in new and creative ways. His experience with successful collaborations and partnerships will serve the Foundation well in our important relationships with the NARA leadership and Ford Library and Museum staff as well as the University of Michigan (Ford School) and other Grand Rapids community and national constituencies.

Indeed, we are most grateful and fortunate to have a strong and smooth succession of executive leadership for "the Ford". I know my parents would be pleased and proud of how their legacy of principled leadership and compassionate public service is being continued through all of our collective vision and efforts during these challenging days.

Warm regards...Mike Ford, Chair

Gleaves Whitney to Lead the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Gleaves Whitney, who has served as Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University since 2003, has been chosen to fill the role of Executive Director for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation effective September 1, 2020 following the retirement of Foundation Executive Director, Joe Calvaruso.

Credited with establishing the first sustained and comprehensive common ground initiative in U.S. higher education, Gleaves received a National Endowment for Humanities grant for the program. Through his leadership, the Hauenstein Center has hosted major conferences that have helped revive the study of Midwestern history and launched the nation's first presidential question-and-answer column, "Ask Gleaves."

He also developed the Peter C. Cook Leadership Academy at the Hauenstein Center, which now has more than 400 alumni serving in communities around the nation.

"I am honored to be selected as the new Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and to bring the legacy of President and Mrs. Ford to a new generation of Americans," Whitney said. "The Ford Family, Foundation trustees, and Joe Calvaruso have been instrumental in shaping what the Foundation is today, bringing critically important conversations about our nation's 38th president to the forefront of our national dialogue. I am extremely humbled to have the opportunity to build on their considerable achievements."

Welcome New Members of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees:

Bill McBride has enjoyed a multi-decade career at the highest level of government and politics at both the state and federal levels.

Bill began his career as chief of staff to Michigan Congressman Carl Pursell in Washington, D.C., before returning to Michigan to serve as deputy chief of staff to Governor John Engler. He then moved back to the nation's capital as chief of staff to Congressman Vern Ehlers of Grand Rapids.

Most recently, Bill served as the director of the state of Michigan's Washington, D.C., office during the entire governorship of Rick Snyder. In that role, he developed and executed Michigan's state-federal relations program and served as the liaison between elected and appointed officials at various levels of government in the United States and the international community. During that period, he also served as Michigan's primary representative for national groups, including the National Governors Association. Bill's extensive experience in federal and state government, coupled with his policy coordination background, coalition building and management skills have prepared him to lead, as Executive Director, the National Governors Association, the premier bi-partisan organization representing Governors of our nation's 55 states and territories.

Nathan Miller currently serves at the White House on the National Security Council and the National Economic Council as a member of the international economic directorate.

Prior to his current role, he served in leadership positions at the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and its predecessor, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. While there he promoted private sector investment around the globe and oversaw the agency's strategic initiatives in the Middle East and North Africa.

Earlier in his career he served in roles at leading management consulting firms, served as counsel in the U.S. Senate and held the appointment of Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, where he advocated for a pro-growth agenda for America's businesses.

Born and raised in Michigan, Miller earned a scholarship from the University of Michigan and was a member of the football team, where he helped lead the team to a National Championship. He holds a Juris Doctorate and has studied international banking and finance in Sweden.

He and his wife Kelly are active in their community and enjoy spending time with their son.

Retiring Board Members

Fellow members of the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation extend their sincere gratitude to John Baab, Red Cavaney, David Frey, Bob Hynes, Stephen McCahey, Paul O'Neill, Sr., Donald Rumsfeld, and Al Zapanta for their outstanding service as Trustees of this Foundation and to express their sincere appreciation for their wise leadership, helpful counsel, and great contributions to the growth and success of the Foundation.



John Baab

Red Cavaney

David Frey

Bob Hynes



Stephen McCahey

Paul O'Neill

Donald Rumsfeld

Al Zapanta

In Memoriam

Paul H. O'Neill

1935 - 2020



The Honorable Paul H. O'Neill passed away at his home in Pittsburgh on April 18, 2020 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Paul was a dear friend and trusted colleague of President Ford and has been on the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation since 1981. Throughout his extraordinary public service career, Secretary Paul H. O'Neill demonstrated the personal and professional qualities of integrity, strength of character, diligence, patriotism, and sound judgment. He was also the worthy recipient of the 2019 *Gerald R. Ford Medal For Distinguished Public Service*. His dedication has made a lasting difference in the lives of many individuals, our nation, and our world. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Nancy and their family. Paul was a cherished friend and will be missed by us all.

Photo: Paul O'Neill and wife Nancy are greeted by First Lady Betty Ford and President Gerald R. Ford in the receiving line at the Dinner in Honor of State Governors and their Spouses attending the National Governor's Conference on February 3, 1976.

Seymour K. Padnos

1920 - 2020



Seymour K. Padnos passed away at his home in Holland, Michigan at the age of 99 on July 9, 2020. Seymour was a longtime friend of Gerald R. Ford and served on the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation from 1998-2007. He was appointed Honorary Trustee in 2008.

Seymour served as CEO and later Chairman of the Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Company for more than 60 years. He established the Esther and Seymour Padnos Foundation, which supports a number of organizations, including Grand Valley State University (GVSU). The Padnos Hall of Science and the Padnos College of Engineering and Science at GVSU are named after him. He and his wife Esther established The Padnos Partnership at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation so college interns could spend a semester at the Ford Library & Museum learning archival skills and the history of Gerald and Betty Ford.

Seymour was the recipient of many honors and awards during his lifetime. He was especially proud that his Distinguished Eagle Scout award was presented to him by President Gerald R. Ford. Seymour is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Esther (Roth) and their four children and grandson Louis Padnos. We are extremely saddened by Seymour's loss and honored to have called him "friend". Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Esther and their family. Seymour will always remain in our hearts.

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft

1925 - 2020



Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, passed away, Thursday, August 6 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia at the age of 95. Brent was a dear friend and trusted colleague of President Gerald Ford and has been on the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation since 1982. Throughout his extraordinary public service career, Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, has demonstrated the personal and professional qualities of integrity, strength of character, diligence, patriotism, and sound judgment. In 1991, President George H. W. Bush presented Scowcroft with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 1993 he was awarded an honorary knighthood -- a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) -- by Queen Elizabeth II.

Brent Scowcroft was truly an American statesman. His voice, wise counsel, friendship and international leadership will be sorely missed. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his daughter, Karen Scowcroft, and his granddaughter.

Photo: President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, left, are briefed by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, right, on the evacuation of Saigon, during the Vietnam War, April 28, 1975 at the White House.

Letter from the Foundation Executive Director, Joe Calvaruso

By the time you read this final letter from Executive Director Joe Calvaruso, he and his wife Donna, Event and Donor Relationship Associate, will have both retired from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. We thank them for their years of service to the Foundation and wish them nothing but the best in their retirement!

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum remain closed to the public. The Foundation continued with a number of its annual activities virtually. This year the Wreath Laying Ceremony in celebration of President Gerald R. Ford's 107th birthday was broadcast virtually. This year's ceremony included Brigadier General Paul Rogers' placement of President Donald J. Trump's presidential wreath and several of President Ford's nephews and a niece placed the Ford family wreath at President Ford's Tomb. The United States Army Chorus, which before coronavirus pandemic was scheduled to perform in Grand Rapids, did a spectacular video tribute following the ceremony. They are planning on joining us in person for the 2021 Wreath Laying Ceremony.



Joe and Donna Calvaruso

The Foundation has adapted other programming and learning initiatives to a virtual format. The awards ceremonies for the 33rd Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting in 2019 were presented virtually as well as programs featuring the new children's book "Truth and Honor: The President Ford Story." This new book tells the true story of the character-building lessons Gerald R. Ford encountered throughout his life – from his childhood in Grand Rapids, Michigan to his days on the University of Michigan football field, to serving in the United States Navy and Congress, all the way through to his presidency. These wonderful virtual programs can be viewed on the Foundation's website: geraldrfordfoundation.org.

It is hard to believe that almost twelve years have gone by since I left a twenty-nine-year career in senior management for several community banks and joined the Foundation. My hobby for many of those 29 years was traveling the world as an advance person for the White House. My fellow bankers had no idea why I would spend my vacations laser-focused on planning minute by minute details of presidential events and movements.

I first met President Ford as a student at Albion College in the 70's when he was establishing the Ford Institute at the college. Our path crossed again with President Ford when, as a member of *Friends of Ford*, Donna and I attended many of the Museum and Library programs. I had the privilege to serve on President Ford's Funeral Planning Committee in 2005-2006.

My twelve years as the Foundation's Executive Director spanned four chairmen and countless projects and initiatives. Spanning many of those years was a highly successful capital campaign, followed by a renovation of the permanent exhibit and building of the DeVos Learning Center. The educational programs at the learning center continue to be a major initiative for the Foundation. Each year, thousands of young people learn about the legacies of President and Mrs. Ford.

The Foundation supports initiatives beyond the walls of the Ford Library and Museum, such as President Ford's statue in the Capitol Rotunda. Visitors from around the world see this statue daily. The President Gerald R. Ford Tribute room at the airport in Grand Rapids reaches out to travelers passing through the area and gives the opportunity for a large number of people to learn about the 38th President. Through the years, the Foundation has provided a wide variety of support to the shipbuilders, United States Navy, and the crew of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). President Ford's legacy will live on for decades with that magnificent ship and the Ford-class of aircraft carriers. It was truly an honor to serve as a member of the Official Commissioning Committee. The aircraft carrier's motto "Integrity at the Helm," says it all.

On the following pages is an twelve-year timeline highlighting key events during my tenure. I hope you enjoy looking back as much as I did!

In short, it has been an honor and the privilege of a lifetime to serve and support the legacy of our 38th President, and his remarkable bride. This journey was made even more special by having my wife and best friend Donna at my side. We want to thank the many trustees, Ford Family members, *Friends of Ford* and community members for the support they provided to Donna and myself. We and the Foundation staff would not have been able to achieve so much without the time, talent, and support they continually provided.

From the bottom of our hearts, Donna and I say "Thank You," and we wish the best to you, your families, and the Foundation staff. In this unique period in our country, stay safe, stay healthy. With God's blessings, we will all get through this together!

With abiding gratitude and best wishes,
Joe & Donna

Gerald R. Ford Pres



2008

2010

2013

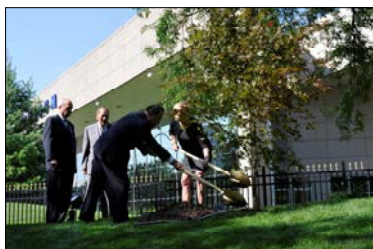
Joseph Calvaruso, Foundation Executive Director
2008—2020

His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki
July 14, 2010

President George W. Bush
December 2, 2010

A First Lady's Farewell - Interment Service
July 14, 2011

Campaign for the Legacy of Gerald R. Ford
November 9, 2012



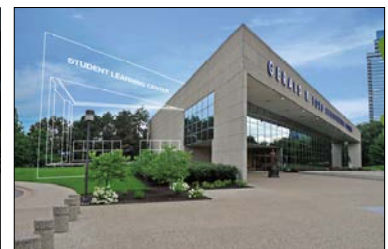
Susan Ford Bales joins Ambassador Fujisaki in planting the Burgundy Lace Japanese Maple tree on the site of President Gerald R. Ford's Tomb at the Museum in Grand Rapids, MI. Vaden Bales and Dick Ford also participated in the tree planting ceremony.



President George W. Bush discussed his newly released memoir *Decision Points* to an overflow audience at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. When asked how it feels to be a bestselling author, he said, "Some people are shocked I can even read, much less write."



First Lady Betty Ford passed away on July 8, 2011. A service was held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in California, then she was flown to Grand Rapids for a prayer service and public repose. Following the service at Grace Episcopal Church Mrs. Ford was interred in a private ceremony at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Chairman Steve Ford along with Vice Chairman Hank Meijer and Trustee David Frey announced the Capital Campaign for the Legacy of Gerald R. Ford to local business and community leaders. The campaign will fund a 10,500 sf student learning center at the Museum and create interactive exhibits using the latest technologies.

William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs
July 14, 2014

First Ladies Luncheon with the Cheney's
April 14, 2015

Secretary Paul O'Neill - Simon Lecture
July 14, 2015

First Ladies Luncheon - Cokie Roberts
April 13, 2016



Secretary James A. Baker, III presented the 2014 William E. Simon Lecture to a full house. Following the lecture, Foundation Trustee Susan Ford Bales and Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer presented a bust of President Gerald R. Ford to James Baker.



Dr. Lynne Cheney and Vice President Dick Cheney were the special guests in honor of Betty Ford's 97th birthday in Grand Rapids, MI. Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney provided opening remarks and showcased the growing tradition of the luncheon dedicated to honoring Mrs. Betty Ford.



Following the Simon Lecture, Secretary O'Neill unveiled the "lost" portrait of President Ford. The painting was painted for the cover of *Time Magazine*, but it never appeared. The painting was given to Secretary O'Neill and he presented it to Susan Ford Bales "to hang in the Museum in Grand Rapids where people can see it every day".



A capacity crowd gathered to celebrate First Lady Betty Ford's 98th birthday. Cokie Roberts, NPR and ABC News Political Commentator, delighted the audience with stories that spanned 40+ years and talked of the enduring friendship between her family and the Fords. Cokie eulogized Betty Ford at her funeral at the personal request of Mrs. Ford.

idential Foundation

2015

2018

2020



Donald Rumsfeld's Desert Tribute
March 10, 2013

America's First Ladies Luncheon
April 8, 2013

President Ford's Centennial Birthday
May 6, 2013

USS Gerald R. Ford Christening Ceremony
November 9, 2013



Foundation Trustees Leon Parma and John Morris hosted the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Desert Tribute at the Vintage Club in Indian Wells, California, to celebrate President Ford's Centennial birth year and pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy. Trustee Donald Rumsfeld paid tribute to President Ford and shared his unique insight.



First Ladies Barbara Bush and Laura Bush are joined by David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, to commemorate Betty Ford's birthday at a luncheon in Grand Rapids. A full day of education programs were also held at the Museum in partnership with the American University and the White House Historical Association.



The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees, Community Leaders, Ford Family, and invited guests celebrated President Ford's Centennial Birthday in Grand Rapids, on May 6, 2013. Foundation Trustee Brent Scowcroft received the Gerald R. Ford Award for Distinguished Public Service at the Centennial Dinner Celebration.



Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales christens the *USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)* on November 9, 2013 at Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia. Joining Susan at the bow of the ship are (l-r) Captain John Meier, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, and Newport News Shipbuilding President Matt Mulherin.

Museum Grand Opening Celebrations
June 7, 2016

Gerald R. Ford Award to Jimmy Carter
May 12, 2017

Ambassador Carla A. Hills
July 13, 2017

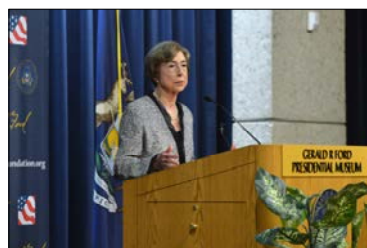
USS Gerald R. Ford Commissioning
July 22, 2017



Over 2000 people attended the Grand Openings of the New DeVos Learning Center and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum after months of extensive renovations. Along with an entirely new museum, we also welcomed an 8,000 square foot addition designed for use by learners of all ages. After years of planning the Grand Opening was truly a special day!



(l-r) Foundation Trustee Carla A. Hills, Chairman Red Cavaney, President Jimmy Carter, Trustee Steve Ford and Executive Director Joe Calvaruso during the presentation of the 2017 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service in Atlanta, Georgia on May 12, 2017.



Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Carla A. Hills presented the 2017 William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs titled "Why Trade Matters" to commemorate President Ford's 104th birthday at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, MI.



Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales (center) gives the order to:
"Man Our Ship and Bring Her to Life"
at the Commissioning of the *USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)* at Naval Station Norfolk.

33rd Annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes for Reporting in 2019



(l-r) T. Christian Miller, Megan Rose, Robert Faturechi, and Agnes Chang. Photos courtesy of ProPublica.



Michael C. Bender, *Wall Street Journal*

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation sponsors the annual *Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency and National Defense* to recognize and encourage thoughtful, insightful, and enterprising work by journalists covering the presidency and national defense. The \$5,000 annual awards recognize journalists whose high standards for accuracy and substance help foster a better public understanding of national defense and the presidency.

Each year the winners are invited to attend a reception, dinner and a formal presentation of these awards in Washington, DC. Due to Covid-19, this year's awards were presented virtually by Foundation Chairman Mike Ford, and Trustee Steve Ford. Chairman Mike Ford presented this year's awards for Reporting on National Defense in 2019 to T. Christian Miller, senior reporter; Megan Rose, criminal justice reporter; Robert Faturechi, an investigative reporter; and Agnes Chang, a creative story technologist from *ProPublica*. He presented the award for Reporting on the Presidency in 2019 to Michael C. Bender from the *Wall Street Journal*. Additionally, this year the award committee selected Joel Schectman and Christopher Bing, journalists at *Reuters*, for Honorable Mentions for their distinguished Reporting on National Defense in 2019. Their compelling series is a must read for everyone. Steve Ford, son of President Ford and Trustee of the Foundation presented the Honorable Mention awards virtually. Congratulations to this year's winners on their hard work and professionalism!

Videos of the presentation and acceptance of these awards are available on our website:
geraldrfordfoundation.org.

President Gerald R. Ford Student Writing Challenge: 2019-2020 School Year



Second Place
 Lillian Van Gelderen
 Hart High School
 "Dear Determination"



First Place
 Isabel Gil
 Forest Hills Eastern High School
 "Thump"



Third Place
 Harlie Choponis
 Hart High School
 "Firmness of Purpose"

Determination. This was the theme for the 2020 President Gerald R. Ford Student Writing Challenge and despite all of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, our education team was *determined* to follow through on this year's competition and present the students' awards in a very special way.

By mid-March, 700 entries from high school students all over Michigan, as well as out of state, were collected and the judging process began. Our judges had a very difficult time choosing from all of the unique perspectives, experiences, and stories that were shared. Students wrote about the determination they see in figures from history, from their family members and friends, and even in themselves.

After three rounds of scoring, the top ten entries were chosen. Usually, an awards ceremony is held to recognize our winners but this year things were different. Due to health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the typical ceremony wasn't going to be possible. Instead, once the stay-at-home order for the state of Michigan was lifted, two members of the education team travelled to each winner's home to present certificates, cash awards, cookies, and flowers. While the group awards ceremony was certainly missed, the excitement level was just the same as winners received this well-deserved recognition right on their own front porches.

Many thanks to the teaching staff at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation who served as judges along with our final round judges: Daniel Boothe of WGVU, Judge Christina Elmore, and Christy Dykgraaf. Thanks, also, to Meijer for providing gift cards to the teachers of our top three writers. For more information about the writing challenge and to see photos and read this year's top entries, please visit our website:
geraldrfordfoundation.org/student-essay-challenge.

Top Ten Finalists/Honorable Mentions: Ethan Magley, City High Middle School; Kandace Pewee, Grand Rapids Christian High School; Nina Lu, City High Middle School; Carter Meyer, Grand Rapids Christian High School; Megan Grant, Newaygo High School; Melanie TenElshof, Plymouth Christian High School; and Sabra Wolven, Newaygo High School. Congratulations to all winners of this year's writing challenge!

LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMMING GOES VIRTUAL!



Foundation educators Amy Lawrence, Kelly Tuttle, and Clare Shubert get ready to welcome campers to the Tomorrow's Leaders Virtual Camp.

For the past several summers, the education team at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation has provided a leadership-themed summer day camp for students ages 9-12. This summer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team took the camp online. Students met with our educators for live Zoom sessions and focused on topics like writing letters to elected officials and how to “campaign with character”. Many thanks to our special guest speakers: children’s author Lindsey McDivitt, Jayme Vosovic of the Michigan League for Public Policy, and Kent County District Court Judge, Sara Smolenski.

The team was also able to take the ever-popular Citizenship in the Nation program for Scouts online as well. Scouts worked with our team of merit badge counselors to learn some very important information

about the United States and earn this Eagle-required badge from the comfort of their own kitchen tables. Plans are underway to develop more virtual programming for students and Scouts. To learn about the educational programming our team offers, please visit: devoslearningcenter.org.

Virtual Programming: Curator Q&A



Left: Clare Shubert, Director of Engagement and Programming at the DeVos Learning Center interviews Don Holloway, Museum Curator inside the Oval Office exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. **Right:** Museum Curator, Don Holloway, offers a virtual tour of items on display within the museum exhibits.

As Part of the virtual programming that was developed this spring, staff from the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and Museum worked together to create educational videos for students that give an insider’s look into the career of a museum curator. From inside the Oval Office exhibit, curator Don Holloway talks about his responsibilities in caring for priceless artifacts, the work that goes into creating an exhibit, and shares some of his favorite pieces. Holloway also discusses the 1976 presidential campaign and highlights some of the items from Ford’s campaign on display in the Museum. History buffs, museum enthusiasts, and budding curators alike will enjoy this peek into the Museum exhibits and first-hand account from Mr. Holloway. To view the curator interviews, visit: devoslearningcenter.org/virtual-experience/



David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States

Dr. Elaine Didier, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, is retiring from Federal service effective August 29, 2020.

Since 2005, Elaine has led the Library (Ann Arbor) and Museum (Grand Rapids) to be an integrated team and unified program operation across both Michigan sites. Elaine has also dramatically increased the visibility and impact of the Library and Museum through significantly expanded public programs and community partnerships. Working in close collaboration with the Ford Presidential Foundation, she led Library and Museum staff in the seven-year process to plan and implement the total renovation of the core exhibits at the Museum and the design and construction of the DeVos Learning Center. Elaine coordinated the planning for hundreds of public programs and events and enhanced support for archival research at the Library. She also initiated the redesign of the original Library and Museum website, developing a more approachable format to serve researchers, educators, students, and the public. Elaine strengthened the relationship with the Ford Family and the Ford Foundation leadership and trustees, leading to increased support for the National Archives.

Before joining NARA, Elaine served for five years as dean and professor at Oakland University and 22 years at the University of Michigan, where she managed library and technology operations, served as adjunct professor, and was associate dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Elaine has served in leadership positions in multiple professional associations, including election as president of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology and the Michigan Library Association and member of the board of the Association of College and Research Libraries and chair of the University Libraries Section. She is currently completing her fourth term as a member of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees. Elaine earned her B.A., A.M.L.S and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan and also studied at Oxford University.

Please join me in thanking Elaine for her many years of service to NARA and the nation and in wishing her many happy years of retirement. Brooke Clement, Deputy Director of the Obama Presidential Library, will serve as Acting Director until a permanent hire is made.



Richard Norton Smith, Author and Historian

I recently startled myself by listing the different places I have called home since graduating from college. Twenty-eight in all, most dictated by professional considerations. For this reason alone I am impressed by anyone holding down the same job for fifteen years. Elaine Didier has done that and more, her perseverance equaled by her professionalism and willingness to go the extra 135 miles (the distance separating the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids from the Ford Library in Ann Arbor). Needless to say every presidential library is unique, as singular as the administration it chronicles and the community it both reflects and serves. Of all fourteen library-museums that comprise the present NARA-run system, however, only one requires that its director be in two places at once – intellectually and emotionally if not physically.

Here is where those 135 miles come into the picture. I haven't the foggiest notion of the mileage Elaine must have racked up as director of two institutions masquerading as one. But I know it exceeds any of her predecessors. This is only the most obvious evidence of her commitment to forge two staffs occupying two buildings in two cities into a single, world-class research library and dynamic museum. In Ann Arbor Elaine launched a well-attended series of public programs, lectures, author's talks and other events that raised the Library's profile and integrated it more fully into the community. Aided by a staff that made up in archival talent what it lacked in numbers, she broadened access to library holdings by digitizing hundreds of thousands of documents. That this has proven of incalculable help to Ford era scholars is something to which I can personally attest, as I near completion of a Ford biography grounded largely in the library's holdings.

Elaine's Grand Rapids legacy is equally impressive. On her watch generous support from the Ford Foundation made possible a complete renovation of the museum's permanent exhibit. In fact, it was totally re-imagined, with the latest technology and a perspective informed by the growing recognition of Gerald and Betty Ford's historic contributions. With the opening of the DeVos Education Center the Ford Museum is repositioned as a 21st century classroom of democracy. Meanwhile an ambitious series of temporary exhibits kept the crowds coming, even as they promoted gift shop sales and membership in the *Friends of Ford*.

A successful library director assumes many roles. More entrepreneur than bureaucrat, Elaine encouraged partnerships with Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center and the hugely successful Art Prize competition. In an era of reduced Federal resources, and increased federal paperwork and centralized rule-making, Elaine adapted to change while never forgetting the challenge Gerald Ford set down in September, 1981: "The finest tribute of all will be to see the Gerald R. Ford Museum living and growing in constructive and useful ways." For fifteen years Elaine Didier more than met that challenge. And all true friends of Ford should be grateful.

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

Dear Friends,

For some time, I have been contemplating what would be an optimal time for me to transition into retirement. It is very difficult to leave a position to which I've been so committed for 15-plus years, working with an outstanding team at both the Library and Museum as well as the leaders of the Ford Foundation.

It has been a great privilege to work closely with the staff at both the Library and Museum, bringing them together to work as a unified and coordinated team across both sites, and increasing the visibility and impact of each through significantly expanded public programming, partnerships and outreach in both communities.

Looking back at my first column for this newsletter in August 2005, it is gratifying to see that we've accomplished most of the goals I set out at that time: Building a unified and collaborative team across our two sites, increasing the visibility and impact of the Library and Museum in their respective communities, expanding marketing and outreach efforts to draw attendees for exhibits and programs from the larger region, developing a wide range of partnerships with academic institutions and community groups, enhancing the website, and more recently, expanding use of social media to extend our reach.

Special areas of emphasis included:

- Strengthening the relationship with the Ford Family and the Ford Foundation leadership and trustees, and significantly increasing the level of Ford Foundation support for our activities. This enabled us to initiate a digitization program at the Library in June 2009, and later a three-year artifact photography project at the Museum, resulting in digital access to more than 600,000 documents, photographs, and other materials to date.
- Presentation of numerous talks about the Ford Library and Museum, presidential libraries, and President and Mrs. Ford to university classes, professional association conferences and community groups. A highlight was the opportunity to represent the National Archives at the French National Archives in Paris in honor of its 200th anniversary.
- Initiation of a project to expand exhibits and display cases in the lobby of the Ford Library, and development of an ongoing program of rotating exhibits, often miniature versions of the outstanding feature exhibits at the Museum.
- Coordination of Library and Museum support for the funerals of both President and Mrs. Ford, in 2006-2007 and 2011, respectively.
- Serving as chair of the Selection Committee for the annual Ford Scholar Award in Honor of Robert Teeter, a \$5,000 award for dissertation research, and service as a member of the Ford Foundation committee selecting recipients of Research Travel Grants.

It has been an honor to work with President and Mrs. Ford, members of the family, and Foundation leadership and trustees. I will always be grateful for the incredible opportunity to lead the Ford Library and Museum, and be a part of the National Archives' presidential library system. With thanks and best wishes for the future of the Ford Presidential Library, Museum and Foundation. -- *Elaine Didier*



Dr. Elaine K. Didier

Please Welcome Brooke Clement, Interim Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

Brooke Clement currently leads the Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, where she directs the archival and museum team developing the first all-digital presidential library. She has a bachelor's in History and American Culture from the University of Michigan, and a master's in American Studies from Columbia University. She has worked at NARA since 2004, first at the Ford Presidential Library, then at the George H.W. Bush Library and the George W. Bush Library, where she was Supervisory Archivist. She joined the new Obama Library as Supervisory Archivist in 2016, and in 2018 was named Deputy Director. Brooke's family is from SW Michigan, so it is a great pleasure to welcome her back to her roots in Michigan and to the Ford Presidential Library and Museum, even as she continues her leadership of the Obama Library.



Brooke Clement

"I started my career with the National Archives at the Ford Library in Ann Arbor in 2004, and very much look forward to working with the staff of the Library and Museum once again! I am grateful to Elaine for all of her tremendous work during her tenure, and wish her and Gordon all the best (and happy sailing!)" said Brooke Clement about her return to the Ford.



Schedule of Upcoming Events

Please Check our Website for Virtual Events as they Become Available.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Research Travel Grants

Spring 2020

Balzer, Kyle James

Ohio University

Blew, John David

Purdue University

Bloodworth, Jeff

Gannon University

Buehler, Matt

University of Tennessee

Burd, Camden

Institute at the New York Botanical Garden

Feher, Zoltan

Tufts University

Haas, Melinda

Princeton University

Heikkila, Pauli

University of Helsinki

Kahle, Trish

University of Chicago

Teague, Greyson

The Ohio State University

Teague, William

University of Alabama

Trauschweizer, Ingo

Ohio University

Webb, Mattie C.

The University of California, Santa Barbara

Winterhalt, Kevin R.

University of Colorado—Boulder

Yoo, Ka-eul

The University of California at Santa Cruz



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**



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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.