



the Gerald R. Ford
BRIEF

Spring 2022



*Happy Birthday,
Betty Ford!*



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A Message from the Chair

A Message by Foundation Chairman Mike Ford

Dear Friends of Ford,

It is with mixed feelings that this is my last letter to you as chair of the Foundation. These past four years have been both challenging and rewarding, but at this season of my life, my family needs more of my time and energy.

One of the greatest rewards over the past couple of years has been to assist Executive Director Gleaves Whitney with developing the Ford Leadership Forum. The inspiration for the Ford Forum arises from my father's life of courageous leadership and selfless service. Through the Forum, our Foundation seeks to form a community of young people and teachers who are inspired to embrace virtue-anchored leadership and engaged citizenship. This exciting new initiative is 100 percent in line with what my father would want the Foundation to be doing, especially in these challenging times.



Mike Ford

As I write, all of us are feeling anxious about the state of our nation and our world. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the suffering of its people weigh especially heavy on our hearts. Unfortunately, we have been here before. In this moment of history, I try to see the war in light of my father's legacy, principles, and values. Dad did not isolate America but became good friends and trusted partners with world leaders; these close personal relationships were possible because his friends knew he was a man of integrity who would keep his word. Dad was outstanding at building international alliances to confront aggression and champion human rights; think of his leadership at Helsinki. He had the courage to make tough decisions for the greater good; think of his decisiveness in the Mayaguez incident. He could show compassion to people who had lost all hope; think of his insistence on providing a refuge for the Vietnamese boat people and especially Operation Baby Lift. Friendship, integrity, alliance building, courage, compassion—these are the virtues Dad was anchored to. This is what made him different from so many other world leaders, then and today.

The Foundation, working with our great partners at the Ford Presidential Library & Museum, will continue to be a beacon of light in a darkening world, a lighthouse in stormy seas.

I want to thank all of our Friends of Ford, donors, partners, and Foundation staff who these past years have shared the dreams and high hopes that my father had for our Foundation, our nation, and our world. We could not have done our good work without all of you. May God bless you and keep you.

Mike Ford
Chairman
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

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Cover image: First Lady Betty Ford talking on the telephone. Photo by David Hume Kennerly.



First Lady Betty Ford presiding over the dedication ceremony of a model airplane hand-painted by artist and sculptor Alexander Calder. The design of the "Flying Colors of the United States" was recreated on a Boeing 727. Washington, D.C. November 1975.

The model airplane has found a new home at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. Learn more at www.mlive.com

Direct from the Director

Dear Friends of Ford,

Columnist George Will recently shared an insight that holds true across the continents, through the centuries, and in every -ocracy: beware the weak man's idea of a strong man. The weak man mistakes the bully's bluster and bombast for strength. Wiser people know the strength that ultimately counts is moral strength.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is demonstrating what wiser people know. As the Russian army tightens its grip on Kyiv, Zelensky has stood strong on his moral strength as a leader, in contrast to Putin's manifest weakness as a bully.

Zelensky's message to Congress met its historic moment. It was heartbreaking and tragic, but above all it was stirring. With this and similar videos, the Ukrainian president has earned resounding praise throughout the world for standing up to Russia's revanchist dictator. It's an unusually bold and courageous thing to do--this Ukrainian David standing up to the Russian Goliath--when victory on the battlefield hangs in the balance. Without bluster and absent guile, Zelensky strikes us as a strong leader.

In contrast to Putin's military machine, Zelensky has amplified his moral might to a world audience. In the process, he has won the hearts and minds of democratic idealists everywhere.

In contrast to Putin's name, which is becoming synonymous with that of Stalin, Mussolini, and Hitler, Zelensky's name is uttered in the same breath as that of Pericles, Lincoln, Churchill, and FDR.

In a recent essay, University of Washington political philosopher Michael Blake compared Zelensky's and Putin's leadership styles that stand in such sharp contrast:

"If Zelensky represents a democratic hero, it should nonetheless be remembered that democracy does not need – and should not seek – the sort of hero worship that authoritarians like Putin demand."

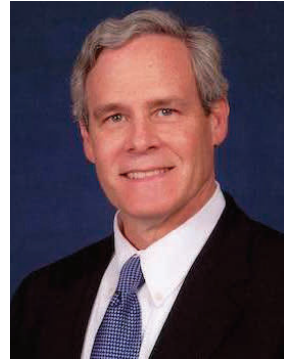
The success of Zelensky's leadership style depends on his ability to balance, or manage, the push-pull that is generated by two very different poles. On the one hand, he exhibits bold virtues--virtues the possession of which makes him morally superior to Putin. On the other hand, he displays an understated leadership style--a style that befits the aspirational equality of modern democratic polities.

Moral strength plus understated style equals a potent leadership formula.

To find an American example that illustrates, consider a commander in chief who perfected the formula a half century ago: Gerald Ford. In his autobiography, *A Time to Heal*, Ford tells us that when he was a child he couldn't control his temper. He would storm around the house like a little Mussolini. His mother

kept working with him, telling him how much he hurt himself when angry, and also how foolish he looked. She also had him read Rudyard Kipling's famous poem, "If--," again and again:

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you....*



Gleaves Whitney

Ford learned the lesson. As an adult, he ably balanced being bold in virtue and understated in style. His handling of the Vietnamese refugee crisis, Mayaguez attack, and LaGuardia terrorist strike all show Ford expertly combining moral clarity with "a calm and steady hand at the helm."

Ford's leadership style was on display a half century ago. The historian in me cannot wait to learn about the X-factor in Zelensky's upbringing, education, and experience that have steeled him with moral strength. For he has also shown a calm and steady hand at the helm. He has spurned every opportunity to escape and seek safety in the West. He has stood with his people and keeps communicating to them and to the world, even though to do so risks revealing his position to an enemy determined to kill him.

In what is shaping up to be today's Alamo, the understated Zelensky is emerging as a case-study in democratic statesmanship: the strong person's idea of a strong person. He is telegraphing exceptional moral virtue to fellow Ukrainians to stiffen their spines before the Russian juggernaut. Tragically, Ukraine will lose many more civilians and soldiers in the foreseeable future, but with Zelensky's leadership the people will not lose their great moral strength. And it's that strength that inspires the hearts of freedom-loving people everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gleaves", written on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Gleaves Whitney
Executive Director
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

“A Republic of Laws, Not of Men,” by Gerald R. Ford, August 9, 1974

Introduction by Gleaves Whitney:

After I listened to President Zelensky's address to Congress, I thought of the speech Gerald Ford delivered immediately after being sworn in as our 38th President. I would argue that it is one of America's great state papers. As John Von Heyking teaches us, "One sign of a great text is that its questions and themes are eternal, which means that its insights are available to us at any moment." By those criteria, Ford's speech is a great state paper. Although delivered almost a half century ago, it addresses what keeps us up at night in 2022: the courage to face a world in crisis, the renewal of the leader's compact with the people, the need for healing, the adherence to truth, the challenge to our diverse population to come together, the duty of the leader of the free world to seek peace through strength, the determination to do the right thing, the resolve not to bend to expedience but to uphold the rule of law, and the humility to pray to a higher power to get us through this uncertain turning point in world history.

My dear friends, my fellow Americans:

The oath that I have taken is the same oath that was taken by George Washington and by every President under the Constitution. But I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances never before experienced by Americans. This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

Therefore, I feel it is my first duty to make an unprecedented compact with my countrymen. Not an inaugural address, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech--just a little straight talk among friends. And I intend it to be the first of many.

I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many.

If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by any secret

promises. I have not campaigned either for the Presidency or the Vice Presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man, and only to one woman--my dear wife--as I begin this very difficult job.

I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it. Those who nominated and confirmed me as Vice President were my friends and are my friends. They were of both parties, elected by all the people and acting under the Constitution in their name. It is only fitting then that I should pledge to them and to you that I will be the President of all the people.

Thomas Jefferson said the people are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty. And down the years, Abraham Lincoln renewed this American article of faith asking, "Is there any better way or equal hope in the world?"...

Even though this is late in an election year, there is no way we can go forward except together and no way anybody can win except by serving the people's urgent needs. We cannot stand still or slip backwards. We must go forward now together.

To the peoples and the governments of all friendly nations, and I hope that could encompass the whole world, I pledge an uninterrupted and sincere search for peace. America will remain strong and united, but its strength will remain dedicated to the safety and sanity of the entire family of man, as well as to our own precious freedom.

I believe that truth is the glue that holds government together, not only our Government but civilization itself. That bond, though strained, is unbroken at home and abroad.

In all my public and private acts as your President, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and candor with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy in the end.

My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works; our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule. But there is a higher Power, by whatever name we honor Him, who ordains not only righteousness but love, not only justice but mercy.

As we bind up the internal wounds of Watergate, more painful and more poisonous than those of foreign wars, let us restore the golden rule to our political process, and let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and of hate.

In the beginning, I asked you to pray for me. Before closing, I ask again your prayers, for Richard Nixon and for his family. May our former President, who brought peace to millions, find it for himself. May God bless and comfort his wonderful wife and daughters, whose love and loyalty will forever be a shining legacy to all who bear the lonely burdens of the White House.

I can only guess at those burdens, although I have witnessed at close hand the tragedies that befell three Presidents and the lesser trials of others.

With all the strength and all the good sense I have gained from life, with all the confidence my family, my friends, and my dedicated staff impart to me, and with the good will of countless Americans I have encountered in recent visits to 40 States, I now solemnly reaffirm my promise I made to you last December 6: to uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best I can for America.

God helping me, I will not let you down.

~President Gerald R. Ford, Remarks at His Swearing-In Ceremony, August 9, 1974; original documents at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and digitized online here:

www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/document/0122/1252055.pdf

Updates and Recent Events

Exploring the Question: Episode 7

“Evangelicals, Then & Now: How Did 1976 Change American Culture and Politics?” with Daniel K. Williams

In the first episode of Exploring the Question in 2022, Gleaves Whitney spoke with historian Daniel K Williams about his book, *The Election of the Evangelical: Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and the Presidential Contest of 1976*.

The University of Kansas Press published this groundbreaking book in 2020. The following is from the dust jacket:

“From where we stand now, the election of 1976 can look like an alternate reality: southern white evangelicals united with African Americans, northern Catholics, and Jews in support of a Democratic presidential candidate; the Republican candidate, a social moderate whose wife proudly proclaimed her support for *Roe v. Wade*, was able to win over Great Plains farmers as well as cultural liberals in Oregon, California, Connecticut, and New Jersey—even as he lost Ohio, Texas, and nearly the entire South. *The Election of the Evangelical* offers an unprecedented, behind-the-headlines analysis of this now almost unimaginable political moment, which proved to be a pivotal turning point in polarizing American political parties along ideological and cultural lines and eventually in destroying the winning coalition that Jimmy Carter created.

“The big story immediately following the election was that a self-described evangelical Christian and improbably dark-horse candidate from the Deep South had won the presidency, leading *Newsweek* to call 1976 the “year of the evangelical.” What pundits overlooked at the time, and what Daniel K. Williams delves into in this book, was the profound effect of the election on the nation’s political parties. In the first comprehensive historical study of this consequential election, Williams mines untapped archival materials to uncover the strategies of the Ford, Carter, and Reagan campaigns and Republican and Democratic leaders in 1976. His work explains why, despite Ford’s and Carter’s efforts to the contrary, the 1976 presidential election reshaped the political parties along ideologically polarized lines. As he examines the role that religion and “values voting” played in 1976, Williams reveals why Carter was the last Democrat to hold together a New Deal-style coalition of white southern evangelicals, northern Catholics, and African Americans. His findings dispel the most common myths about why Ford lost the election and clarify what his defeat meant for the future of the Republican Party.

“An eye-opening account of electoral politics at an epochal crossroads, this book provides valuable historical perspective and critical insight in a time of seemingly ever-increasing partisan polarization in American political life.”

Watch or listen to episode 7, “Evangelicals, Then & Now: How Did 1976 Change American Culture and Politics?” with Daniel K. Williams, on Exploring the Question at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/exploring-the-question-episode-7/



Dr. Daniel K. Williams
Image courtesy of *The Gospel Coalition*



Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky

Exploring the Question: Episode 8

“Those Darn American Founders: How Virtuous Were They?”
with Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky

Watch or listen to another recent episode of Exploring the Question with Gleaves Whitney and presidential historian Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky. How did the values and virtues of America’s Founding Fathers shape their institutions and ours? How much did their own internal battles—for example, over slavery—affect their principles as leaders? Whitney and Chervinsky take a dive into the moral compromises the founders made, which we don’t always see presented with any nuance in our history textbooks.

Watch or listen to episode 8, “Those Darn American Founders: How Virtuous Were They?” with Lindsay Chervinsky, on Exploring the Question at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/exploring-the-question-episode-8/

Image courtesy of the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

Ford-Inspired

Introducing Gleaves Whitney's column, *Ford-Inspired*. These periodic essays reflect the values and virtues of President Ford that inspire the leadership initiatives of the Ford Leadership Forum. You'll find thought-provoking questions to encourage readers to apply the main points of the essay to their own lives. Learn more about Gerald R. Ford and his times through this new column series.

Ford-Inspired Presidents' Day 2022

The Two Times Gerald Ford Swore in Public, by Gleaves Whitney (with thanks to Mike Ford), February 13, 2022

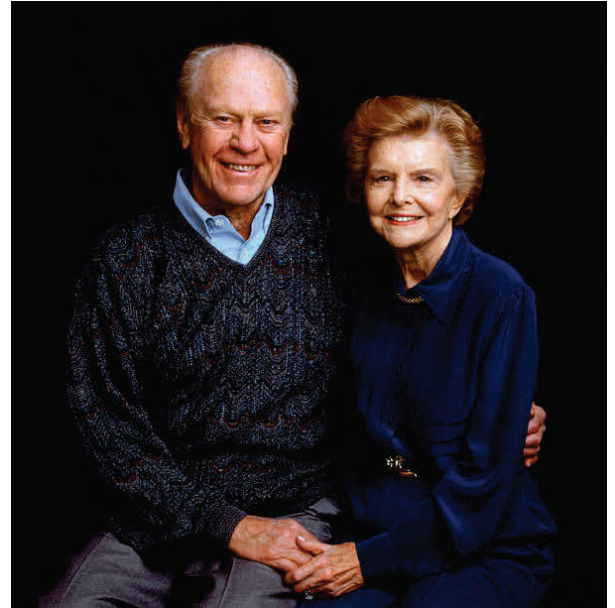
Although Gerald Ford was a man of quiet faith, his Protestant upbringing and beliefs informed his excellent character. When sworn in as Vice President (December 6, 1973) and then eight months later as President (August 9, 1974), Ford placed his left hand on the Bible that his eldest son, Mike Ford, had recently given him. It was the Jerusalem Bible and, significantly, it was not closed but open—on both occasions, to one of President Ford's favorite Old Testament passages, Proverbs 3: 5-6.

Following are the scripted first words of the newly sworn-in President:

Mr. Chief Justice, and my dear friends:

"The Bible upon which my hand just rested was opened to Proverbs, third chapter, the fifth and sixth verses. I learned these verses many years ago, and have often said them as a prayer:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all they ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

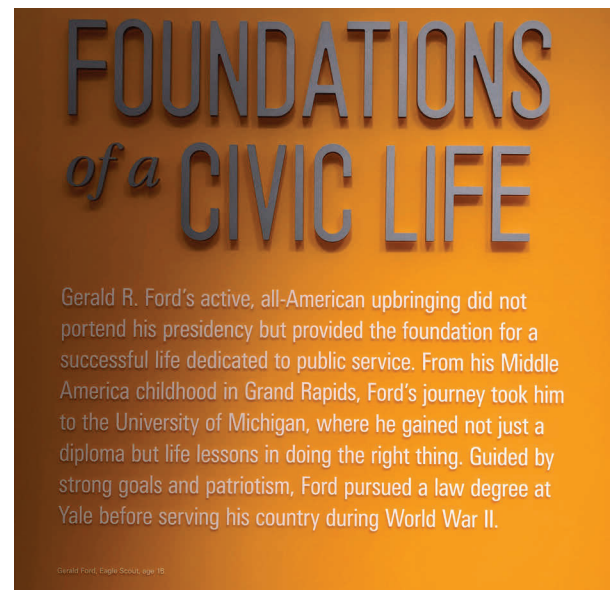


Ford-Inspired March 2022

The theme is service. Putting others before self was taught in all the West Michigan institutions that shaped Gerald Ford's character. Family, church, school, team, Boy Scouts, marriage—they all taught the importance of selfless action until it became a habit—a virtue—that led Ford to dedicate his life to something greater than himself. The various labels in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, reinforce the theme of service over the course of Ford's life.

Questions

- What are "the things that are timeless"?
- Why do you suppose Gerald and Betty Ford chose the verb "committed" in their epitaph, "Lives Committed to God, Country, and Love?" Can you think of other verbs that characterize their lives?
- Can one live a good life without virtue?
- What is the relationship between virtue and happiness?
- Consider the different virtues Ford practiced while young. Which are intellectual virtues? Moral virtues? Civic virtues? Spiritual virtues?
- Which virtues do you think are the most important?



Library and Museum News

I am proud to announce that I am a Michigander once more (not that I ever stopped being one), having officially moved to Grand Rapids! Over the past few months, the Museum has reopened to the public. We invited the public to “Rename the Train” in advance of its exhibition over the holiday season. The train will from now on be called the “Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express!” In addition, we opened the “Women in Uniform” exhibit in January, displaying rarely seen works of art from the Naval Heritage and Historical Command. We are also looking forward to the upcoming special exhibit on *Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition*, which will open on May 20, 2022. Please be sure to mark your calendars and schedule your visit with the Museum’s online booking system which can be located on our website at www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov.



Brooke Clement

We have proudly hosted and cosponsored several virtual programs with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, my favorite being our program on Harriet Woods Hill—Grand Rapids’ first African American woman police officer and first woman detective! We are cosponsoring upcoming programs with the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, as well as hosting a virtual program on World War II with Sir Antony Beevor. For information about all our past and upcoming programs, please be sure to check out our website!

I’m also happy to announce that Dr. Mirelle Luecke recently joined the Museum staff as the Supervisory Curator. In addition, William (Brian) Billett was recently promoted as the Museum Store Manager. Please help me welcome and congratulate them!

With the Library open once again, we have been making necessary upgrades to the facility’s air handling units. Staff have been actively making our collections accessible to requests, and even went viral with a social media post in February with a letter to President Ford written by President George H.W. Bush regarding their friendship!

I hope we will be able to connect with you all as spring and warmer weather approach. I know I am looking forward to getting to know you and the Grand Rapids area better!!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Clement". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brooke Clement

DeVos Learning Center News

While the Museum remained closed for in-person field trips in January and February, our education team kept busy by taking our programming beyond the walls of the Learning Center.

Through classroom visits, we enlisted fourth-grade students from Wealthy Elementary and Collins Elementary to become “primary source detectives.” Students learned how to analyze primary sources like photographs, speeches, and documents to learn about the energy crisis of the 1970s. Second graders at Woodside Elementary learned important character lessons by listening to the book, “Truth and Honor: The President Ford Story,” and participating in Presidents’ Day activities together.

We also continued to provide free virtual programming to students and educators. This February we participated in the Presidential Primary Sources Project, which allowed us to engage hundreds of students from around the country in the virtual version of our Primary Source Detectives class. We helped a troop of our youngest Girl Scouts earn their Democracy badges by teaching them about the three branches of government and facilitating a Q&A session with one of our local judges. Also in February, we once again partnered with National Constitution Center to provide an online professional development series for teachers nationwide called, “Constitutional Conversations.”

For more information about our educational programming and free resources for K-12 students, Scouts, and educators, please visit: www.devoslearningcenter.org.



Inside the Archive and Collections: Betty's Closet

Betty Ford didn't shy away from patterns in her wardrobe. Luis Estevez designed this eagle print dress that the First Lady wore throughout America's Bicentennial year.

Made of a soft satin-like material, the dress features a high neck and long sleeves. It originally had a blue belt as well. A blue knit cape accompanied the dress, lined with the same eagle print fabric.

Mrs. Ford wore this dress on trips and for several events at the White House, including the Medal of Freedom ceremony for Arthur Rubinstein on April 1, 1976; a visit to the Truman Library and Truman Residence in Independence, Missouri, on May 8, 1976; and the arrival ceremony for Chancellor and Mrs. Schmidt of Germany on July 16, 1976.

Images: White dress with eagle print designed by Luis Estevez; President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford Mingling with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rubinstein and Others in the Center Hall on the Second Floor of the White House, January 1, 1976.

The dress is on display in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

You can watch our recorded events at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/recent-event-archive/



First Lady Betty Ford using a Polaroid SX-70 Camera. National Archives.



Photograph of the Mural of Harriet Woods Hill by local artist Jasmine Bruce.

This work is part of the Women's Way Alley Activation Initiative and can be seen in the alleyway off Louis Street in downtown Grand Rapids, at the northwest corner of the Grand Rapids Police Department building.

Learn more at: www.downtowngr.org/announcements/2020/07/womens-way

Harriet Woods Hill: Grand Rapids Police Department's First African American Woman Officer

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

In celebration of Black History Month and in conjunction with the "Women in Uniform" exhibit, Brooke Clement, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum spoke with James Hill regarding his mother, Harriet Woods Hill, Grand Rapids Police Department's first African American woman officer. James and Brooke discussed the backstory of this remarkable woman. They also discussed the recently installed mutual honoring Ms. Hill in downtown Grand Rapids, located in the alley of Louis Street.

"I stumbled across her story just doing some research trying to think outside the box with regard to the Women in Uniform piece. I saw a story in the fall about the mural that was unveiled at the police department, reading through it and hearing her back story and getting to know Mr. Hill, everything that we have learned of her has just been more and more impactful. She is an inspiration," said Brooke Clement.

The "Women in Uniform" exhibit is on display at the Museum until May 6, 2022.



Dr. H.W. Brands: Our First Civil War

**The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation,
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum,
and Hauenstein Center at GVSU**

On December 9, we welcomed H.W. Brands, who spoke about his new book *Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution*. His book cautions us to remember that before America could win the revolution, the rebels had to win a bitter war against friends and family. “The fundamental questions go to morality, what is it that makes people do what they do?” said Brands during the event. Brands told us, “to understand history you have to forget what actually happened afterward.”

Gleaves Whitney and H.W. Brands

Image provided by the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

Prior to the American Revolution, George Washington sat at the peak of Virginia society, while Benjamin Franklin sat higher still. What did these men have in common? Both owed their success to the British Empire and both took up arms against it, with the likes of a more likely rebel in John Adams. Franklin’s own son, William, on the other hand, remained loyal to the British. He was not alone, joined by Joseph Galloway and Thomas Hutchinson, a royal governor and family friend of the Franklins. While some became rebels, others became traitors for not betraying the country in which they grew up.

Ian Toll: Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

**The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation,
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum,
and Hauenstein Center at GVSU**

On December 7, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Military historian Ian Toll spoke for over an hour, giving the audience an in-depth history of events leading up to that fateful day. Joel Westphal, Deputy Director of the Ford Library and Museum, interviewed Toll using prepared questions, followed by questions from the viewing audience. Questions ranged from the philosophical to which Hollywood film best captured the day.



Ian Toll, Joel Westphal, and Gleaves Whitney.



Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky: Presidents’ Day Celebration

**The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, and
Hauenstein Center at GVSU**

Until the passing of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, February 22 was federally recognized as Washington’s Birthday. Now the third Monday of February, also known as Presidents’ Day, traditionally honoring Washington and Lincoln, has grown to encompass the best practices of the presidency, not to mention a weekend of deals. The day allows Americans to pull from the founding fathers’ wisdom and apply the lessons of their day to the ills plaguing ours.

Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky and Gleaves Whitney celebrating Presidents’ Day. Photo by GVSU’s Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Dr. Thomas Balcerski: Notably Absent—Presidential No-Shows and Other Mishaps on Inauguration Day

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Noted presidential historian and CNN contributor, Thomas Balcerski, explored the surprisingly numerous instances of presidential absence on Inauguration Day. He discussed the five presidents who failed to attend the inaugurations of their successors and the two presidents who did not participate for other reasons (hint: one of them involves Gerald Ford). With more than three dozen presidential transitions since the founding of the republic, these seven instances of missing incumbents reveal how inaugural no-shows are, in fact, a recurring feature of American politics.

Dr. Thomas Balcerski



Learn more about the “Women in Uniform” exhibit and this painting at www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/art/travelling-exhibits/women-in-uniform-.html

Virtual Exhibit Opening: “Women in Uniform”

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

In celebration of Women’s History Month, our Museum held a virtual exhibit opening for the new feature exhibit, “Women in Uniform,” on display until May 6, 2022. Rear Admiral (retired) Samuel J. Cox, Director of Naval History and Heritage Command, and Gale Munro, Head Curator of the Naval Art Gallery, gave a brief history of the role women played in naval history and highlighted selected art from the exhibition.

“Women in Uniform” showcases rarely displayed art from the Naval History and Heritage Command’s collection. Images range from sailors to admirals, and from Yeomen to aviators. Women have had a continuous and growing presence in uniform throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Whenever international or domestic events dictated the need, the Navy expanded its opportunities for women to serve. These artworks demonstrate the wide-ranging and varied occupations women have held as they continue to push the boundaries of prospects available to them.

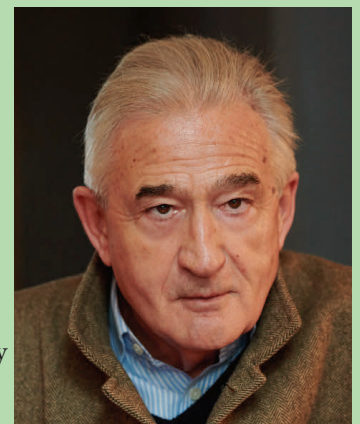
Sir Antony Beevor: The Second World War—Echoes from the Past

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, Armed Forces Thanksgiving, and Western Michigan World Affairs Council

Sir Antony began with a masterful summary of the Second World War, delving into how various nations approached the war and its aftermath. He then discussed how the war affects our present-day alliances as well as the current crisis in Ukraine. Sir Antony highlighted how Putin and Russian historians claim the Soviet Union won the war single-handedly, rather than acknowledge that they could not have won without Allied support.

Joel Westphal, deputy director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, posed a series of thought-provoking questions to Sir Antony, ranging from the struggles of women and civilians during the war, to the current situation between Russia and Ukraine, to the different leadership styles of Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery. The program concluded with Sir Antony sharing his opinion about the war’s most enduring legacy—the dehumanization of our enemies.

Sir Antony Beevor



Molly Ball: Democracy—What it Takes

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation,
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library &
Museum, and U of M Gerald R. Ford School of
Public Policy

TIME National Political Correspondent Molly Ball had a conversation with longtime political writer Craig Gilbert to kick off the Spring 2022 Democracy in Crisis series at U of M's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. The 2020 election, conducted in the shadow of an unprecedented pandemic and a President determined to contest the vote, laid bare how fragile America's democratic institutions are. What did we learn from the weaknesses 2020 exposed? What efforts are underway to contest—and protect—the next national election? And how can we strengthen democracy going forward?

Molly Ball



Hot Cocoa and Storytime at the Ford Roundhouse

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

The holiday season was once again brightened by a miniature train puffing along the tracks inside the Museum's temporary exhibit space, but this time with a new name. After its donation by the DeVries family in 2018, the display was renamed "The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express" in 2021 and now includes even more landmarks to reflect Ford's life and leadership.

On December 18, viewers young and old were treated to "Cocoa and Story Time at the Ford Roundhouse: A Virtual Event for Kids." The program opened with a visit to the train before it opened to the public with Larry Avery and Andy Seif who gave a behind-the-scenes look at how the train comes to life each year. Next up was an at-home tutorial from Stephanie Kozlowicz, owner of Nibble & Nosh GR, who showed kids how to assemble their own hot cocoa board. Local viewers were also able to purchase a cocoa board to enjoy while watching the program and a donation was made to the Foundation for each purchase. Thank you, Nibble & Nosh! The program closed with a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* by the big man himself, Santa Claus.



Stephanie Kozlowicz and her daughter.
Image by Samantha Ruth Photography

Celebrate Presidents' Day with the Authors of *Meet the Pets*, Janis Campbell and Cathy Collison

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

During a month of Presidents' Day celebrations, the Learning Center hosted a special virtual program for students honoring some of the other esteemed White House residents—the pets! Nearly 1,000 students in grades 2-5 participated in a webinar to learn from Michigan authors Janis Campbell and Cathy Collison who discussed their book, *Meet the Pets: Presidential Animals from A to Z*.

The book, which features various White House pets in alphabetical order, shares the stories of the beloved dogs and cats of our presidents as well as some of the more "unique" animals like Pauline Wayne, President Taft's cow, and Rebecca, the treasured raccoon belonging to First Lady Grace Coolidge. During the webinar, Campbell and Collison discussed the process of writing this non-fiction book including the research they did using many of the presidential libraries.

Meet the Pets: Presidential Animals from A to Z is available for purchase on Amazon as well as from a number of Michigan booksellers including Schuler Books and Books & Mortar. Be sure to check out letter "L" to see President Ford's lovable and loyal pup, Liberty!

Ralph's 110th Birthday Celebration

**The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation,
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum,
and Hauenstein Center at GVSU**

Entrepreneur. Family Man. Patriot. Philanthropist. Ralph W. Hauenstein was many things to many people. From his days at the *Grand Rapids Herald* to the philanthropic giving that cemented his legacy, Ralph's stories are still alive throughout West Michigan. Often the quietest man in the room, Ralph's work and actions spoke for themselves. This year, which would have been Ralph's 110th birthday, we gathered Ralph's family, friends, and colleagues to the stage to share their stories of the man they knew.

Pictured: Brian Hauenstein, John Van Laar, Gleaves Whitney, and Dennis Leiber.



Barton Gellman: "Democracy in Crisis"

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, and U of M Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Barton Gellman and Michigan Law Professor from Practice Barbara McQuade, took part in the spring 2022 Democracy in Crisis series. While law enforcement agencies and a Congressional committee still work to investigate the January 6, 2021 attacks on the Capitol, there have been subsequent efforts to undermine the norms and structures that have given Americans basic confidence in elections and in the peaceful transfer of power. Meanwhile, from statehouses to the Supreme Court, heated debates rage over voting rights, access, and security.

Pictured: Barton Gellman



Designing Camelot

**The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum**

Ever wonder why the inside of the White House looks the way it does? On March 24, authors James Archer Abbott and Elaine Rice Bachmann discussed their book, *Designing Camelot: The Kennedy White House Restoration and Its Legacy*. An illustrated chronicle of Jacqueline Kennedy's restoration project, the book celebrates the sixty-year legacy of one of the most influential interior design endeavors in American history.

Pictured: Elaine Rice Bachmann and James Archer Abbott



Jacqueline Maguire: "Women in Uniform"—My Career in the FBI

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Jacqueline Maguire's talk was held in celebration of Women's History Month and in conjunction with the feature exhibit "Women in Uniform." This exhibition showcases rarely displayed art from the Naval History and Heritage Command's collection and is on display until May 6, 2022. Maguire was appointed Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Philadelphia Field Office in November 2021. Brooke Clement, director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, led the questions and answers as Maguire shared stories from her over 20+ years in the FBI.

Pictured: Jacqueline Maguire Special Agent in Charge



Take a Sneak-Peak into the Ford Leadership Forum!

“The Ford Forum,” an initiative of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, is inspired by President Ford’s virtue-anchored leadership. It has three programmatic aims: leadership development, civic engagement, and community betterment. The Ford Leadership Forum is built on five pillars to advance President Ford’s legacy and develop emerging leaders:

- Experience and study in Washington, DC, where Gerald Ford spent most of his career and grew as a leader;
- Mentoring and internship opportunities;
- Workshops that help communities find common ground for the greater good;
- Curated online content around the theme of virtue-anchored leadership; and
- Deep-study seminars and web content that probe the challenges we face as a nation, as leaders, and as citizens.

Learn more at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/ford-forum/

Meier: Ford CVN to Range Widely in the Atlantic for U.S. 2nd Fleet

By Richard R. Burgess, Senior Editor

Sea Power Magazine

The Navy’s newest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), will operate all over the North Atlantic this year when it completes its current shipyard availability, a Navy admiral said, and will operate under the auspices of the U.S. 2nd Fleet.

“Ford is doing amazingly well, coming out of the shipyard her for initial employment,” said Rear Adm. John F. Meier, commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, speaking Feb. 1 during a panel discussion at the Technology, Systems and Ships Symposium conducted by the American Society of Naval Engineers.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for us to demonstrate the new technology,” Meier said. “We’re going to do that as a service-retained employment, so not part of the normal global force deployment schedule, but we will be working with partners, we’ll be working all over the place as 2nd Fleet takes charge of that

carrier and operates with a wide variety of operations up and down the coast, across the Atlantic [and] down in the Caribbean.”

Meier said the Ford’s upcoming operations would be “a really great opportunity to show off that aircraft carriers are in fact extremely maneuverable, upwards of 700 [nautical] miles a day. And robust—most especially robust when you think about the refueled range of the aircraft that fly from them.”

The Ford currently is in a planned incremental availability at Newport News Shipbuilding. All 11 weapon elevators have been certified as of December. Since it began flight operations, it has completed 8,100 catapult launches and the same number of arrested landings, said Rear Adm. Jim Downey, program executive officer for aircraft carriers, also speaking at the event.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ridge Leoni. Released by the United States Navy.



A Moment in History

Sometimes the littlest gestures get the biggest results. When the National Archives recently hosted a #hashtag party around the theme of "Best Friends Forever," they sent out a moving letter by George H.W. Bush to Gerald Ford. Once the letter went viral, the Foundation started receiving heartwarming comments of appreciation for two friends whose characters were stamped by integrity and gratitude. Bush and Ford had been baptized in the fires of their generation—the Great Depression, World War II, and Cold War—and these trials inspired them to dedicate their lives to public service. Kudos to Elizabeth Druga at the Ford Presidential Library and to all our NARA friends who helped disseminate the letter. I hope you enjoy this snapshot from a bygone era: ~Gleaves Whitney

GEORGE BUSH

November 6, 1996

Dear Jerry.

The election has come and gone. Bob Dole did far better percentage wise than CNN and all those pollsters and pundits were predicting for so many months. But he lost, and I'll bet he's hurting today. I know you must have hurt 20 years ago for I know how I felt 4 years ago.

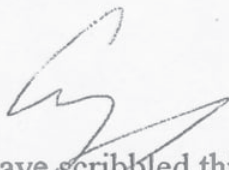
I hope you don't think this letter is odd and strange.

But I just got to thinking, after our time together on Bob's plane and in the car and at the rallies, that I have never told you that I treasure my friendship with you very much.

In the House, from a back bench, I watched you lead. As President you gave me a chance to do interesting things. When I went to the White House you were always supportive.

So now, a little later in life, with more time to really sort out my own priorities, I write simply to say I am very proud to be your friend. This friendship matters a lot to me - it really does. As you and I drove across that Ohio countryside last week, it hit me like a ton of bricks, that too often we fail to tell our friends that we really care about them and are grateful to them.

Sincerely,



P.S. I would have scribbled this out by hand, but I wiggle and smear more these days so I have hunted and pecked this out on the little Compacq - the one you saw on Bob's plane.



Tina Freese Decker
Courtesy of BHSH System

Tina Freese Decker, MHA, MSIE, FACHE, is the President & Chief Executive Officer of BSHS System—formed by the joining together of Beaumont Health and Spectrum Health in 2022. As system President & CEO, she provides executive leadership for 22 hospitals, 300+ outpatient locations, 11,500+ physicians and advanced practice providers, 64,000+ team members, and a health plan, Priority Health, serving 1.2+ million members throughout Michigan.

Known for her vision and drive, Tina is passionate about tackling the health field's greatest challenges and building a health system that truly meets the needs of the people it serves by delivering care and coverage that is accessible, affordable, equitable, and exceptional. She devotes significant time and energy to local, state, and national strategic alliances, leading by example as she shares her perspectives and expertise to improve health, and is committed to celebrating and reinforcing inclusion, equity, and diversity for BSHS System team members, patients, families, and health plan members.

Background

Prior to her current role, Tina served as President & CEO of Spectrum Health, where she successfully implemented a new system mission, vision, and values. In previous roles within the system, including chief operating officer, chief strategy officer, and president of Spectrum Health Hospital Group, she drove significant, transformational change necessary for Spectrum Health to improve health and access.

Education

Tina earned a Bachelor of Science in finance from Iowa State University and graduated with a Master of Health Administration and Master of Industrial Engineering from the University of Iowa.

Affiliations and Awards

In addition to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, Tina serves on the boards of the American Hospital Association, Business Leaders for Michigan, and The Economic Club of Grand Rapids. She is currently board chair of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association and The Right Place. Her recent accolades include Crain's Detroit Business' 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan, Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare, and Grand Rapids Business Journal's 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.

Learn more about Tina Freese Decker and her work with BSHS System at www.formichiganbymichigan.org

Learn more about Tina Freese Decker's involvement with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/trustee-tina-freese-decker

Milestones

Lena Meijer (May 14, 1919—January 15, 2022)

We grieve with our Vice Chairman, Hank Meijer, the loss of his mother, Lena Meijer, an extraordinary member of our community and generous patron of our foundation. Lena Meijer, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and spouse of the late retailing entrepreneur and former Trustee of the Ford Foundation, Fredrik Meijer, died January 15, 2022, at the age of 102. Lena was born May 14, 1919, on the family farm near Lakeview, Michigan. She was the daughter of German immigrants George Rader and Mary Lutterloh Rader. We miss her.

Image courtesy of www.rememberinglenameijer.com



President Clinton, United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright and Secretary of State Warren Christopher look at a book given to the President by President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia. Photograph by Robert McNeely. Image courtesy of the National Archives.

Madeleine Albright (May 15, 1937—March 23, 2022)

Madeleine Albright, a trailblazing woman of resilience and conviction, was an American diplomat and political scientist who served as the 64th United States secretary of state under President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001. A member of the Democratic Party, Albright was the first woman to hold the position.

While many may be familiar with her political career and accomplishments, it may come as a surprise that Albright also played an integral role in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum's acquisition of the famous "Saigon Staircase," which symbolizes the hunger for freedom and is on exhibit in the Museum's permanent gallery.

During the 1990s, Grand Rapids entrepreneur, philanthropist, and former Trustee of the Ford Foundation Fredrik Meijer was visiting Vietnam, and upon seeing that the staircase was still positioned atop the building that served as the American Embassy until 1975, he recognized its historical value and felt it should be brought to the Museum. President Ford agreed. While some, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, felt the staircase was a sign of defeat, Ford felt that it was "...a monument of hope and not despair. For it symbolizes man's undying desire to be free."

Meijer enlisted the help of Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, and the two worked together to acquire the staircase to put on display in the Museum exhibits, but their efforts resulted in multiple letters of denial. That is, until Secretary Albright and President Ford met for lunch in the President's office at the Museum....

President Ford introduced Secretary Albright to Allen, who quietly signaled to him, "Saigon Staircase!" as they walked into the office for lunch. After the meal, the former President and the secretary of state headed out of the office and Ford whispered to Allen, "We have it!"

In 1999, the Saigon Staircase Exhibit opened to the public. At the opening ceremony, Ford thanked Fred Meijer, Marty Allen, and Madeleine Albright "for all their help in preserving an important, if sobering, piece of 20th-century history."

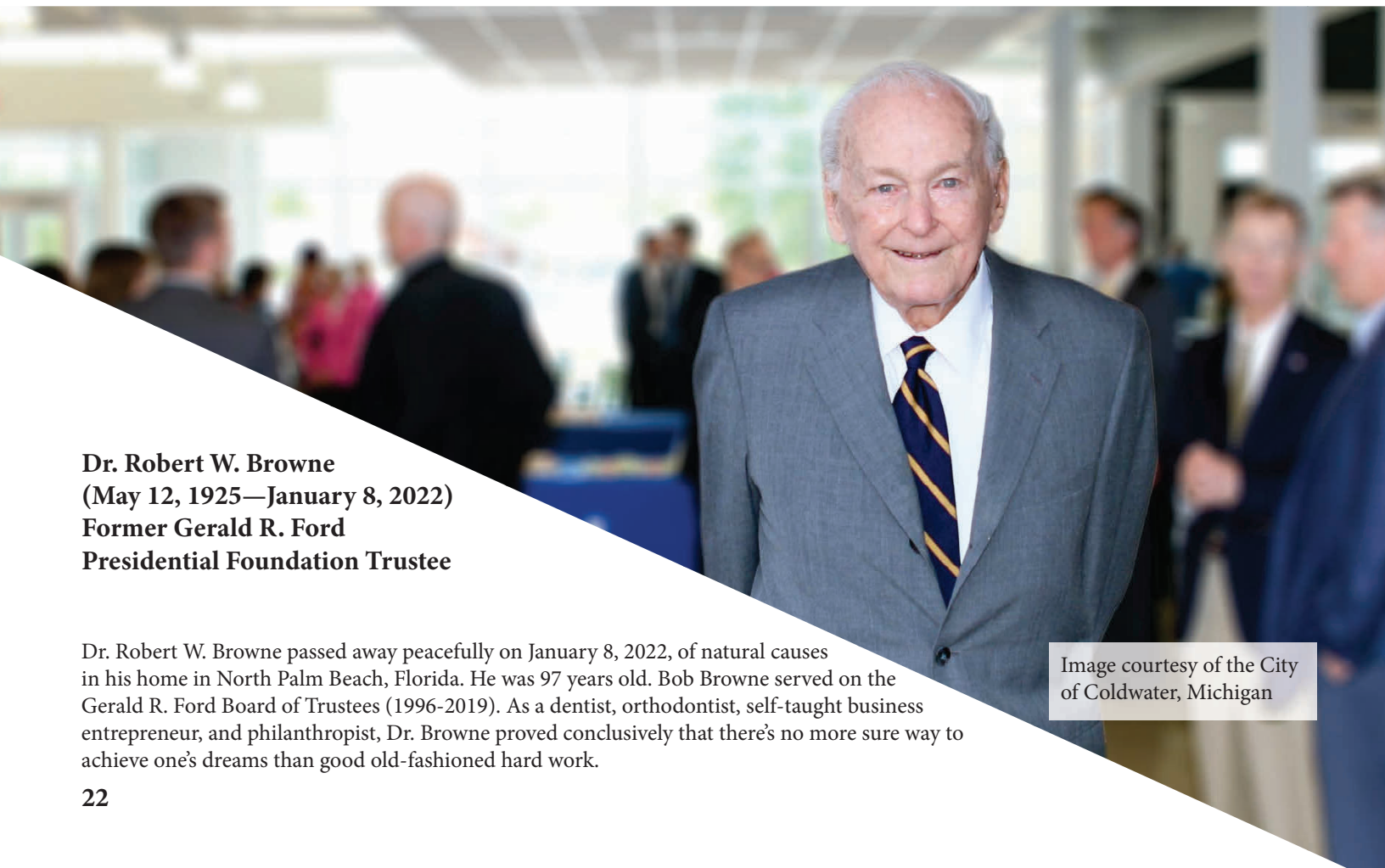
You can see the world's most famous staircase to freedom on your next visit to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Get your tickets online at www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov



President Ford and Major Robert E. Barrett walking on the grounds of the Chateau de Rambouillet while attending the International Economic Summit in Rambouillet, France, on November 15, 1975.

Major Robert E. Barrett
(August 13, 1938—January 11, 2022)
Former Military Aide for
President Gerald R. Ford

Major Robert E. Barrett passed away on January 11, 2022, of COVID-19 related complications in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He was 83 years old. Bob Barrett served in a variety of capacities, including most prominently as President Ford's Military Aide and also as a member of our Gerald R. Ford Board of Trustees (1981-2015). To read Richard Norton Smith's interview with Bob Barrett, please see the Gerald R. Ford Oral History project at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/centennial/oralhistory/

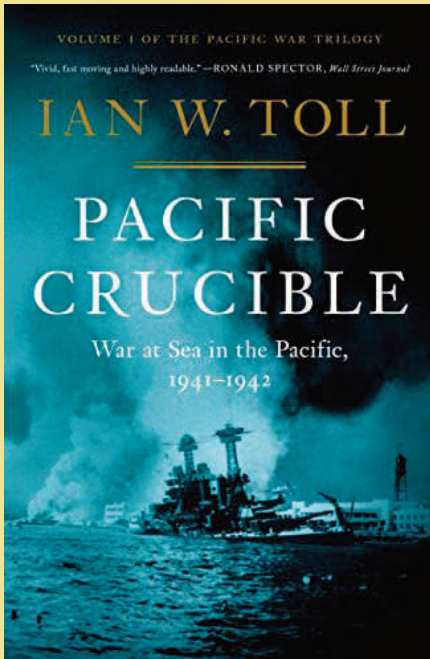


Dr. Robert W. Browne
(May 12, 1925—January 8, 2022)
Former Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Foundation Trustee

Dr. Robert W. Browne passed away peacefully on January 8, 2022, of natural causes in his home in North Palm Beach, Florida. He was 97 years old. Bob Browne served on the Gerald R. Ford Board of Trustees (1996-2019). As a dentist, orthodontist, self-taught business entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Dr. Browne proved conclusively that there's no more sure way to achieve one's dreams than good old-fashioned hard work.

Image courtesy of the City
of Coldwater, Michigan

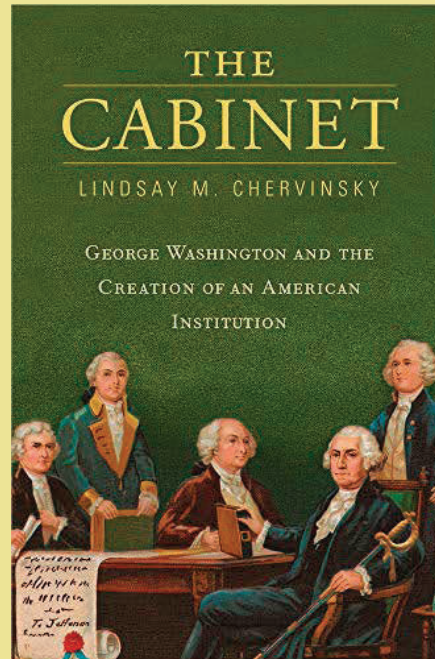
What We're Reading



Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942
(The Pacific War Trilogy, I)

by Ian Toll

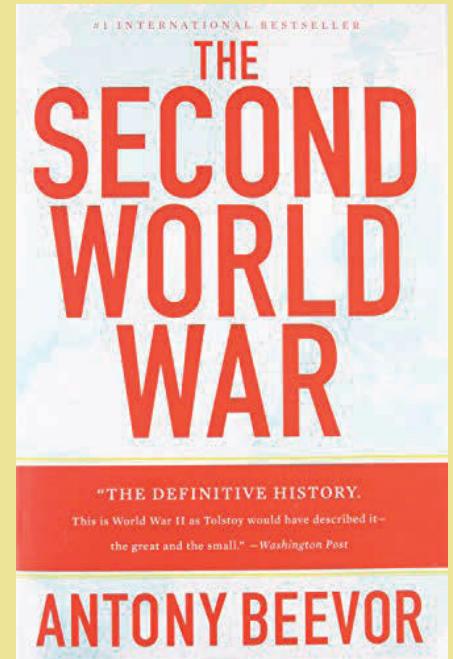
Past event!



The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution

by Lindsay M. Chervinsky

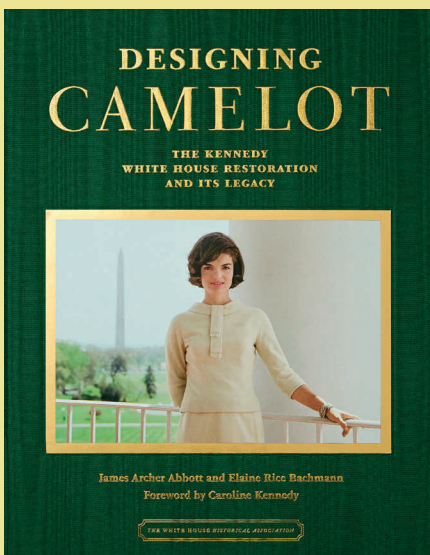
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The Second World War

by Sir Antony Beevor

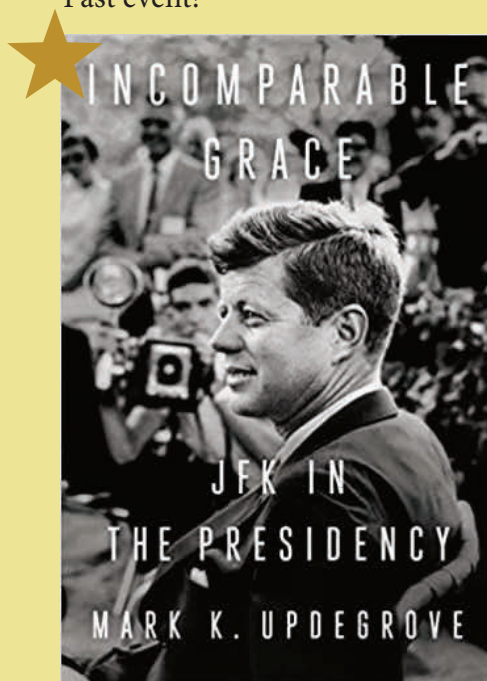
Past event!



Designing Camelot: The Kennedy White House Restoration and Its Legacy

by James Archer Abbott and Elaine Rice Bachmann

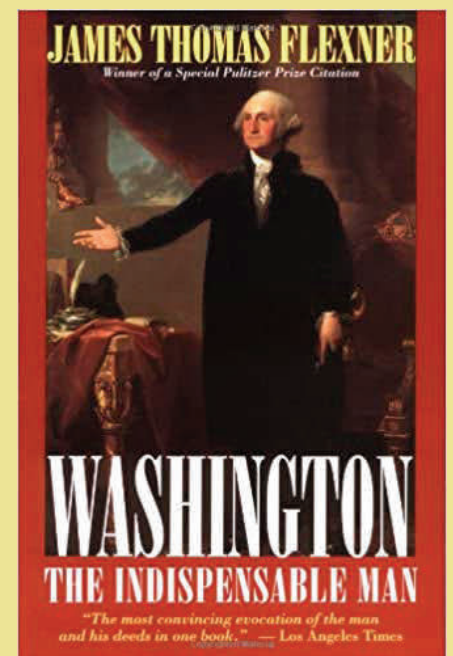
Past event!



Incomparable Grace: JFK in the Presidency

by Mark Updegrove

Upcoming event!



Washington: The Indispensable Man

by James Thomas Flexner

Growing Democracy

For our Youngest
Readers and Leaders

Celebrating First Lady Betty Ford

Betty Bloomer was born on April 8, 1918. At an early age, she developed a love for dance and later became a fashion coordinator for a local department store. She also worked with children with physical disabilities, helping them experience the joy of rhythm and movement in dance.

In 1948 she married Gerald R. Ford Jr. They moved to Washington, D.C. where he served as a member of Congress for 25 years and their family grew to include four children.

By 1973, a turn of events shook the nation and reshaped the Ford family's future. After the resignation first of the vice president and then the president, Gerald Ford eventually became the 38th President of the United States, on August 9, 1974, and Betty Ford became our country's First Lady.

In her new role, Betty Ford immediately showed that she was an open and honest person who was comfortable being herself. She talked about

controversial issues like women in politics and the Equal Rights Amendment. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer she talked openly and publicly about her illness and her treatment—something that wasn't done at that time! Even when people didn't agree with her views, she continued to speak out about them. Mrs. Ford famously quoted, "Being a lady does not require silence."

Despite those that thought she was too outspoken for her time, Betty Ford's popularity grew and grew. This was reflected in 1976 campaign buttons that said things like "Betty Ford for President!" After President Ford lost that election, Mrs. Ford continued to promote women's rights and breast cancer awareness and worked to improve treatment for people who were addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Betty Ford passed away on July 8, 2011, leaving a legacy of a well-loved first lady who spoke up and spoke out about important issues and, by doing so, made a lasting impact.



First Lady Betty Ford giving her first press conference in the State Dining Room. September 4, 1974. Image courtesy of the National Archives.

"That's what we're
here on this Earth for,
to help others."

-Betty Ford



First Lady Betty Ford, September 30, 1975

Photo by Karl H. Schumacher

Ford Features

Isaac!

**CANDID
GENUINE
INTEGRITY**

In November 2021, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library received a request from Amanda de Wit. Ms. de Wit reached out to the Ford Library with the following request for her son, Isaac:

“My son, Isaac, is 9 years old. He absolutely loves the Presidents of the United States. He has had all of them memorized for years. He likes to put them in different orders (the years they served, the years they were born, the years they died, the ages they became president... it goes on and on!)

“He absolutely loves getting mail and if it is President-related, he will be over the moon. It would mean so much to him.

“We had decided to start visiting presidential museums...but because of Covid, we were not able to start. He is patiently waiting for us to be able to visit presidential places, and I am hoping that this would be a great substitute for the moment.”

Staff at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library sent a packet of materials to Ms. de Wit to give to Isaac, and she was kind enough to recently follow up with a photo of Isaac!

Image courtesy of Amanda de Wit.



2021 Donors

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

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Image of President Gerald R. Ford and Francis "Pug" Lund on the golf course at Burning Tree Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. September 14, 1975. Courtesy of the National Archives.

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Image of Spring in the White House Rose Garden. April 20, 1975. Courtesy of the National Archives.

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Upcoming Events

April

4	4 PM	Anne Applebaum , “Democracy in Crisis: The Twilight of Democracy” (U of M Ford School of Public Policy and virtual)
14	7 PM	Lisa Rafferty discussing <i>She Did All That</i> , First Ladies Association for Research and Education (virtual)
20	6 PM	America’s First Ladies 2022 Michigan premiere — <i>She Did All That</i> , Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
27	7 PM	“ Women in Uniform: Women Who Serve ” — panel (virtual)

May

3	7 PM	* Mark Updegrove , <i>Incomparable Grace: JFK in the Presidency</i> , Ford Museum
19 & 20	All-Day Event	Midwest History Conference , “Many Midwests: Constructing Place, Recasting Identity,” Hauenstein Center
19	7 PM	* Jeff Polet , Evenings to Remember, “Not by Bread Alone: Why We Need Beauty,” Ford Museum
25	7 PM	* Henry Luttikhuizen , Evenings to Remember, “Michelangelo and the Art of Difficulty,” Ford Museum

June

2	7 PM	* Duncan Stroik , Evenings to Remember, “The Fictive Architecture of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel,” Ford Museum
16	7 PM	* Tevi Troy , “The Ironies of Watergate and Three Presidencies: Nixon, Ford, and Carter,” Ford Museum
17	5 & 7 PM	* Richard Norton Smith, Brian Lamb, and Garrett Graff , “The Crisis that Started it All: Watergate,” Ford Museum

July

Postponed	Gerald R. Ford Legacy Golf Outing: American Dunes Golf Club and Folds of Honor
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August

18	7 PM	* Elizabeth Lev , Evenings to Remember, “Unlocking the Secrets of the Sistine Chapel,” Ford Museum
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*Events that are preceded by a 5:30 PM reception at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

See our full event schedule on our website at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/schedule-events/

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President Gerald R. Ford and Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat meeting in the Oval Office. October 27, 1975. Courtesy of the National Archives.



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The background of the entire poster is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam," from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The image is slightly blurred to create a sense of depth. In the foreground, centered at the bottom, is a black silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, with their arms raised and hands behind their head, mimicking the pose of Adam in the fresco.

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition

May 20, 2022—September 11, 2022

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