



the Gerald R. Ford

BRIEF

Winter 2021



*Celebrating our
40th Anniversary*



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Happy 40th Anniversary! A Special Message by Executive Director Gleaves Whitney

To all Friends of Ford: Thank you for helping us celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum. All of us at the Ford appreciate your journey with us these past four decades.

As a thought experiment, I would ask you to consider how impoverished our history would be had President and Mrs. Ford not dedicated their lives to the betterment of the human estate. President Ford's virtue-driven leadership and Mrs. Ford's courage and candor came at just the right time in our national story and has already made a difference to millions of lives and will continue to do so.



One way that we are marking this milestone is with *The Brief*, our renamed and revamped Foundation newsletter. In the pages that follow, all programs associated with the 40th are indicated by the original logo from 1981.

Speaking of milestones, I researched Gerald Ford's first Thanksgiving in the Oval Office and found a beautiful tribute to him written by one of his cabinet members, Anne Armstrong. This remarkable woman's words, written on November 26, 1974, express abundant gratitude for our 38th President, and I cannot think of a better message for the Ford to send out this holiday season. Following are excerpts from her letter:

Dear Mr. President:

Right after you were sworn in as President, I remember telling you that even if we had searched 100 years, we could not have found anyone so well suited as you to give our country the high moral leadership it desperately needed in very difficult days.... In your first 100 days as President, you have fulfilled my best hopes....

We still face very difficult days, but I have great confidence in my country and in my President. The goals you are setting are the right ones. You have the right qualities to lead us to them—wisdom, integrity, strength of character, and the ability to relate to your fellow Americans. Your leadership offers the single best hope that America will enter its third century with its basic principles intact, with a clear vision of its future, with prosperity and peace.

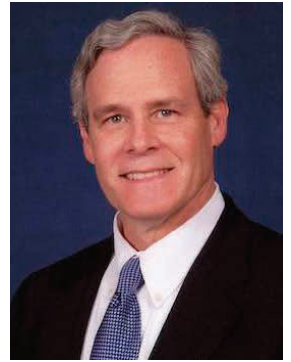
... I [have] a profound appreciation of the responsibility of our leaders not only to protect the public interest, but also to safeguard the public trust. Mr. President, I have every confidence in your ability to do both.

Amen to Anne Armstrong's act of thanksgiving. I think she captured the thoughts many of us have about a good man who served during challenging times.

To all friends of the Ford Presidential Foundation, my many thanks for sharing the 40th anniversary celebrations with us, and for your abiding support for the work we do.

Happy Holidays!

Gleaves Whitney
Executive Director
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Gleaves Whitney

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Cover Photograph: Photograph of President Gerald R. Ford relaxing with Liberty during a break from working on a Sunday afternoon in the White House Oval Office. 2/2/1975. Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

First Lady Betty Ford Dancing with Prince Philip of Great Britain in the State Dining Room during a State Dinner Honoring Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, 7/7/1976
Image provided by the National Archives.

Milestones

Robert Dole, R.I.P. (July 22, 1923—December 5, 2021)

Incumbent Gerald Ford's 1976 Running Mate Shared Much in Common with the 38th President

Upon learning of Senator Robert Dole's passing on December 5, 2021, the children of the late Gerald and Betty Ford sent heartfelt prayers and condolences to Elizabeth Dole and the family. Mike Ford, eldest child and chair of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, offered the following statement, aptly on the eve of the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor:

"America lost a hero and my family lost a friend. At this time of mourning the loss of a great human being, I join with Jack, Steve, and Susan in sending prayers to the Dole family, especially to his beloved wife Elizabeth and daughter Robin.

"Over many decades on Capitol Hill and in the Republican Party, Dad and Bob Dole cultivated a special relationship. Their deep friendship was forged by their Midwestern upbringing, their wartime experiences, their pragmatic conservatism, and their respect for democratic values and republican institutions. Both felt deep reverence for our nation and its institutions, especially the Congress. Both rose to strong leadership roles on Capitol Hill. Both could cultivate friendly relationships across the aisle. And both were adept at building coalitions that pursued common ground for the greater good.

"In 1976, our father asked the Kansas Senator to join him on the presidential ticket. Two decades later, in 1996, Dad supported the Senate Majority Leader's run for the presidency. He was the last World War II veteran to run on the Republican ticket.

"No question, Bob Dole left this world a much better place because of his legacy of leadership and service. As we read the obituaries and see the responses to his passing, my family is struck by the genuine affection expressed across the political spectrum. His warmth, wit, and wisdom will be sorely missed."

Roger Porter, a trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and professor in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, had this to say about Sen. Dole's leadership:

"Senator Dole, a pillar in the U.S. Senate, was a superb majority leader and an excellent minority leader. I was privileged to first work with him in the 1970s, and again in the 1980s and 1990s. He was very much a work in progress. A product of the Congress, he spent eight years in the House and nearly twenty-eight years in the Senate. Like his friend Gerald Ford, he cared deeply about Congress as an institution. He wanted it to work and he consistently sought to find common ground, to build bridges, and to reach consensus consistent with a set of principled policies.

"He earned the trust of those with whom he worked and that contributed to his ability to lead them. A fierce champion for his constituents in Kansas, he was nevertheless foremost an American and thought long and broadly about the institutions of government and the role government should play in the life of his fellow citizens. His youth and his wartime experience undergirded his empathy for those who faced genuine adversity. His resilience illustrates what one can accomplish through grit and determination. His love of country prompted his lengthy public service. His example serves as inspiration to all who share his great affection for a land of opportunity."

James P. Ursomarso, a trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and vice president of Union Park Automotive Group in Wilmington, Delaware, noted Sen. Dole's Michigan connections:

"During Sen. Dole's 1996 presidential campaign, I had the privilege of staffing his first visit back to the room at the then-Percy Jones Army Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan in which he stayed while undergoing two-and-a-half years of rehabilitation treatment and surgeries for his World War II battlefield injuries. The Senator was clearly moved by the visit to his former hospital room and the site of so many difficult memories. The Percy Jones Army hospital, converted into a federal office building in 1954, was fittingly rededicated as the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center in 2003."



Photo by David Hume Kennerly



Ford in the News

Honoring Commander in Chief Gerald R. Ford, 38th President, Inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor



Director Zaneta Adams, Gleaves Whitney, Major General Robert W. Smith III, U.S. Army (Retired)

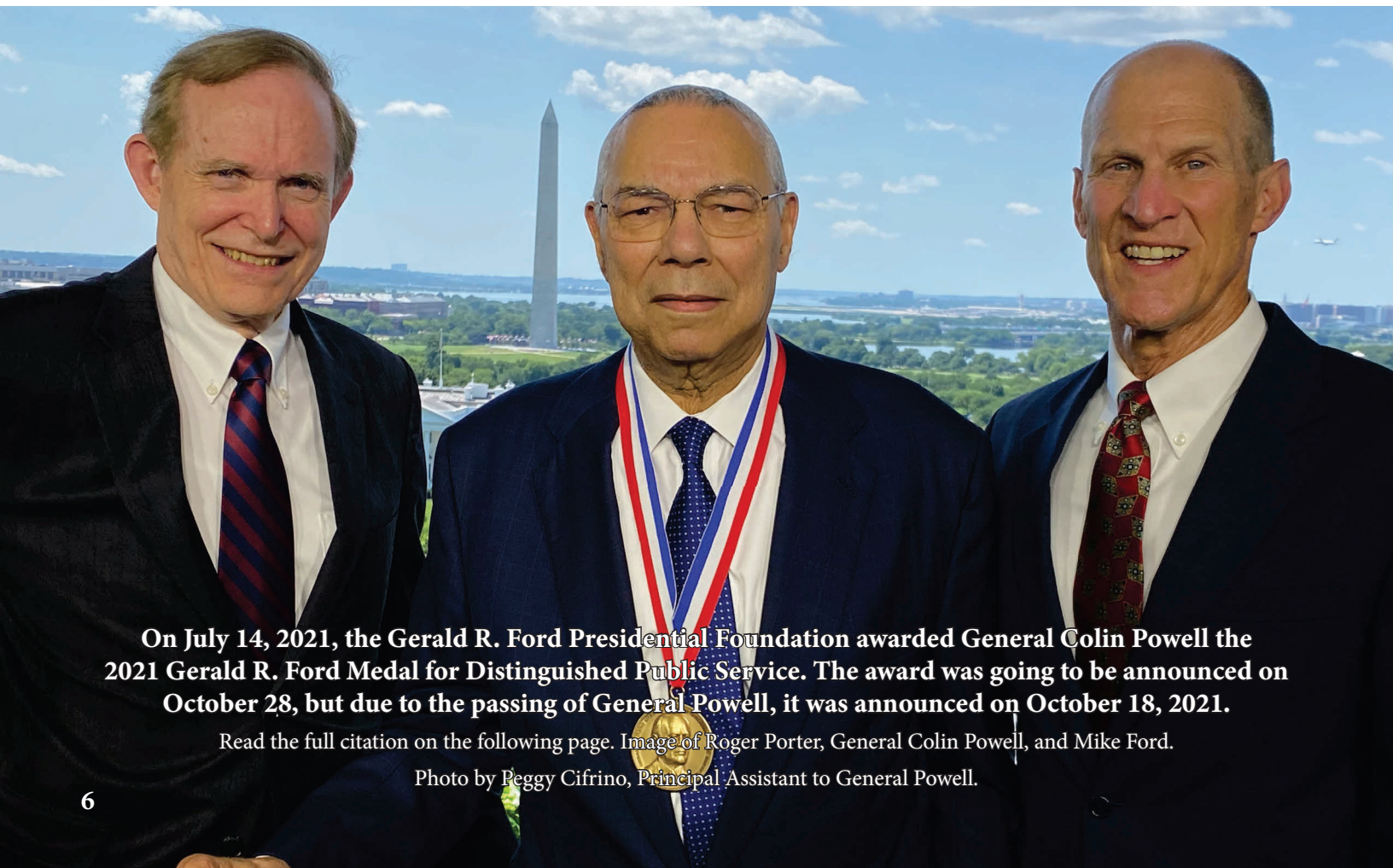
President Gerald R. Ford, a decorated World War II veteran, was inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor in a ceremony in Lansing on November 19, 2021. President Ford is the only person from Michigan to go from Lieutenant Commander in the Navy eventually to Commander in Chief of the nation.

Mike Ford, eldest son of the President and Chair of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, said, "My family is deeply honored that Dad joins other Michigan veterans in the Hall of Honor. These men and women have distinguished themselves through military and public service. Dad had a heart for all our veterans and the sacrifices their families have made. My family thanks Major General Robert W. Smith III (Ret.), Petty Officer First Class (Ret.) Roger L. Yoder, and all the

leadership in this fine organization for recognizing our father and all of the other distinguished service members who were inducted in this year's ceremony."

Martin J. Allen Jr., chairman emeritus of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, added, "President Ford and I both retired from the Navy as Lieutenant Commanders. He always regarded his years in uniform as formative to his development as a leader. All of us at the Foundation are thankful to President Ford and the veterans who have served our great nation."

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Executive Director Gleaves Whitney accepted the highly prestigious award on behalf of the Ford family and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.



On July 14, 2021, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awarded General Colin Powell the 2021 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. The award was going to be announced on October 28, but due to the passing of General Powell, it was announced on October 18, 2021.

Read the full citation on the following page. Image of Roger Porter, General Colin Powell, and Mike Ford.

Photo by Peggy Cifrino, Principal Assistant to General Powell.



Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service

Colin L. Powell

For more than 50 years, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) has devoted his life to public service. Having held senior military and diplomatic positions in four presidential administrations, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to democratic values that resonated throughout the world.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, Gen. Powell was born in New York City in April 1937 and raised in the South Bronx. As a member of the Army ROTC program at the City College of New York, he discovered his calling and launched his distinguished military career. Commissioned as an Army second lieutenant in 1958, he served in the United States Army for 35 years, rising to the rank of Four-Star General.

From 1987–1989 Gen. Powell served as President Ronald Reagan’s National Security Advisor. He served from 1989–1993 as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. He was not only the youngest officer and first ROTC graduate to serve in the position, but also the first African American to do so. During his time as chairman, he oversaw 28 military interventions including the successful Panama invasion in 1989 and Operation Desert Storm in the victorious 1991 Persian Gulf War.

President George W. Bush nominated Gen. Powell to be the 65th U.S. Secretary of State. He was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As Secretary of State, he led the State Department in major efforts to address regional and civil conflicts. He used the power of diplomacy to build trust, forge alliances, and help transform unstable regions into areas where countries and cultures have the potential to prosper.

Among his many awards and decorations, Gen. Powell has received the French Legion of Honor, an honorary knighthood bestowed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and two Presidential Medals of Freedom.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Gen. Colin L. Powell has demonstrated the personal and professional qualities President Gerald R. Ford embodied—integrity, strength of character, courage, patriotism, sound judgment—and that the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service honors.

Washington, D.C.
July 14, 2021

/S/ Mike Ford

Chair

/S/ Roger Porter

Trustee

Ford School Names the 2021 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellow



Ryan Swick (MPP '23)

A teacher and mentor who one day aims for public office has been named as the Ford School of Public Policy's 2021 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellow. Honoring the legacy of President Ford, Ryan Swick (MPP '23) and previous fellows exemplify the President's commitment to bipartisan cooperation and civility, community service, and public sector service.

"This is an exciting announcement," says Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. "The Ford family and Gerald R. Presidential Foundation congratulate Ryan Swick, an emerging leader and dedicated public servant who 'gets' the Fords' ethos of virtue-driven leadership. At the same time, we applaud the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy for recognizing Ryan's talents and for providing a nurturing but rigorous academic community in which he will thrive and make a difference in the years ahead."

In President Ford's name, these fellows will go on to build their own legacies, serving the interests of our state and nation by analyzing issues creatively and objectively, identifying actionable policy solutions, and building bipartisan consensus.

Each year, one exceptional graduate student receives full tuition, a generous stipend, internship funding, and professional development activities. This support provides students with the flexibility to pursue unpaid professional

experiences and leadership roles in student organizations.

Ryan Swick (MPP '23) was previously a 2015 Bay Area (San Francisco) corps member through Teach for America (TFA), where he taught for six years in various classrooms at the early childhood and elementary levels. As a teacher and as an alumnus, he became a staff coach and mentor of incoming TFA corps members for four summers. In order to develop a greater understanding and comprehensive picture of local school operations, he held roles on several school committees and became his site's liaison to the district union and a union organizer for a number of years. He is interested in social and urban policy, as well as democracy and politics. He hopes to work on a few election campaigns or launch one of his own someday. Ryan was born and raised in Connecticut, and completed his BA in human development and family studies (concentration in early childhood development and education) at the University of Connecticut.

About the Fellowship

When Gerald R. Ford returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan, from service in World War II, he chose to run for public office. It wasn't because he sought the limelight, but because he believed strongly in a bold, constructive vision for a globally-engaged post-war America—a vision diametrically opposed to that of his Congressional district's five-term incumbent. The voters agreed, and for the next six decades, Ford never looked back, and never stopped leading. In keeping with President Ford's legacy, the Ford School seeks to inspire the next century of citizens, public servants, and leaders.

Read more about the fellowship and past fellows at:
<https://fordschool.umich.edu/gerald-r-ford-presidential-fellowship>



Strike Group Commander: *USS Gerald R. Ford* Set For First Deployment in 2022

By: Mallory Shelbourne, October 25, 2021

The Navy is set to deploy *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78) for the first time in 2022, four years later than the original maiden deployment date of 2018.

After facing a series of delays and working out reliability problems with multiple new technologies, the \$13 billion lead ship in the new Ford class of aircraft carriers is currently in the middle of the last maintenance phase ahead of its maiden deployment and will soon be available for Navy tasking.

“Everything is on track. We’re still looking to get out as scheduled after the six-month availability. No big show-stoppers that they’ve come across at all. So very, very positive news coming from the captain and from the shipyard. And then as we come out of that, I think we’re going to be set very well to get back in that operational mindset and get ready for the deployment,” Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, the commander of Carrier Strike Group 12 who will lead the Ford CSG on its first deployment, told *USNI News* in a recent interview.

Fresh off a stint on the chief of naval operations staff, where he led operations and plans (N3) until June, Huffman recently had a front-row seat to the global force management that takes place in the Pentagon and how the Navy’s assets fit into the mix.

“Getting the Ford-class out there with its capabilities is basically just going to increase the number of carriers and carrier strike groups that we have available to meet the demands. And so that I think is just going to give us more flexibility,” Huffman said. “And then when you couple that with the projected increase in what the *Ford* should be able to do, that’s going to just provide the combatant commanders and other folks with just more options and more things at their fingertips that they can use.”

Read the full article at:

<https://news.usni.org/2021/10/25/strike-group-commander-uss-gerald-r-ford-set-for-first-deployment-in-2022>

Former First Children Open Up about Life in the White House—from Navigating Secret Service to Attending Prom

Only 33 living people can say they've had the experience of being the son or daughter of a president.

By Rachel Burchfield, October 13, 2021, for *People* magazine



President and Mrs. Ford with Susan and Liberty at Camp David. August 7, 1976.

Photo by David Hume Kennerly

Much like first ladies, the first children are un-elected and unpaid—still, as with their parents, the office of the presidency always changes their lives.

Beyond that shared experience, each of their stories is their own. Some, like Joe Biden's son and daughter Hunter and Ashley Biden, are grown and living on their own; others, like Caroline and John F. Kennedy Jr., Amy Carter, Chelsea Clinton, Malia and Sasha Obama and Barron Trump, lived in the White House with their parents and attended school in Washington, D.C., under the eyes of the nation.

PEOPLE chatted with some of the 33 living first children to get an inside look at what it was really like.

Luci Baines Johnson was 16 on Nov. 22, 1963, the afternoon President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot and her father, Vice President Lyndon Johnson, was thrust into the Oval Office.

Luci Baines Johnson: "My father was catapulted into the presidency by an assassin's bullet that put a hole in the heart of every living, breathing person on the face of the earth. It was devastating for so many, far and near.

"President Kennedy was not only my president and my father's boss, but he was my personal friend — or at least he made me think that. [His death] was shattering on many levels. It was my first exposure on a personal level to violent death."

While Luci's father had been in politics for her entire life, nothing could have prepared her for being a first child. Luci says she had great empathy for the Kennedy children and was moved by the kindness of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy while her husband was in office.

Luci Baines Johnson: "It meant the world to me when Mrs. Kennedy invited me to a state dinner. I was dumbfounded. I felt like I was a wallflower invited by the president of the student body to go to prom."

Though under different circumstances, 17-year-old Susan Ford was also not expecting her father, Gerald Ford, to become president in 1974. On Aug. 9 of that year, facing impeachment and almost certain removal from office, Richard Nixon resigned, making Vice President Ford the 38th president of the United States.

Susan Ford: "I was a senior in high school, and the lucky thing is we lived in Washington, so I didn't have to change schools like other president's children. My heart broke for Amy Carter, who had to move to Washington and make new friends and go to a new school. It's hard on those kids."

A perk of being a first child? Sometimes, you get to host major life events at the White House while your father is president. Luci's sister, Lynda Byrd Johnson, married in the East Room of the White House in 1967; Tricia Nixon married in the Rose Garden four years later.

For her part, Susan got to host her senior prom in the White House.

Susan Ford: "It's really fun and hasn't been done since. It was kind of a fluke deal — I wasn't on the Prom committee, but they came to me at some point and said, 'Can we have it at the White House?' So I went and talked to the head usher and he said, 'Yes, as long as you all pay the expenses.' We were able to have two bands. It was very cool. No question about it, it was very, very cool."

When her mother, First Lady Betty Ford, was hospitalized for breast cancer, Susan took over as White House hostess.

Susan Ford: "My dad had a White House Diplomatic Corps reception and he needed a date, and I was his date. It was the same day we got Liberty, our golden retriever, and the first time I had ever worn long, white gloves. I learned a lot and got to dance with several different ambassadors. It was a unique thing, and I was proud to be there for my dad."

Read the full article at <https://people.com/politics/what-its-really-like-being-the-child-of-a-president/>



First Lady Betty Ford reading President Gerald Ford's Concession Speech to the media, 11/3/1976. Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

When President Ford left the White House, it was hardly the end of his impact. Gerald Ford conceded the 1976 presidential election to Jimmy Carter on November 3, 1976. Although his campaign had managed to close a large gap in the months leading up to the election, Carter prevailed with 50.1% of the popular vote to Ford's 48%.

President Ford sent a telegram to President-elect Carter congratulating him on his victory. The message was also released at a White House press conference that morning. Betty Ford read the statement on behalf of her husband, who had lost his voice following the final campaign push.

"As one who has been honored to serve the people of this great land—both in the Congress and as President—I believe that

we must now put the divisions of the campaign behind us and unite the country once again in the common pursuit of peace and prosperity," it said. "Although there will continue to be disagreements over the best means to use in pursuing our goals, I want to assure you that you will have my complete and whole-hearted support as you take the oath of office this January."

These remarks capture President and Mrs. Ford's dignity in all its fullness.

View the full remarks at <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/speeches/761015.asp>



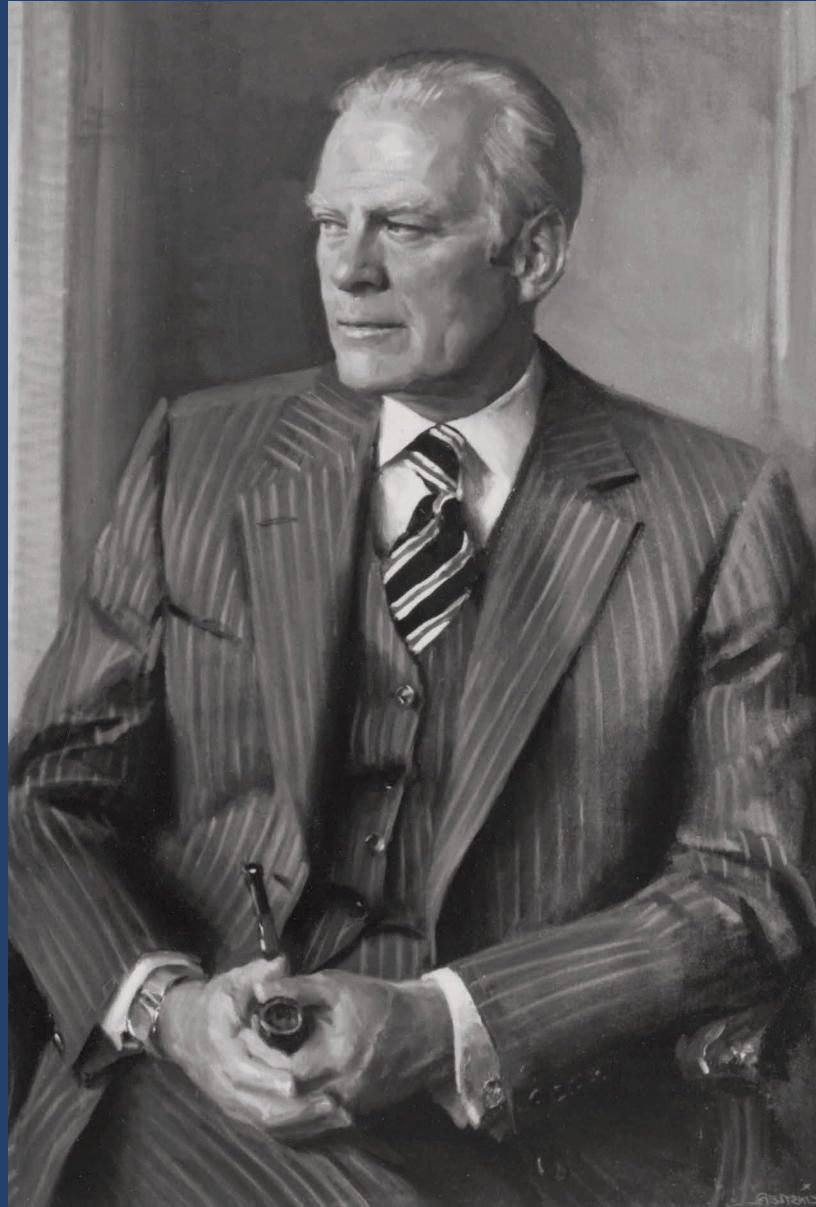
Ford Features

Our beloved astronaut, "Man in Space," was crafted by New York artist Judson Nelson and installed in front of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum to commemorate the space program that Ford supported during his congressional service and presidency.

Meet our young Museum visitor, 3-year-old Apollo, a fellow supporter and future astronaut!

the FORD

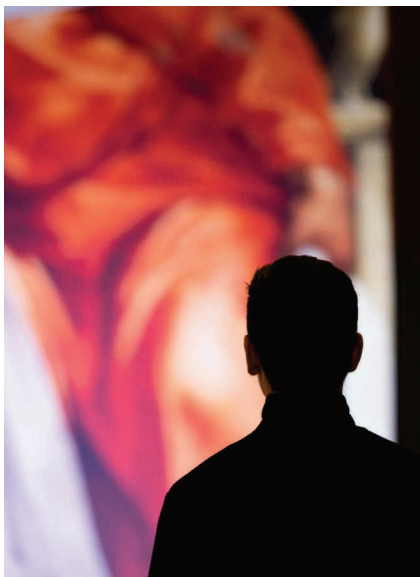
Foundation Happenings



The portrait of First Lady Betty Ford was painted by Felix de Cossio. Credit: The White House Historical Association

Gerald R. Ford

The portrait of President Gerald R. Ford was painted by Everett Raymond Kinstler. Credit: The White House Historical Association



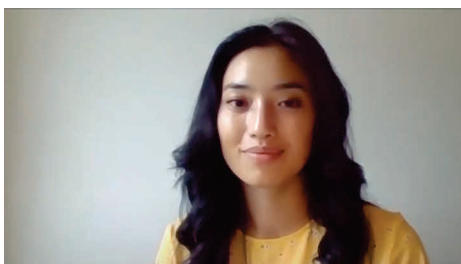
Sistine Chapel Exhibit Rescheduled

Due to the previous museum closure, *Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition* has been rescheduled for 2022. The exhibit will now be on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, May 20–September 11, 2022.

Traveling the United States, this one-of-a-kind showcase—presented by Los Angeles-based SEE Attractions—recreates one of the world's greatest artistic achievements through photographic reproductions displayed in the original size.

For art lovers who might not get the chance to visit Michelangelo's masterpiece in Italy, this innovative interpretation is a way to experience the timeless masterpieces, including the *Creation of Adam* and *The Last Judgment*, without traveling internationally.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is currently open at 25% capacity. Tickets must be purchased online at www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov. Current hours of operation are Monday–Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, and Sunday noon–5 PM. Please visit archives.gov/coronavirus for updates.



Freshta Tori Jan

Introducing: *Exploring the Question* Webcast and Podcast Series

with Executive Director
Gleaves Whitney

Introducing our new webcast and podcast series, *Exploring the Question*, with Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

This series focuses on President Ford's virtue-driven leadership, historical and current events, and finding common ground for the greater good.

The series can be viewed at
<https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/exploring-the-question/>



Jason Grumet



Joseph Hogan



Linda Chavez

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Announces Its Lifetime Institutional Membership in the First Ladies Association for Research and Education (FLARE)

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is proud to announce its partnership with the First Ladies Association for Research and Education, FLARE. The Foundation is the first of the Presidential Foundations to join FLARE as a lifetime institutional member. FLARE was launched on June 21, 2021 (FLARE | First Ladies Association of Research and Education (flare-net.org), in affiliation with American University's School of Public Affairs).

Learn more about the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's partnership with FLARE by visiting:
https://www.flare-net.org/aws/FLARE/pt/sd/news_article/393790/_PARENT/layout_details/false

A Special Thank You to Fifth Third Bank

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation staff are grateful to Tom Welch, regional president, and our friends at 5/3rd Bank for hosting our staff meetings during the recent closure of the Museum. We appreciate their hospitality and community esprit de corps.

Community Partnerships and Events



“The Memory, Legacy, and Lingering Questions of 9/11,” with Garret M. Graff, September 8 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum



This fall, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum welcomed Garrett M. Graff back to discuss the legacy of the September 11th attacks. Graff lectured about the investigations and discoveries over the past 20 years. He has a new podcast that builds off his book, *The Only Plane in the Sky*. Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Executive Director Gleaves Whitney led the question-and-answer segment of the talk. Questions ranged from general background inquiries to the responsibility of the next generation of Americans to remember the day.

Miss the lecture? Watch it again on the Foundation or Library and Museum's YouTube Channel or visit <https://geraldrfoundation.org/the-memory-legacy-and-lingering-questions-of-911-with-garrett-m-graff/>

Image: Garrett M. Graff.



9/11 Community Day and Scout Salute, September 9

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum in partnership with the Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America

On a beautiful September day, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum welcomed our community partners for the Community Day of Remembrance and Scout Salute to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy. From dawn until dusk, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, veterans, firefighters, police officers, and everyday citizens paused to salute the flag and remember the attack on our country and the 2,977 lives that were lost on that terrible day. This year's event was held under strict COVID prevention protocols but did not diminish from the poignancy of the day.

The Foundation staff would like to thank the Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America, for their leadership in organizing the commemoration. Each Scout who participated earned a 9/11 patch.

View photos of the event by visiting <https://geraldrfoundation.org/911-community-day-of-remembrance-and-scout-salute/>



Left to right: Amy Wilcox, Earl Holton, Gleaves Whitney, Larry Robson, Mary Eileen Lyon, Nathan Miller, Richard Norton Smith, Marty Allen Jr., Clare Shubert, Rachel Siglow, Lauren Velting, Erik Nelson



Richard Norton Smith, "The Surprising Thing about Gerald R. Ford," September 16

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation kicked off the 40-year anniversary of the opening of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum with author and historian Richard Norton Smith as he regaled us with never-before-heard stories from his upcoming biography.

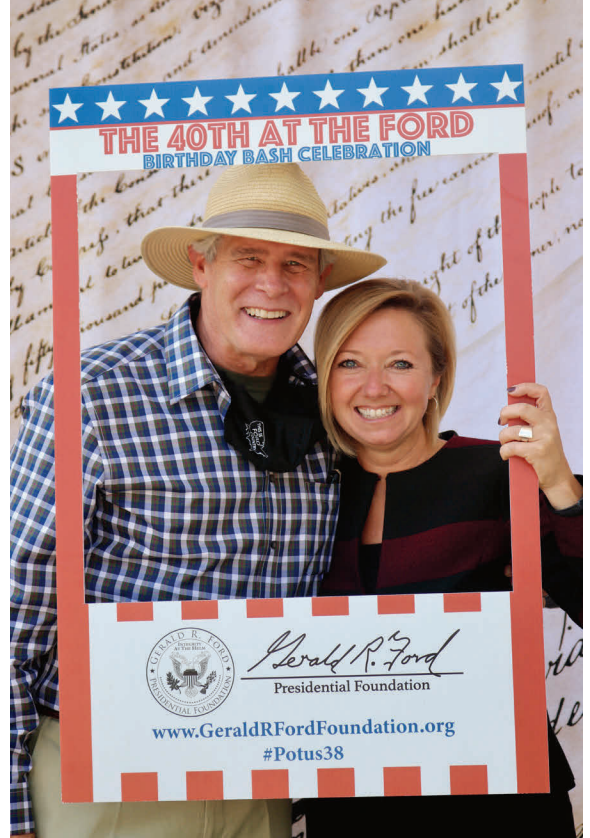
The evening program can be viewed at

<https://geraldrfoundation.org/the-surprising-thing-about-gerald-r-ford-with-richard-norton-smith/>

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AT THE GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION, LIBRARY & MUSEUM



WLAV Radio's Travis Gibbs and the Foundation's Clare Shubert



Gleaves Whitney & Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss



Young Gerald Ford walk with GR Running Tours



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Staff
Gleaves Whitney, Marty Allen, Rachel Siglow, & Amy Wilcox

40th at the Ford Birthday Bash Celebration, September 17 The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum

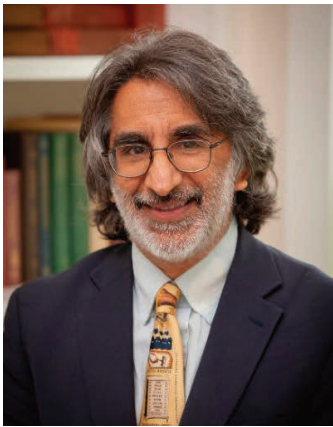
On Friday, September 17, 2021, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation commemorated its 40th anniversary and the original opening of the museum in 1981. During the outdoor celebration, community members were invited to stroll the grounds of the Museum while experiencing ArtPrize, an art competition that draws artists and art enthusiasts from around the world. Visitors were gifted with goody bags including books and other items and enjoyed complimentary pizza, pretzels, and ice cream from local food truck vendors.

The anniversary celebration also happened to fall on Constitution Day – guests received a pocket Constitution and had the opportunity to have their photos taken in a special Constitution “photo booth.” A local radio station, WLAV filled the plaza with

nostalgia, playing hits from the 70s and 80s. Caroline Cook, of Grand Rapids Running Tours, led an enthusiastic group around downtown highlighting historical landmarks in the early years of Gerald R. Ford. Grand Rapids’ Mayor, Rosalynn Bliss, stopped by to visit with guests and was able to chat with some middle school students enjoying a field trip.

Many thanks to all who stopped by to commemorate this special anniversary and especially to Furniture City Creamery, Beecher’s Pretzels, and Pizza Parliament for adding to the event with truly delicious treats!

For more photos of the event, visit: <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/40th-at-the-ford-birthday-bash-celebration/>



Akhil Reed Amar

Image and information provided by
the Hauenstein Center at GVSU.

Akhil Reed Amar, “Constitution Day Celebration,” September 17

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Grand Valley State University, the Hauenstein Center, and GVSU’s Political Science Department

Since its ratification in 1788, the Constitution has served as a beacon to democratic government and civic engagement. As a result, interpretations over the scope of the document continue today, much as they did in the 1780s when everyday citizens and politicians alike worked to answer the weighty questions of a young Republic: should the nation’s borders be expanded, and if so, will slavery be allowed to spread? New Worlders like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison were notable architects of this grand unionist blueprint. Still, other founders whose names are less prominent today also offered essential ideas and images.

Borrowing from his new book, *The Words That Made Us: America’s Constitutional Conversation, 1760–1840*, Professor Akhil Amar offered a guide for those seeking to understand America’s Constitution today and the men who built it. In honor of Constitution Day, we were proud to have welcomed Akhil Amar to Grand Rapids to discuss *The Words That Made Us*.

Accidental Leaders, “Betty Ford and Nancy Reagan Speak Out on Breast Cancer,” October 20

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and FLARE

Introduced by Anita Mc Bride, Panelists Dr. Myra Gutin on Betty Ford, and Jeanne Ryan Wolfson on Nancy Reagan, was joined by Ambassador Nancy Brinker—pioneer in the global breast cancer movement who will offer opening comments on the leadership of first ladies in the fight to end this disease.

In September 1974, First Lady Betty Ford was diagnosed with breast cancer. She made a decision to go public with the announcement of her medical problem and became an accidental spokeswoman for the issue. Her forthrightness and advocacy encouraged thousands of women to have mammograms, and get more information about breast cancer, resulting in saving many lives. In October of 1987, First Lady Nancy Reagan was diagnosed with breast cancer and came out publicly, but was criticized by some for her treatment decisions which she defended. Both first ladies gave speeches about breast cancer, helping to bring cancer and its treatment out of the closet. This program analyzed the leadership of both first ladies in the evolving conversation about women’s health.

Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker, pioneering leader of the global breast cancer movement, shared her experience of working together with first ladies Betty Ford and Nancy Reagan, as well as other first ladies, to fulfill the promise she made to her sister Susan G. Komen to end the shame, pain, fear and hopelessness caused by this disease. Since its founding in 1982, Komen for the Cure is the largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists.

Watch the recorded program at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZdBtSjQrg0>

Progressive/Conservative Summit: What’s Now and What’s Next? October 11

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, and the Progressive Women’s Alliance

A conservative, a progressive, and a libertarian walk onto a stage. They engage in robust discussion. No, that is not a joke. 2020 brought forth issues long plaguing the nation, from the inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic to the election conspiracies fueled by polarizing social media platforms, if not politicians themselves. As Americans increasingly write off those they disagree with as “the other” on these and other issues, we lose vital opportunities to seek understanding and find areas of actionable common ground. The gap between left and right continues to swell, and fractures within the Democratic and Republican parties have forced Americans to ask: what’s now, and what’s next for these movements?

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, and the Progressive Women’s Alliance reconvened for the Progressive Conservative Summit. Jane Coaston, the host of *The Argument* podcast, set the stage for good-faith debate on Friday evening. On Saturday, David French, senior editor at *The Dispatch*, and Matthew Yglesias, co-founder of Vox, examined what’s now and what’s next for conservatives and progressives alike. Panel sessions included discussions on the 2020 Census and Election results, offering thoughts for the shifting coalitions and cultural clashes among America’s left and right. The Summit concluded with a discussion between French, Yglesias, and Coaston.



Jane Coaston, David French, and Matthew Yglesias

Image and information provided by
the Hauenstein Center at GVSU.

Past, Present, Future: The Twists and Turns of the ERA and the Quest to Put Equality in the Constitution, October 26

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum
with support from the National Archives Foundation



First Lady Betty Ford working at her desk in the East Wing of the White House.
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.
Photo by David Hume Kennerly

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum presented a program designed to educate and update audience members about an issue very close to Mrs. Betty Ford's heart—the Equal Rights Amendment.

On October 26, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum, with support from the National Archives Foundation, presented two virtual panel discussions to explore the past, present, and future of the ERA. A daytime program was hosted in the afternoon for a student audience, and a public program was held in the evening.

Former ABC News White House Correspondent, Ann Compton, moderated this lively and timely discussion with representatives from the National Constitution Center, Sarah Harris and Dr. Kerry Sautner, along with Kimberly Peeler-Allen, a visiting practitioner from the Center for American Women and Politics and board member of the ERA Coalition.

Harris and Sautner shared some of the history of the ERA as well as lessons in how the amendment process works. Peeler-Allen spoke about the present state of the ERA and the effects it may have on equality for women if ratified. She also explained the difference between the effects of a law versus a constitutional amendment. Along with moderating, Compton shared her personal experiences as a journalist covering the White House in the 1970s, traveling with Mrs. Ford as she campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment across the country. She also posed some thought-provoking and interesting questions from audience members.

If you missed this important conversation the first time around, you can view the recording of both programs on the Gerald R. Ford Foundation's website at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/recent-event-archive/>

Gigi at the White House: A Virtual Author Visit and Read-Along, November 9

Gerald R. Presidential Foundation, White House Historical Association, and FLARE

Like a lot of kids, Giovanna "Gigi" McBride was always excited when she got to visit her mom at work. But unlike a lot of kids, when Gigi went to see her mom, she went to one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world—the White House! Her mother, Anita McBride, had a very unique job—she worked at the White House as Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush. In a virtual author storytime, Gigi shared her memories of the time she spent visiting the White House in a new children's book, *Gigi at the White House!*

To purchase your copy of *Gigi at the White House* visit: <https://shop.whitehousehistory.org/products/gigi-at-the-white-house>



Gleaves Whitney and First Sergeant Matt Eversmann (Retired)

First Sergeant Matt Eversmann: Veterans Day Celebration, November 11

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University's Peter Secchia Military and Veteran Resource Center, and Grand Valley State University's Office of the President

In October of 1993, First Sergeant Matt Eversmann led a group of Army Rangers in a UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia. Having been trapped, outnumbered, and marked for death, Eversmann's survival and heroism earned him a Bronze Star Medal with valor device. He's since been immortalized in the film *Black Hawk Down*. Upon returning from Somalia, Eversmann committed to teaching the next generation of leaders through his experience with the atrocities of war. His story highlights the importance of leadership, followership, and responsibility in our age of tribalism.

On Veterans Day, in honor of the men and women in uniform, past and present, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University's Peter Secchia Military and Veteran Resource Center, and Grand Valley State University's Office of the President were proud to welcome First Sergeant Matt Eversmann, co-author of *Battle of Mogadishu* and *Walk in My Combat Boots*.

Image and information provided by the Hauenstein Center at GVSU.

Steve Ford and *Black Hawk Down*

The story of 160 elite U.S. soldiers who dropped into Mogadishu in October 1993 to capture two top lieutenants of a renegade warlord, but found themselves in a desperate battle with a large force of heavily-armed Somalis.

Image of Steve Ford as Cribbs in *Black Hawk Down*.

Movie information provided by IMDb

Image provided by The Fix



Wine and the White House: A Holiday Wine Tasting Event, November 18

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

While outside we were seeing our first winter wonderland of the season, the inside of The Lit in downtown Grand Rapids was aglow with a joyful celebration on, as friends gathered for *Wine and the White House: A Holiday Wine Tasting* with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

Guests enjoyed specially selected wines and paired hors d'oeuvres from the experts at House of Wine. Each pairing was thoughtfully composed to represent one of the White House state dinners hosted by the Fords in 1976. Archival documents including invitations, menus, and guest lists were on hand to transport us back to these very special diplomatic events. Throughout the evening, music was provided by the very talented Allegro Quartet.

Our guest of honor and speaker for the evening was Mr. David Kennerly, Pulitzer Prize winning photographer who served as the White House photographer during the Ford administration. Kennerly shared some never-before-seen photographs and regaled the audience with behind-the-scenes stories of state dinners...and their renowned guests.

Many thanks to all of our guests and sponsors, especially our presenting sponsor, Bank of America. Proceeds from the evening support the civic education and leadership development initiatives of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Event images can be found at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/wine-and-the-white-house-a-holiday-wine-tasting-event-2021/>



The Allegro Quartet



David Hume Kennerly and Greg Ford



David Hume Kennerly and Joan Secchia



Friends of Ford Holiday Open House, December 1





Mike Ford visiting the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library & Museum and Local Trustees in Celebration of the 40th Anniversary, October 28

Left to right: Hank Meijer, Tina Freese-Decker, David Hoogendoorn, Mike Ford, Maria Cimitile, Teresa Weatherall Neal, Jim Hackett, Gleaves Whitney, Joan Secchia, Wayman Britt, Tammy Born Huizenga, J.C. Huizenga, Mike Jandernoa

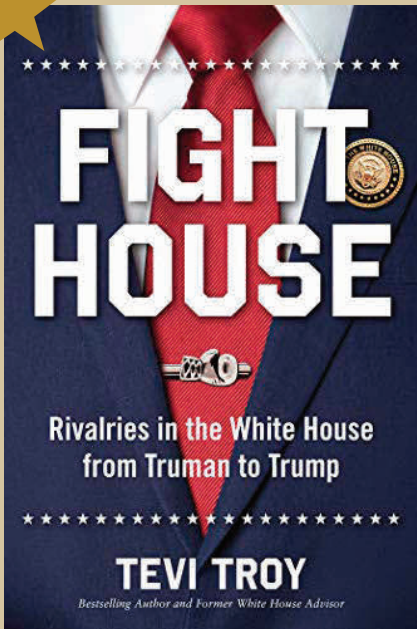


Steve Ford visiting the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum and the Foundation Staff, November 30

Left to right: Clare Shubert, Lauren Velting, Jill Schneider, Steve Ford, Gleaves Whitney, Rachel Siglow, Amy Wilcox



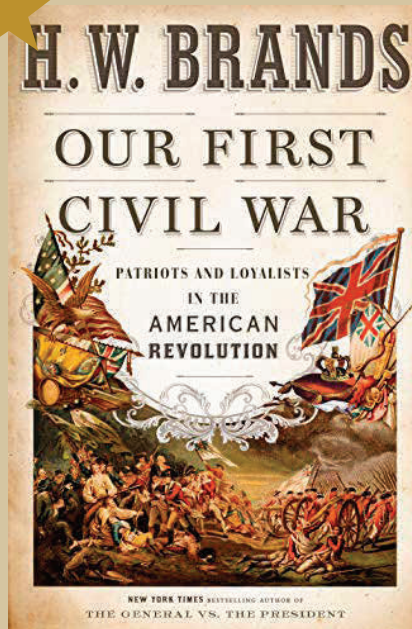
What We're Reading



Fight House

by Tevi Troy

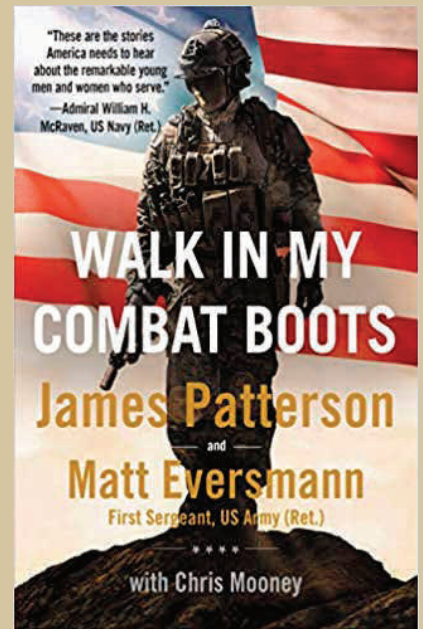
Upcoming event!



Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution

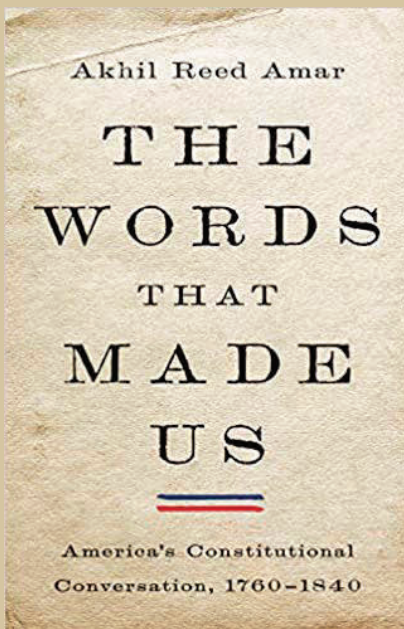
by H. W. Brands

Upcoming event!



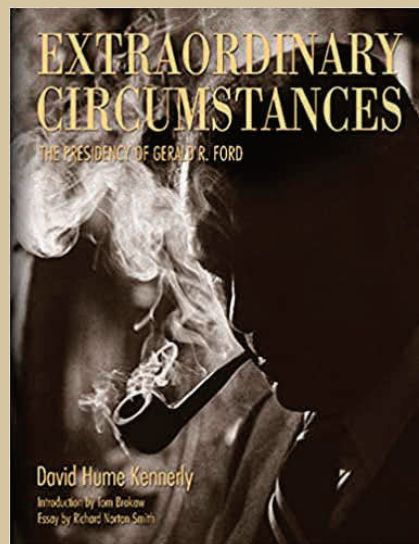
Walk in my Combat Boots

by James Patterson and Matt Eversmann, First Sergeant, US Army (Retired)



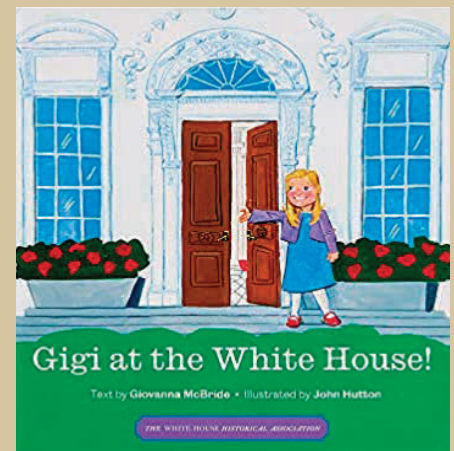
The Words that Made Us

by Ahkil Reed Amar



Extraordinary Circumstances: The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford

by David Hume Kennerly, Richard Norton Smith, and Tom Brokaw



Gigi at the White House

by Giovanna McBride

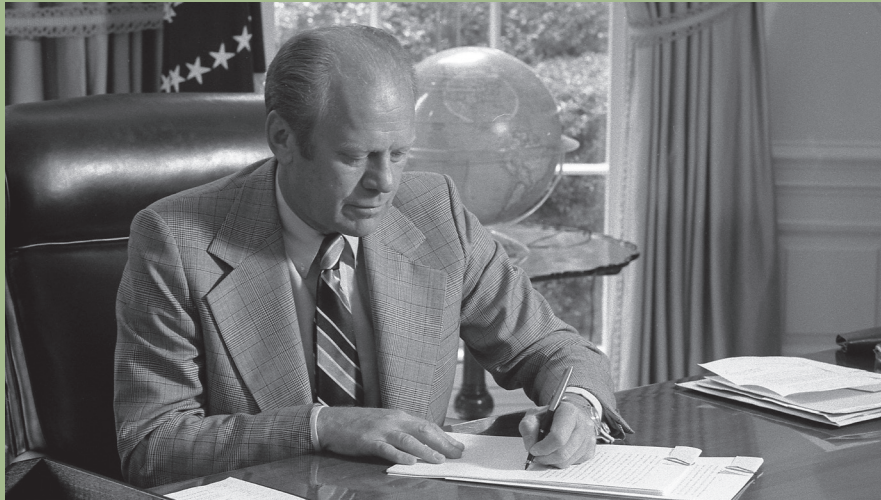
Growing Democracy

For our Youngest Readers and Leaders

If you wanted to write a letter to or call your favorite singer or movie star, it might be tricky to find the correct address, and even harder to find the phone number! However, this is not the case with the president of the United States! In our democracy, we have a right to have our ideas, questions, and worries heard by the leaders of our government.

When President Gerald R. Ford was in the White House, he received thousands of letters and phone calls every day. People wanted to ask questions, share ideas, and voice concerns about all sorts of topics: from laws they wanted to see change, to concerns about their jobs and the environment, to questions about the president's dog!

While presidents can't possibly read every letter they are sent, every letter is read. There are staffers in the White House who are responsible for reading letters and answering phone calls so that they can keep track of what is on the minds of the American people and share that with the president. They try their best to respond to each letter (though it may take a while!) and sometimes the president is the one who writes back. Each letter received at the White House is kept, and when the president's term ends, those letters are stored at a presidential library. Some of them are even displayed in museums!



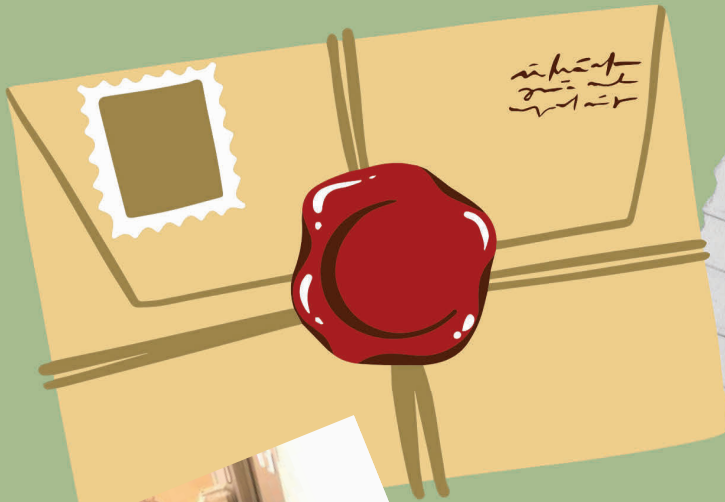
President Gerald R. Ford at his desk in the Oval Office, writing a letter.

Valued Vocabulary:

Presidential Library: special libraries that keep and protect the important papers, photographs, and artifacts from a president's time in office.

Policy: a rule or guideline made by a government.

Term: the length of time a person serves as president; presidents in the United States can serve up to eight years if they are elected twice.



If you would like to write a letter to your president, you can send a message online: www.whitehouse.gov/contact or through the mail:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500



When writing, keep these tips in mind:

- Introduce yourself! Tell about yourself and why you are writing.
- Be specific. While your letter doesn't need to be long, you do want to make sure you include details so that your idea, question, or concern is understood.
- Include your address. If you'd like a letter back, make sure to tell where it should be sent.
- Be respectful – even if you are writing to express your opinion or disagree with a policy.

So, give it a try! Send your great ideas and questions to the president, or just simply introduce yourself. Who knows – you might get a response, or even see your letter in a museum some day!

Library and Museum News

A Message from the Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that winter is already here. I hope you all are staying safe and well. Since writing my last letter to this newsletter, we have opened, closed, and reopened the Museum to the public. We are hopeful that the last closure was our last in the midst of the pandemic!! We hope you were able to visit the Museum grounds this September as we hosted outdoor exhibits for ArtPrize.

We are co-sponsoring upcoming virtual programs we would love for you to attend. Join us as we honor the 80th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor with author Ian Toll on December 7th. We also asked the public to help us "Rename the Train" — formerly known as the Breton Village Train. The train will be on exhibit for the holidays, which will be followed up with a traveling art exhibit on "Women in Uniform."

The Museum is also in the midst of hiring and I hope to be able to share in the next newsletter information on Supervisory Museum Curator and Museum Store Manager positions being filled.

We also received approval to fill the vacant Education Specialist position and hope to be able to post and hire soon!

I want to thank the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation for its continued support of the Library and Museum. This fall, we are hosting an intern under the Padnos Museum Internship program. Natalie Dobleske, a senior at Grand Valley State University, is virtually helping our Museum staff complete website content for an online exhibit. The financial support the Foundation provides for this internship program is truly appreciated!



Brooke Clement

We hope you can visit us this holiday season - we certainly have missed you all!

Brooke Clement

Congratulations to Brooke Clement!

The National Archives and Records Administration announced that Brooke Clement has been named the director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum. Her start date was September 26, 2021. Chair Mike Ford, quoted in the release, expressed our sentiments well: "Our team at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Brooke. We have gotten to know her in the past year in her role as interim director as we've partnered on programs and worked through a variety of problems presented by COVID. She is the perfect person for this work—collaborative, experienced, credentialed, upbeat, and dedicated to spreading the good values and story of Dad and Mom."

Noelle Ward and Bettina Cousineau working on the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express Vail exhibit.



The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express

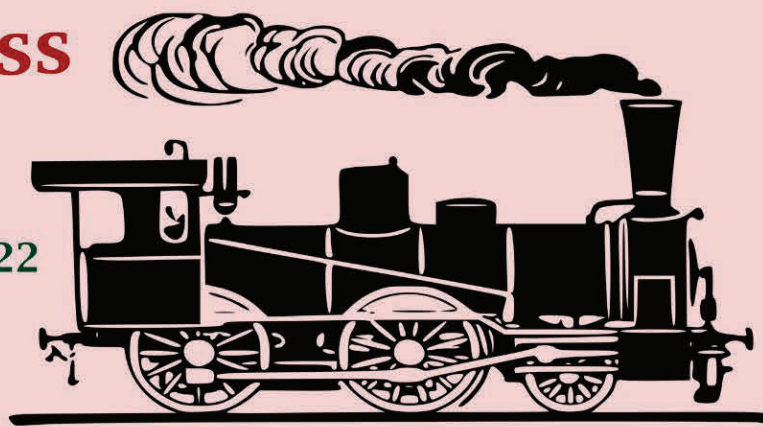
November 22, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Special ticket prices:

\$8.00 adults, FREE for 17 and under.

Tickets must be purchased online.

See website for COVID protocols.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

303 Pearl St. NW Grand Rapids MI 49504

(616) 254-0400 fordlibrarymuseum.gov



Gerald R. Ford

The Breton Village Train Gets a New Name!

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is excited to announce that the train is back on display at the Museum this year with a new name, The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express.

Four years ago, thanks to teamwork from the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, Library & Museum, along with the DeVries family and some amazing community volunteers, the train display moved from the Breton Village Mall to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids.

Over the last few years, the display has come to include many nods to Gerald R. Ford's life in Grand Rapids, including South High School, Bill's Place Diner, the Quonset Hut used in his congressional campaign, and even a miniature version of the iconic statue that greets visitors outside of the Museum.

The train will be open to the public through January 2, 2022.
Purchase your museum tickets in advance at
<https://fordlibrarymuseum.gov>

Larry Avery and Andy Seif assembling the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express.



Featured Trustee: Fred Keller



Fred Keller

Did you know one of our trustees is a regular columnist?

Trustee Fred Keller is the Founder and Chair of Cascade Engineering which he started in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1973 with a belief that you can have a successful business and still treat employees with dignity and respect. Fred began molding plastic parts with six employees in a 10,000 square foot building. Today, Cascade Engineering employs 1600 people across 15 facilities in six US locations and additional European operations in Budapest, Hungary. Fred recently completed 17 years as a Senior Visiting Lecturer at the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. He served as an Executive-in-Residence at the University of Michigan – Ross School of Business. He was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Council with two years as chair under Presidents Bush and Obama. Keller also served on the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board for 14 years with two years as chair. Fred is a trustee for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Fred serves on the boards of Paragon Die & Engineering of Grand Rapids, Michigan and Balcones Resources of Austin, Texas. He is co-founder and chair of Talent 2025, a catalyst for the development of an integrated

talent system to meet employer needs throughout 13 West Michigan counties. He served as co-chair of K-Connect, a Kent County Collective Impact Systems Change Collaborative. A Grand Rapids, Michigan native, Fred earned his B.S. in materials science and engineering from Cornell University and an M.S. in business management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Racism, Business and My Journey

by Fred Keller | December 2, 2020 | *Jackson Hole Economics*

In the late 1960's, riots and assassinations of my heroes left me disillusioned. Out of this trying period, I founded Cascade Engineering. I believed that business could have a heart and play a positive role in society. I felt we could create an organization that could treat its people in ways that would be uplifting and motivating, professionally and personally. Simply put, I wanted to build a company where colleagues would know they were valued as human beings, not just employees.

Over time, our business grew. And as we did, we strove to address problems we saw around us. In 1991, we started an anti-racism initiative at our company. We didn't call it that and it wasn't in response to social unrest or a company incident. We did it because it felt right.

We started hiring people from welfare in a coordinated way in 1995. We called it "Welfare to Career." Our goal was simple: To see if we could figure out how to utilize talented individuals who had hit barriers. Decades later, as I look back, it is clear that our efforts helped hundreds of people and was a critical catalyst for our company. Out of that experience, we adopted an explicit goal of becoming an "employer of choice" and this became a guiding principle for Cascade Engineering. It still is today, even as we have grown to an international organization with 1600 employees.

This is how it happened.

Local CEO Bob Woodruff owned several D&W Food stores in West Michigan. His family had adopted a child of color and had experienced racist comments from other whites in their suburban neighborhood. He was incensed and invited a group of other business CEO's to hear his anger and determination to do something.

I wondered what could be done and agreed to attend an 'Institute for the Healing of Racism.' A mixed group of ten white and black leaders met for a half day a week for ten weeks, co-facilitated by a white and a black leader. We were asked at the end what actions we would take as a result of our experience. I decided we could do three things. First, I made a commitment to ensure that everyone in my growing company would know that racist behavior would not be acceptable and would lead to disciplinary procedures. Second, we brought in actors to depict inappropriate behavior that actually had happened at the company. The audience has a chance to learn from, and correct the behavior they witnessed. And third, we sent every leader at the company to the Institute for the Healing of Racism. We still take these actions today, and consider them foundational.

At first, although there was no backlash, I thought that nothing had changed in the company. But slowly, our corporate culture began to feel different. We started a diversity and inclusion council, which spontaneously began hosting pot luck lunches celebrating the diverse ethnic foods of the families in the company. We brought in a traveling exhibition of memorabilia from the Jim Crow museum at Ferris State University and had dialogue sessions about examples of racism from everyday life, such as an Aunt Jemima cookie jar or postcards of lynchings. Those conversations stayed with me over the years—expressions of hurt and anger surfaced from my colleagues after being long repressed by the typical work environment.

Welfare to Career was born from our understanding of the many barriers that confront too many people. American lore is if you really want a job, you will show up, work hard, learn more and be promoted through the ranks.

Continued...

And if you don't do those things, you are not trying hard enough and deserve failure. What we learned is that many people – a single mother, or a victim in an abusive relationship, for example – must overcome huge obstacles simply to show up for work. They face daily barriers fundamentally different from many of their peers. We learned that for people of color, poverty is deeply intertwined with racism.

We failed twice in our attempt to put an effective program together before finally realizing we needed to change our fundamental corporate culture from one of judgment to one of support. We learned to think differently about the workplace, and even brought a social worker to our premises, available for any struggling worker. And it worked. Supervisors turned into supportive co-workers. Our employee turnover for those coming from welfare decreased, astonishingly, from over 45% per month to under 3%. Today, dozens of other companies have adopted similar practices.

It was a natural progression for us to declare ourselves an Anti-

Racism company in 2012. About the same time, we formalized our practice of hiring people released from prison. We did it by simply not asking if they had been incarcerated as they filled out their application. They call it “ban the box” now.

Our company's powerful journey didn't happen because I heroically commanded it. Rather, it was because lots of people in our organization picked up on important ideas and made them happen. From front line workers to leaders, it was their passion that made the difference.

I used to be asked why we did it. No longer. Today, there is a growing understanding that, as a nation, we need to do something different. Our current trajectory is not working. The ‘United’ part of our ‘States’ is in trouble. Real, systemic change is needed, even if it's a result of “good trouble,” as the late John Lewis put it.

Read the rest of Fred Keller's article at
<https://jheconomics.com/racism-business-and-my-journey/>

Gleaves Whitney speaking to Grand Rapids business leaders on October 14, 2021. In his public appearances, Gleaves emphasizes that the Fords' time has come. The Ford brand of integrity and respect is needed to counter our nation's division and dysfunction.





Why Give to the Ford Presidential Foundation?

Dear Friends of Ford:

If Gerald Ford were to become a cult hero, then August 9 would be a red-letter day among his followers. For August 9 marks the date that Ford achieved something no other American has: he improbably became President of the United States without ever having sought the office or been elected to it. By the terms of the 25th Amendment, he became our Commander in Chief. His unforeseen ascension to the White House 47 years ago this year is one of those “Wow!” moments that stand out in any accounting of the nation.

And what a presidency his 895 days were. What they lacked in quantity they made up in quality. As Democratic Speaker Tip O’Neill put it, “God has been good to America, especially during difficult times. At the time of the Civil War, He gave us Abraham Lincoln. And at the time of Watergate, He gave us Gerald Ford—the right man at the right time who was able to put our nation back together again.”

In a similar vein, biographer Jim Cannon opined, “From its beginning American democracy has had the good fortune to produce a leader, often from an unexpected quarter, whose character and actions fit the tide of history. So it was on

August 9, 1974, when this good and honest man, this obscure and stolid workhorse of a Congressman from the heartland of the nation, came to the rescue of the American government. To Gerald Ford was given the responsibility to move America from untruth to truth, from darkness to light.”

High praise, this, and well deserved. Together these two statements remind us of how fortunate we are to be part of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, whose mission is “to increase awareness of the life, career, values, and legacy of America’s 38th President ... and to promote the high ideals of integrity, honesty, and candor that defined President Ford’s extraordinary career of public service.” I encourage you to review the entire mission statement at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/mission-statement/>.

As my first full year at the Foundation draws to a close, I would like to express appreciation to everyone involved in making our Foundation better. Despite COVID and the unprecedented months-long closures of the Library & Museum, the Foundation with its partners has had a stellar year programmatically and administratively. I could not be more grateful to you and more proud

of our Foundation team. Marty, Rachel, Clare, Lauren, Amy, Jill, Eric—they all have worked cheerfully in difficult circumstances and shown a consistently gritty, can-do spirit. I have no doubt that 2022 will be an even better year.

My heartfelt thanks also to all the Trustees for their service to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation over the years. Their work now prepares us to take the Ford to the next level and make our Foundation’s initiatives a vital part of the national conversation.

Never has the Ford “brand” been more needed than it is today, given our current division and dysfunction. Our time has come. Americans are hungry, searching for the public-spirited leaders our nation once produced and is capable of producing again. Because of President Ford’s exceptional legacy of leadership and service, we have the brand, the mission, and the duty to develop virtue-driven leaders in the rising generation.

Thank you for believing in us.

Gleaves Whitney

Gerald Ford delivering remarks at the dedication ceremony of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 9/18/1981.



Join Friends of Ford!



Trustee Bob Hooker, Don Kelley, and Ann Kelley at
Wine and the White House: A Holiday Wine Tasting Event



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.**

- 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 Newsletters
- 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 the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
at 616.254.0396 or email ford@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

Happy Holidays!



First Lady Betty Ford and Susan Ford in the Solarium, making ornaments, 11/10/1975.
Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Save the Date

December 7, 2021

December 9, 2021

January 20, 2022

February 2, 2022

March 24, 2022

May 20, 2022

Ian Toll: Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

H.W. Brands: Our First Civil War (with the Hauenstien Center)

Notably Absent: Presidential No-Shows on Inauguration Day

Tevi Troy: Fight House

Women's History Month, Designing Camelot

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition