



*the Gerald R. Ford*  
**BRIEF**

Fall 2023





## Our Foundation's Origin and Mission

President Ford, with the encouragement of trusted advisors, established the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation on September 18, 1981, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Foundation's purpose is to foster increased awareness of the values that formed his life, the virtues that defined his character, the achievements that marked his career, and the legacy that inspires our future. America's 38th President lived by the virtues of integrity, honesty, candor, and courage. The Foundation, inspired by President Ford's example, promotes character formation, civic engagement, public service, historical literacy, and the search for common ground *for the greater good*.

The Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation that supports the exhibits and programs of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum. The Library is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, home of President Ford's alma mater, the University of Michigan. The Museum is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, President Ford's hometown. While the National Archives and Records Administration is the federal agency that funds the operations and maintenance of the Gerald R. Ford Library & Museum, many of the Library & Museum's public activities are funded with the support of the Foundation. These include rotating exhibits, renowned speakers, educational programs, and community events.

The Foundation's work is made possible through generous individuals and organizations. Your donations made it possible for the Foundation to give the land to and build the Museum for the National Archives and Records Administration. It also established the DeVos Learning Center and the Ford Leadership Forum, initiatives for students and young professionals that foster the virtues necessary for community thriving, civic engagement, and responsible government. The Foundation supports distinguished public service through its medals, excellence in journalism through its awards, and quality scholarship through its grants.

If you believe that integrity is never out of season, if you love learning about our nation's history and politics, if you enjoy world-class exhibits, we invite you to join Friends of Ford, our membership community. You'll enjoy free admission to the Museum, early invitations to special events, and many other benefits. To join our community, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at (616) 254-0396 or email [ford@38foundation.org](mailto:ford@38foundation.org).

## Highlights

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You will find this logo throughout *The Brief*.  
Pages with this logo indicate special  
50th Anniversary content.



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**“I promise my fellow citizens only this: To uphold the Constitution, to do what is right as God gives me to see the right, and to do the very best that I can for America.”**

**~Vice President Gerald R. Ford**

**Remarks after being sworn in as Vice President of the United States, December 6, 1973.**

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**Cover image of Gerald R. Ford at his Vice Presidential House Judiciary Committee hearings, November 15, 1973. Photo by David Hume Kennerly. Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.**



## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

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# Direct from the Director

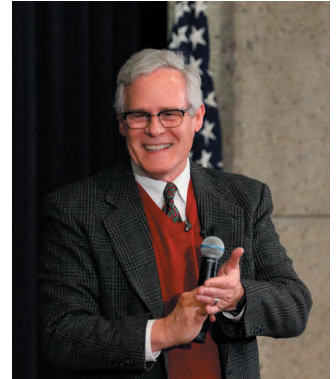
## Our Foundation Is Preparing for an Exciting 2024!

### Dear Friends of Ford—

Warm greetings this 2023 holiday season from all of us at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

As we look back at our Foundation's growth in 2023, we are grateful to our trustees, donors, and Friends of Ford who believe in our mission and support our work. A hearty thank you for all the ways you are making our rolling 50th anniversary a success.

In 2022 we recalled the scandal—Watergate—that changed America and the lives of Jerry and Betty Ford forever. In 2023, we have been exploring the crisis that led to Ford answering the call of duty to serve as Vice President of the United States. Apropos of which, I hope you have had the opportunity to visit the Ford Presidential Museum and experience the Vice Presidency exhibit created by our talented Museum and Library colleagues.



**Gleaves Whitney**

Now 2024 is upon us, and our Foundation staff and partners have been charting all the ways we will magnify the message and multiply the messengers: Gerald Ford personified integrity at the helm. His unimpeachable character is needed more today than ever. He was our nation's necessary leader back in the 1970s when he answered the call to serve as our 38th President, but he is Exhibit A of the indispensable statesman we need in the 2020s as America seeks to repair its broken public spaces and get back on the road to forming a more perfect union.

For some time now, Foundation staff and I, along with strategic partners, have been designing 50th anniversary programs that recall the landmark events of 1974. We will be grappling with the legacy of Richard Nixon who, on August 9, 1974, became the first President in U.S. history to resign. Minutes after noon that same day, in accord with the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Gerald Ford raised his right hand, took the Oath of Office, and became the 38th President of the United States. One month later came Ford's unprecedented pardon of the former President, which was controversial in the 1970s but redeemed with time.

Betty Ford has her own remarkable story during this period in U.S. history. A mere six weeks after becoming First Lady, she was diagnosed, on September 26, 1974, with breast cancer, and subsequently changed women's history forever with the courageous way she responded. While President Ford was trying to heal a scarred nation, Mrs. Ford was battling a deadly disease. She would go on to speak fearlessly about controversial issues and empower women in the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment. Without question, Betty Ford became one of the most consequential First Ladies ever.

Throughout 2024, we shall be hosting members of the Ford family, Ford administration alumni, and experts who can shine the light of understanding on the pivotal days of 1974. Inflation, war abroad, tumult at home, incivility, impeachment—there are more than a few parallels between that time and our own. So watch your inboxes and mailboxes: you will receive save-the-date notices that invite you to come see the new exhibits at the Museum and Library on Gerald Ford and the Presidency; they will open next August. Throughout the year, there will be events that enlighten all that President and Mrs. Ford achieved, against the odds, in 1974. In these two remarkable people, you will see stellar exemplars of virtue-anchored leadership, tireless public service, and skilled bipartisanship—just the traits our country needs today.

From all of us at the Ford, thanks for all you do to help us continue to write the story of Gerald and Betty Ford's legacy. We could not do this important work without you.

Happy holidays! We hope to see you more in '24!

Gleaves Whitney  
Executive Director  
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



# Defending Our Democracy

## A Statement from 13 Presidential Centers

September 7, 2023

The unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, are principles that bind us together as Americans. They have enabled the United States to strive toward a more perfect union, even when we have not always lived up to those ideals.

As a diverse nation of people with different backgrounds and beliefs, democracy holds us together. We are a country rooted in the rule of law, where the protection of the rights of all people is paramount. At the same time, we live among our fellow citizens, underscoring the importance of compassion, tolerance, pluralism, and respect for others.

We, the undersigned, represent a wide range of views across a breadth of issues. We recognize that these views can exist peaceably side by side when rooted in the principles of democracy. Debate and disagreement are central features in a healthy democracy. Civility and respect in political discourse, whether in an election year or otherwise, are essential. Americans have a strong interest in supporting democratic movements and respect for human rights around the world

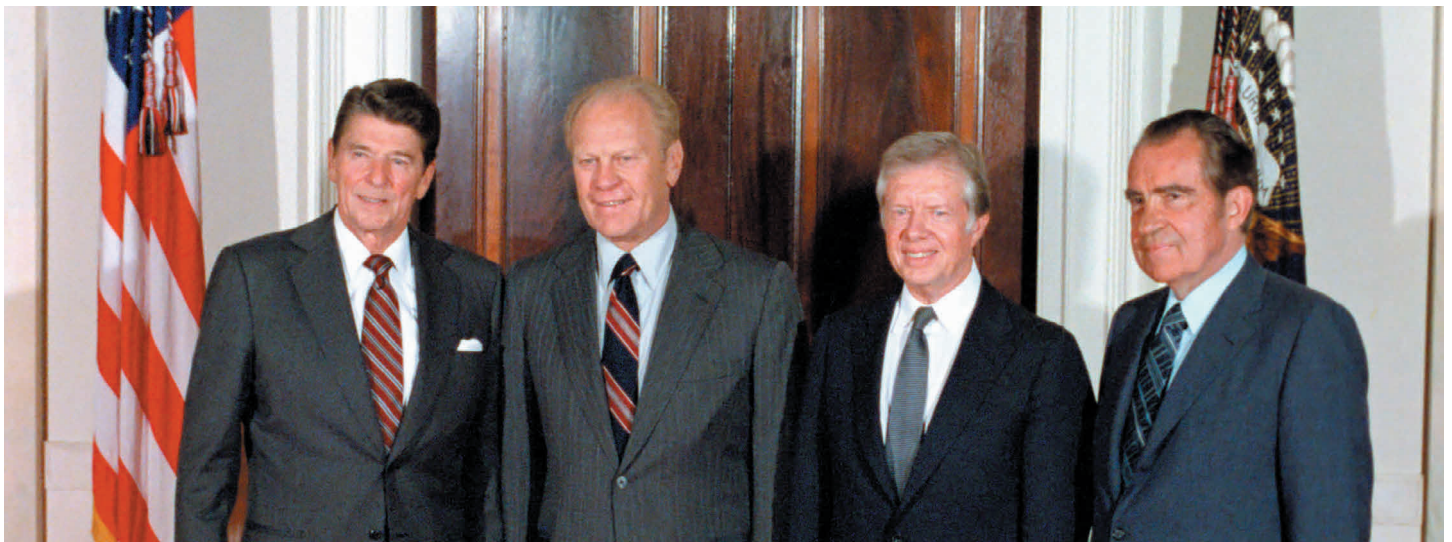
because free societies elsewhere contribute to our own security and prosperity here at home. But that interest is undermined when others see our own house in disarray. The world will not wait for us to address our problems, so we must both continue to strive toward a more perfect union and help those abroad looking for U.S. leadership.

Each of us has a role to play and responsibilities to uphold. Our elected officials must lead by example and govern effectively in ways that deliver for the American people. This, in turn, will help to restore trust in public service. The rest of us must engage in civil dialogue; respect democratic institutions and rights; uphold safe, secure, and accessible elections; and contribute to local, state, or national improvement.

By signing this statement, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of democracy undergirding this great nation, protecting our freedom, and respecting our fellow citizens. When united by these convictions, America is stronger as a country and an inspiration for others.

### Participating Presidential Centers

Obama Foundation, George W. Bush Presidential Center, Clinton Foundation, George & Barbara Bush Foundation, The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, The Carter Center, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Richard Nixon Foundation, LBJ Foundation, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, Truman Library Institute, Roosevelt Institute, Hoover Presidential Foundation



**President Ronald Reagan and former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Richard Nixon in the ground floor corridor as the former presidents met with Reagan at the White House prior to their departure for the funeral of President Anwar Sadat of the Arab Republic of Egypt, October 8, 1981. It was on this trip that Ford and Carter began their friendship. Image courtesy of the National Archives.**



# 100,000 TONS OF DIPLOMACY



## Ford Carrier Strike Group Deployment Extended Amid Israel-Hamas War

October 17, 2023

Diana Stancy Correll, *NavyTimes*

The aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford and its strike group will remain deployed in the Mediterranean longer than expected as the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas ramps up and the Pentagon takes steps to prevent a broader conflict in the region.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin approved the extension for the Ford and its carrier strike group's deployment, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Ford kicked off on its first full deployment in May to the waters of U.S. European Command, where it initially steamed in western portions of the Mediterranean Sea to deter Russia and work with allies.

The Ford CSG arrived in the eastern Mediterranean on Oct. 10, after Austin directed the carrier to head to the region following

the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, and Israel's retaliatory strikes.

The carrier and its support ships were scheduled to start returning home in the near future, and it remains unclear how long the Ford CSG will remain on station off the coast of Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower and its strike group are also heading to the region, meaning that there will soon be an armada of two U.S. carrier strike groups in the eastern Mediterranean.

While Ike was scheduled to deploy before the Hamas attack, the Pentagon said the strike group would work to "deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war."





**Image provided by the United States Navy Press Office.**

**[www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3549717/grfcsg-strengthens-interoperability-with-italy/](http://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3549717/grfcsg-strengthens-interoperability-with-italy/)**

The news came as the Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh also confirmed approximately 2,000 personnel are ready to deploy to bolster the “DoD’s ability to respond quickly to the evolving security environment in the Middle East.”

However, Singh said Austin has yet to decide if the forces will deploy or not as he continues to assess force posture. Already, the United States has shifted multiple assets in response to the conflict, which has killed at least 30 Americans.

The Ford’s strike group includes eight squadrons of attack and support aircraft under Carrier Air Wing 8, the destroyers Thomas Hudner, Ramage, Carney and Roosevelt, as well as the cruiser Normandy.

Accompanying Ike are Carrier Air Wing 3, the cruiser Philippine Sea and the destroyers Gravelly and Mason.

Additional assets sent to increase U.S. presence in the region include Air Force F-15s, F-16s and A-10 fighter aircraft.

“The increases to U.S. force Posture signal the United States’ ironclad commitment to Israel’s security and our resolve to deter any state or non-state actor seeking to escalate this war,” Austin said in a statement Saturday.

**Article provided by *NavyTimes***

**[www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/10/17/ford-carrier-strike-group-deployment-extended-amid-israel-hamas-war/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2023/10/17/ford-carrier-strike-group-deployment-extended-amid-israel-hamas-war/)**

# Journalistic Excellence

## Ford Foundation Recognizes Four Outstanding Journalists



**Tyler Pager**

### Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes for Reporting in 2022

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation announced the winners of the 36th annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes for Distinguished Reporting in 2022 at its annual meeting on June 5. Winners are Tyler Pager, White House reporter for *The Washington Post*, and Dan Lamothe, national security writer for *The Washington Post*. Pager received honors for “Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency,” while Lamothe was awarded for “Distinguished Reporting on National Defense.” Each year the two prizes are presented to the winners and include a \$5,000 award, one for each prize. The announcement was made by Michael Ford, son of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford, and former chairman of the Foundation.

Pager received the prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency for his standout coverage, valuable perspective, and important contributions to the historical record of a presidency. After the election that returned the Republican Party to a majority in the House of Representatives, Pager was the first to report that the White House would likely engage with some oversight investigations but would refuse to cooperate with any probe involving foreign business dealings of the president’s family. The Foundation committee recognized Pager for his deep reporting, perceptiveness, and adherence to a consistent standard of excellence.

Since 2021, Pager has covered the White House for *The Washington Post*. Previously he worked at *Politico* and *Bloomberg News*. Pager has a master’s degree from the University of Oxford, and was the valedictorian from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



**Dan Lamothe**

Lamothe, who focuses on military affairs for *The Washington Post*, was awarded for his coverage of the American withdrawal from Afghanistan. His reporting seamlessly moved the reader back and forth from Washington crisis response rooms to the evacuation mission unfolding in real-time at Kabul International Airport. Lamothe’s determination to ensure participants at all levels were represented in this series, combined with in-depth analysis and reporting, is exactly the kind of reportorial excellence that the Gerald R. Ford Foundation seeks to recognize, promote, and reward.

Before joining *The Washington Post* in 2014, Lamothe worked for *Foreign Policy* magazine and *Military Times* where he was embedded in combat alongside U.S. Marines in Afghanistan’s Helmand province. Lamothe has a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Maryland-College Park, and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



**Patricia Kime**

The reporting team of Patricia Kime and Rebecca Kheel of *Military.com* received an honorable mention for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. Their outstanding work highlighted the long-term costs of war for those who serve on the front lines and those who support them at home. The reporting team focused readers’ attention on the impact of bureaucratic paralysis on individuals as government officials debated next steps, delays that adversely affected soldiers and veterans seeking help.

Kime has covered military personnel issues and veterans’ health care for decades. She holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the University of Virginia. Kheel is a congressional reporter for *Military.com* and previously worked as a defense reporter for *The Hill*. She has a bachelor’s degree in newspaper journalism and history from Syracuse University.



**Rebecca Kheel**

### About the Awards

Each year, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards two distinguished journalism prizes, one for reporting on the presidency and the other for reporting on national defense. These prizes, initiated in 1988, recognize reportorial excellence and the fostering of better public understanding of the presidency and national defense.



# University of Michigan Ford Fellows

## Exemplifying President Ford's Legacy

### The 2023 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellowship Recipients

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellows exemplify the president's commitment to bipartisan cooperation and civility, be deeply and positively engaged in community service, and intend to pursue a lifelong career in the public sector. 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.



**Kathleen Bryant**

#### About the Recipients

**Kathleen Bryant** (MPP '25) has more than five years of experience working at the intersection of federal fiscal policy and social policy. Before coming to Michigan, Kathleen spent more than two years at the Tax Law Center at New York University (NYU) Law School, where she published research on ways to advance equity in tax administration and improve the design and delivery of refundable tax credits serving low-income families. She previously spent nearly three years as a research assistant (later associate) on the Federal Fiscal Policy team at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), where she analyzed a wide range of federal tax provisions, trends in federal spending on social programs, and macroeconomic conditions. During college, she interned for the Economic Policy Institute, CBPP's Government Affairs team, and EMILY's List. Kathleen graduated from The College of William & Mary in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in public policy and a minor in history.



**Katie Hyland**

**Katie Hyland** (MPP '24) has worked for over three years in education research and policy on projects in early childhood education, higher education, and federal accountability. At American Institutes for Research (AIR), Katie supported a research practice partnership in Flint, Michigan and served as a Local Evaluation Partner with Educare Flint and Cummings Great Expectations preschools, where she worked closely with local stakeholders and led the collection and analysis of student social-emotional data in order to help teachers better track their students' needs over time. Katie has also conducted quantitative analyses of schools identified for support under the Every Student Succeeds Act and has contributed to multiple reports with the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. Prior to her time at AIR, Katie was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Kolkata, India, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in english and economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.. While at the Ford School, Katie is excited to further hone her skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis so that she can be more thoughtful and nimble in developing research to serve communities.

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## Civic Leaders

### Innovation for Change and Continuity

#### Presidential Sites Summit

Our Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation directors connected with other civic leaders across the nation at the White House Historical Association Presidential Sites Summit. The event was held at the historic Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., on September 25-28, 2023.

The summit was an opportunity for site leaders to share innovative ideas and discuss insights about the management and outreach of presidential libraries, historic homes, and museums. The theme for 2023, "Change and Continuity," guided our conversations during the summit as we embrace changes in historic interpretation while preserving our country's rich history. The summit hosted sessions and speakers who addressed a variety of topics ranging from education and civic engagement to the uses of technology in telling our story.



**First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, addressing the directors.**



# Restoring the Beloved Ford Fountain and Reflecting Pool







## Highlights of the Ford Fountain's Value

- Background: In 1980, architect Marvin DeWinter worked closely with President Ford and Grand Rapids civic and business leaders to design the greatest civic plaza in West Michigan. From the start, this major gathering space included the fountain and reflecting pool as a focal point for the community to gather around.
- President Ford personally raised \$10 million of the \$11 million needed to build the Library, Museum, and plaza in front of the Museum.
- The Ford Presidential Museum dedication in September 1981 was quite the event—a week of festivities that included President and Mrs. Reagan, Vice President and Mrs. Bush, heads of state from around the world, Bob Hope's national broadcast from the Museum, and hot-air balloon rides.
- The Ford fountain is the counterpoint to Alexander Calder's La Grande Vitesse on the opposite side of the Grand River.
- The 40-foot geyser fountain is the exclamation mark to our reflecting pool. At 100 yards long, it is symbolic of Ford's football days in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor.
- The fountain is the most photographed urban backdrop in Grand Rapids—for new American citizens coming out of our Ford Museum, for prom groups, for wedding parties, and for tourists.
- The fountain is an inverted ziggurat, so the sound of the cascading water softens and distracts from the noise coming from US-131.
- President and Mrs. Ford loved the fountain. His office overlooked the water features and he enjoyed seeing the community gather in the spaces below.
- The reflecting pool that is connected to the fountain is a smaller version of the reflecting pool in front of the U.S. Capitol, where then-Congressman Ford represented the people of West Michigan for 25 years.
- We at the Foundation look forward to working with our wonderful partners in the community and at the National Archives and Records Administration to bring the fountain back to its former glory.



**Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Fountain and Reflecting Pool, 1981-1983. Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.**

# Ford Leadership Forum

## Dear Friends of Ford,

President Ford was adept at engaging in cooperative enterprises. From his time on the University of Michigan football team to his coaching of the Yale boxing team to his service in the United States Navy to his law partnership to his time in Congress to his presidency and post-presidency, President Ford demonstrated leadership by working closely with others. He realized there was not a whole lot a person could accomplish alone, but that great things could be done if you put aside your differences and egos and worked toward a common goal.

At the Ford Leadership Forum we have actively adopted this idea of cooperative leadership. We have big ambitions for this program – the cultivation of virtue in the rising generations, the rebuilding of our democratic system of government, the healing of our partisan and other divides, the restoration of our communities and the strengthening of their institutions – but realize we cannot accomplish any of these things by ourselves. Therefore, a great deal of our efforts have been focused on building partnerships with other organizations.

We have a natural affinity with other presidential foundations, and have worked especially well with our partners at The Carter Center. Given the development of Ford and Carter's friendship after the contentious 1976 campaign, we are gratified that we have been able to pivot off their friendship to demonstrate to the public how political differences can be transcended by good will, mutual cooperation, and focusing on what we have in common rather than what separates us.

We hosted The Carter Center's CEO Paige Alexander on our stage, along with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Executive Director Gleaves Whitney, for a conversation concerning the current state of our democracy. We are also co-hosting with The Carter Center an event early next year that will bring together political leaders and practitioners to address and strengthen the integrity of our elections. The Carter Center has also been an invaluable partner in helping us understand how to build sustainable programs.

Along with The Carter Center we have been very engaged with the organization *More Perfect*, a "bipartisan initiative to engage institutions and Americans in protecting and renewing American democracy." With the leaders of *More Perfect* we engaged in a panel at the annual conference of The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and also hosted members of *More Perfect* and Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) for an evening dinner in the DeVos Learning Center.

We've also developed a partnership with the organization *Keep Our Republic*, another group committed to a non-partisan approach to repairing our democratic practices and institutions. We will be holding an event with them on December 13, the first part of which brings in election officials from across the state to help them work through the logistical problems associated with elections, and the second part of which is a public event featuring Tracey Brame, associate dean of Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, and Christopher Thomas, former director of elections at Michigan Secretary of State (MI SOS).

These and other partnerships have not only built out the Ford brand but have also helped carve out for us a reputation as an institution seriously committed to demonstrating leadership in our public life. Fortunately, we have the Ford legacy of courage, integrity, political compromise, and public service upon which we can draw.

We are also reconfiguring some of our programs for our Ford Fellows, creating programs that are both higher impact and more sustainable. More information about those changes will follow in the next *Brief*.

We are grateful for the continued support and encouragement we get from people as we develop our programs. On both college campuses and in our capitol cities, there is significant need for the virtue-based programming that we offer.

We also encourage readers to keep reading our essays that appear on our website ([fordforum.org](http://fordforum.org)) and in our weekly newsletter *The Observer*. We believe our authors are making a responsible and thoughtful contribution to our current state of discourse.

Best,



Jeff Polet

Director, Ford Leadership Forum

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Jeff Polet



# Articles from the Ford Forum

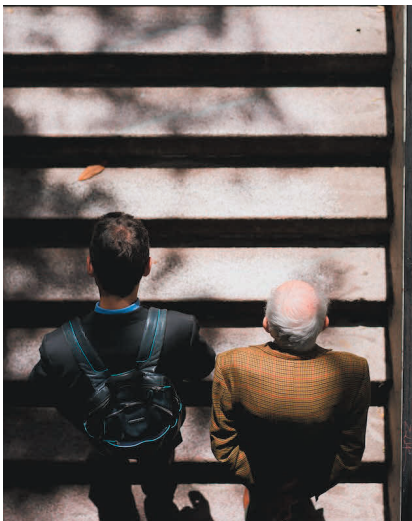
## Exploring Democratic Ideals Through the Lens of Gerald R. Ford's Legacy

### Thoughts on Patriotism

by Jeff Polet

On this 247th birthday celebration of our nation, we might be forgiven if we indulge the impulse to feel good about ourselves. A genuine patriotism should reveal both affection and gratitude, as well as self-correction. Like a family, those who belong to a nation are all-too-aware of its flaws, and don't particularly enjoy outsiders harping on them, but they are also grateful for the many blessings that flow from membership.

Read the full article by visiting  
[www.fordforum.org/2023/07/06/thoughts-on-patriotism/](http://www.fordforum.org/2023/07/06/thoughts-on-patriotism/)



### On Things Permanent and Impermanent

by Jeff Polet

There's an old saying that if you're 20 years old and you're a conservative you have no heart, and that if you're 40 years old and not a conservative, you have no brain.

I suppose the saying might mean this: in our youth we have an itch for progress, because we are in the process of developing our capacities. Things are fresh and exciting. Remember when you were younger and your parents had a growth chart marked on the wall? Each birthday was anticipated because it brought with it greater opportunities and possibilities, and brought you one step closer to the peak of your powers.

Read the full article by visiting  
[www.fordforum.org/2023/03/23/on-things-permanent-and-impermanent/](http://www.fordforum.org/2023/03/23/on-things-permanent-and-impermanent/)

### A Way Forward in Civics Education

by Lee Trepanier

Over the past decades, the controversy over civics education in the United States has only gotten worse. The political left believes that civics education should be an engine of social change with students exposed to subject matter such as the 1619 curriculum. Those on the political right have responded with state legislatures proposing to ban critical race theory and other left-wing ideologies in the classroom. Parents are upset at schools, teachers are confused about what can be taught, and students are caught in between, being pushed and pulled by both sides of the political spectrum.

Read the full article by visiting  
[www.fordforum.org/2023/06/08/a-way-forward-in-civics-education/](http://www.fordforum.org/2023/06/08/a-way-forward-in-civics-education/)



# Forum Past Events

## Ford Forum Open House

On September 12, 2023, students and young professionals were able to stop by the Ford Museum Plaza for a Ford Leadership Forum open house. They enjoyed eating Pronto Pups at the food truck; getting permanent jewelry from Everlinked; and networking with fellow students and young professionals. At the open house, Ford Fellows helped decorate bags for Kid's Food Basket in partnership with 616 Service.

**Ford Forum students at the open house.**



## Leadership Workshop

On September 23, 2023, several students and young professionals participated in our leadership workshop “Dirty Politics: Can Anyone Keep Their Hands Clean?” They had the opportunity to participate in leadership-building exercises, engaging conversations, and networking.

The conversations covered the questions “are politics as dirty as they seem?” and “is there a way for politicians and the general public to keep their hands clean?”

**Ford Forum students working through a leadership exercise.**



## Networking Opportunity

On October 12, 2023, we had the great pleasure of hosting Mike Ford, the oldest son of President and Mrs. Ford, at New Holland Brewing Company. Ford Fellows had the opportunity to get to know the Ford family on a more personal level. Students and young professionals enjoyed connecting with one another and engaging with people from all over Michigan.

**Mike Ford with Ford Forum students at a networking event at New Holland Brewing Company.**







**Drs. Patrick Deneen and Vincent Phillip Muñoz.**

## A Civil Debate

On October 19, 2023, Drs. Patrick Deneen and Vincent Phillip Muñoz from the University of Notre Dame joined us on our stage to share their contrasting perspectives on the American Founding. “The American Experiment: Right or Wrong from the Start?” was moderated by Jeff Polet, director of the Ford Leadership Forum. It was a fascinating discussion that shed light on different interpretations of this pivotal moment in our nation’s history. Their insights added valuable depth to our understanding of the American Founding. The event was covered by C-SPAN.



**Jeff Polet, Paul J. Ray, Phillip Blonde, and John Burka.**

## A Productive Deliberation

On October 13, 2023, Paul J. Ray and Phillip Blond took the stage to debate the question “Should We Abolish the Administrative State?” The event was in partnership with Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

Whatever one’s perspective, the administrative state invites debate over its impact on family and community, law and order, strong borders, strong families, the dignity of work, and a thriving economy. This debate helped broaden perspectives and raised important questions.



**Forum students at Home Repair Services of Kent County.**

## Volunteering and Service

On October 18, 2023, in partnership with 616 Service, Ford Fellows had a volunteer opportunity with Home Repair Services of Kent County. They participated in their Remodeling Together Program to learn new skills and do good in our community.

Home Repair Services of Kent County believes that homeownership encourages personal responsibility and builds value, dignity, and pride. It is an essential component of community vitality. Their mission is to strengthen vulnerable Kent County homeowners because strong homeowners build strong communities.

# DeVos Learning Center

## Dear Friends:

The start of this school year brought so much new energy to the DeVos Learning Center (DVLC) at the Museum.

The Museum has such a rich history of inspiring students in elementary, middle, and high school to be prepared for civic engagement and serve their community and nation. The DVLC built upon this tradition when it opened in 2016 and began offering a spectrum of new educational experiences here for students across all grades. With these in-person programs having been largely disrupted since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were pleased to welcome students back this fall programs on the core of American government and living together in civil society. The energy that each group of students participating in one of these programs brings to the DVLC reminds all of us of the importance of the work we do here in preparing a rising generation to lead.



**Don Cooper**

On the following pages you will read about the DVLC's progress so far this academic year, and a little about where we are heading. You'll see that work we do at the DVLC is purposeful. Indeed, the preparation of students to civically engage is necessary for the future of our democracy. But preparation on the mechanics of self-governance only helps our society flourish if it is guided by values. The values that guided President and Mrs. Ford in their public service—values that include integrity, decency, fairness, bipartisanship, compassion, and courage—are just as important today as they were when the President was called to serve. These values remain the bedrock of all that we do at the DVLC.

You will also see a little about where we are heading. The importance of what we do at the DVLC is not limited by geography. Though we are proud of what we can offer those who can get to the Museum, as well as what we can do throughout the state and nation in partnership with fellow travelers in this venture, we know that there are so many more students in Michigan and beyond who we can reach through the use of technology. That's why we will accelerate the development of digital and online programs that will help us reach more students to prepare them to lead. I look forward to reporting this progress to as it develops.

I hope that you are as excited about this energy and our civic mission as I am. Thank you for your all you do to make this possible. With the Fords' values as our guide, I know that our impact will keep growing for students and our society.

With best wishes,

Don Cooper  
Director of Civic Initiatives  
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

## Mike Ford Visits Local Schools

In early October, 2023, Mike Ford visited local Grand Rapids schools where he spoke about his parents' virtues and values. He taught students how those traits are as important today as when Gerald Ford was called to serve as vice president, and months after, as president, 50 years ago.



**Mike Ford speaking at Walker Charter Academy**



**(L-R) Foundation Trustee Teresa Weatherall Neal, Mike Ford, and Teresa's daughter Denishea Killingham Neal, principal of the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center**





**Students visiting the DVLC.**

## Featured Programs at the DVLC

As the civics education hub of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, the DVLC has been pleased to welcome back students for the 2023-24 academic year. Currently more than 1,300 students have or are scheduled to join us in person—and growing every day—with a goal of reaching pre-pandemic levels of activity as soon as possible.

As we welcome back students, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Gerald Ford’s call to service, first as vice president and later as president, is an opportunity for the DVLC to inspire a rising generation of Americans to active citizenship through initiatives that are rooted in our shared democratic values and exemplified by the lives of the Fords. Each program is aligned to Michigan standards and, because the values that defined the lives of President and Mrs. Ford are just as important today as they were 50 years ago, each is provided free of charge. The Secchia-Allen Student Transportation Fund lowers the barriers of attendance for schools by reimbursing for bussing costs.

The DVLC’s featured fall programs are a return to core topics in civics education. They are:

- *Campaigning with Character:* (Grades 6-12) The DVLC’s most popular program, and guided by President Ford’s character in the 1976 election, students learn to analyze election ads as primary source documents and apply this knowledge to create a campaign commercial for our time.
- *Amending the Constitution:* (Grades 6-8) This hands-on lesson utilizes the Ford’s exhibits and primary source documents on amendments important to President and Mrs. Ford—the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Equal Rights Amendment—to teach the complexity of the process
- *Three Branches of Government:* (Grades 4-5) This lesson explores the three branches of government through the Ford’s exhibits, original source material, and hands-on activities.

Additional core civics education topics are available for field trips. View complete list at [www.devoslearningcenter.org](http://www.devoslearningcenter.org).

## New at the DVLC

In addition to these core topics, the DVLC continues to expand its offerings, especially for high school students, to provide for more robust civics education options for students at all grade levels.

Advise the President: Chief among these expanded offerings is the second in a series of student deliberations for high school students, “Advise the President: What is Our Responsibility to Vietnamese Refugees?” This deliberation takes students back to May 1975, a time when our country had been involved in a war for the past decade in Vietnam because we believe it would stop the spread of communism. Over two and a half million American soldiers fought alongside the South Vietnamese against the North Vietnamese, and 58,000 died as a result. The war divided our country, families, and communities—and Americans were just as divided over what to do about the Vietnamese refugees.

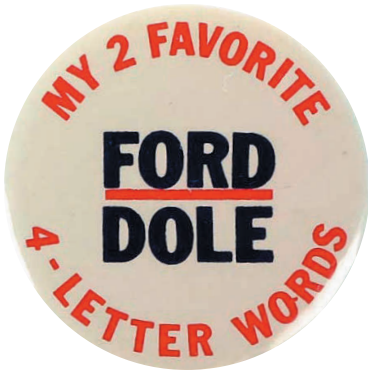
By teaching students the basic skills of deliberation and putting these skills into practice, students will explore different perspectives that were prominent in the nation at that time and advise President Ford on a path forward. What they will learn by exploring our nation’s past will prepare them for active citizenship today.

Document Based Questions: Access to a presidential library and museum provides a unique opportunity for A.P. U.S. History students to prepare for their Advanced Placement® exams.

Developed by a local high school teacher, one of this spring’s upcoming programs features sample document-based questions grounded in President Ford’s domestic and foreign policies. This program will provide students with a chance to interact not only with the primary source materials as they will on the Advanced Placement® exam, but also to explore the Museum to help understand the broader historical context that surrounds their answers. This will help ensure that students are best prepared for the exams and are thinking about the answers to questions robustly and completely.







## Exploring Campaigning with Character

Designed for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, “Campaigning with Character” helps students explore leadership and character, as exemplified by President Ford, and then put what they have learned into practice by making their own campaign commercials for a “Ford 2024” campaign. Big questions they explore are:

- *Characteristics of a leader:* What are the most important character traits we should look for in a leader?
- *Primary source exploration:* What is a primary source? Why are primary sources important? What can we learn from them about the time period we are exploring?
- *Positive campaigning:* How should candidates communicate their leadership and highlight the positive traits that make them stand out in their own campaigns?

A solid understanding of these three questions will help prepare students not only to be more fully engaged during the 2024 elections, but will also help lay the foundation for their active citizenship when they become voters themselves.

To schedule a field trip to the Ford for “Campaigning with Character,” email [education@38foundation.org](mailto:education@38foundation.org).

## On Deck at the DVLC

While the core of the DVLC’s initiatives is in-person programs, our impact can grow beyond those students who are able to be here. Today, for example, approximately 250,000 students attend a public school within a 50-mile radius of the Museum—and more than 1.2 million Michigan students attend a public school beyond this radius. This means in order to have a bigger impact on civics education in Michigan and beyond, the DVLC must enhance its digital presence to reach more students.

Updated Website: An enhanced digital presence begins with an updated website. By the end of the calendar year the DVLC’s website will re-launch its website. With a clean, inviting look, the new website will be easier to navigate, easier to schedule a field trip to the DVLC, and a home for new digital content as it is developed.

Digital Content: Beginning in 2024, the DVLC will expand its civics education reach through the launch of online civics education programs that teachers can use in the classroom and students can complete at their own pace. Planning is under way now for what programs will be launched first—stay tuned for updates.



## Programs that Are Right for You

Are you a teacher whose class hasn’t visited the Ford in a while but are worried you don’t have enough time? Or, did your last visit to the Ford inspire you to teach civics in new ways? Let’s work together to build a custom experience for your class together. As Michigan’s only presidential Library & Museum, civics education at the Ford can take place in so many different ways. Contact Don Cooper, Director of Civic Initiatives, at [dcooper@38foundation.org](mailto:dcooper@38foundation.org) for a program that fits your students’ needs.

# A Message from the Library & Museum

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Greetings!

Starting in August, the Library & Museum officially kicked off 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations! At the Museum, we opened an in-house exhibit on the vice presidency called *A Heartbeat Away*. The exhibit explores the office of the Vice President, examining how it changed over time and diving into the stories of particular vice presidents. At the Library, a smaller vice presidency exhibit is now on display that delves deep into the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Let me catch you up on what we have been up to since April!

At the Library:

In May, staff presented a brown bag luncheon on U.S./Japan relations during the Ford Administration. This included photographs from President Ford's visit to Japan in 1975 (making him the first sitting President to visit the country), as well as documents related to Ford's proclamation that terminated Franklin D. Roosevelt's (FDR) Executive Order 9066, which interned Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor. We had several visitors (and even one out-of-towner!) for that event. In addition, the Library staff have successfully reached out to various University of Michigan programs and professors to bring students to the Library for primary source research. Just this fall, we have hosted two classes from the university.

You can read more about all this elsewhere in this newsletter!

At the Museum:

The Museum rounded out its spring programming with some terrific speakers and performances. To finish out events related to the temporary guitar exhibit, we had Chris Martin (of Martin Guitars) speaking about the Martin Guitar history; Laurence Juber (former member of the band "Wings") performed, and Mark Clague walked us through the history of the National Anthem. Other speakers included Ashley Callahan, who discussed fashion designer Frankie Welch, and Doug Stanton, who wrote about his experience writing the books "Horse Soldiers" and "In Harm's Way."

The Library & Museum also organized a two-day conference on the vice presidency in September. We were fortunate to have terrific speakers and panelists join us for those two days: vice presidential historian Joel Goldstein; White House photographers David Hume Kennerly, Robert McNeely, David Valdez, and Lawrence Jackson (who joined us via Zoom as he is currently covering Vice President Kamala Harris); and historians Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky, Kate Andersen Brower, Chris Whipple, Dr. Kurt Graham, and Richard Norton Smith! The discussions were fantastic and we hope, if you missed it in person, you check out our YouTube page (@GRFordLibraryMuseum) to catch those!!

We also hosted a Brown Bag discussion this fall that gave visitors an inside look into how the Vice Presidency exhibit came about. Moreover, we recently hosted two naturalization ceremonies in the auditorium. (My office happens to be just off the auditorium,

so I was able to listen to a children's choir sing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs - absolutely heartwarming!)

Some final notes:

To top all of this off, we hosted the National Archives and Records Administration's Director of the Presidential Libraries for a visit to both sites in July. That same month, the Library & Museum launched a new blog called "Ford in Focus" ([www.ford.blogs.archives.gov/](http://www.ford.blogs.archives.gov/)) - please be sure to check it out and subscribe! Moreover, we have recently started the process of rehauling the Library & Museum's website. This is a big undertaking, which we hope to debut in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Ford's swearing in.

Personally, I was invited to speak at the White House Historical Association's Presidential Sites Summit in September. The panel I joined included Secretary Barbara Franklin, 29<sup>th</sup> U.S. Secretary of Commerce; Amy Bracewell, Superintendent of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site; and Christina Shutt, Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. Together, we shared stories of women in White House administrations and the importance of amplifying these within our institutions.

I have also been meeting with members of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Board of Trustees. I have been fortunate to meet quite a few of them so far, and hope to meet with each of them before long. These meetings have been really helpful in gaining a better understanding of our relationship and where we can work together to mutual benefit.

Finally, some staff news to share. In June, Archives Specialist Tim Holtz transferred to the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas, where he is now an Archivist. And in August, Secretary Michelle Tomasek transferred to a position within the Federal Aviation Administration. We are very happy for them! We have determined to replace these two positions with a Metadata Technician and an Archivist and are in the process of hiring actions for each. We also are still working on backfilling the vacant Public Affairs Specialist and Exhibits Specialist positions at the Museum. In addition, we backfilled the vacant Museum Technician position in May. With her arrival, Alexis Butterworth jumped in and helped with the installation of the vice presidency exhibit, ArtPrize, and so much more!

Please be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest news and updates. Stay safe and see you soon!

All the best,



Brooke Clement  
Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum



# Library & Museum News

## Ford Administration Alumni Pay a Visit

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed three former White House secretaries for tours of both locations, May 9-11. Helen Distelhorst, Ruth McKinnon, and Melinda (Maury) Thomsen worked in the Ford administration in the Domestic Council: Distelhorst in the office of Arthur Quern, who held several positions in the Domestic Council, including Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs; McKinnon for Spencer Johnson, Associate Director for Health, Social Security, and Welfare; and Thomsen for Paul Myer, Associate Director for General Revenue Sharing.

During their visit to the Museum, which they had been planning for years, they met with Foundation Executive Director Gleaves Whitney and were given a tour of the core exhibit by Curator Dr. Mirelle Luecke. They reminisced and shared stories about their work and their experiences in Washington. In particular, they recalled learning about Watergate and their feelings of shock after President Nixon resigned. The women also brought with them copies of photographs that had been taken of them with President Ford on December 8, 1976, as part of a photograph day for domestic council staff. Museum staff enjoyed comparing their photographs to the Museum's reproduction of the Oval Office – an almost perfect match! All three women had incredible memories and shared stories about many of the people they recognized in photographs throughout the Museum. They concluded their visit with a trip to the President Ford's old working office.

When they visited the Library, Distelhorst, McKinnon, and Thomsen were given a tour of President Ford's office and the Library's exhibit spaces by Archivist Lauren White, who also explained how the Library preserves and organizes the paper and audiovisual records of the presidency. The women concluded their visit to the Library with a hands-on research session where they got to explore the collections of Arthur Quern, Spencer Johnson, and Paul Myer, as well as the White House Staff Handbook, White House Photographic Office contact sheets, and other materials pertaining to the Old Executive Office Building where all three worked. Archivists Stacy Davis and Elizabeth Druga and Supervisory Archivist Geir Gundersen provided reference assistance during their visit.

Of their experience, McKinnon said that "the special opportunity to learn more about how all of President Ford's papers and pictures have been assimilated and archived over time was simply amazing. It made us appreciate all that you all do as part of that tremendous task."



**Guests visiting the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**



**Ruth McKinnon exploring documents at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**



**Gleaves Whitney, Ruth McKinnon, Melinda Thomsen, Helen Distelhorst, and Mirelle Luecke.**

# Library & Museum News Continued

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## Artifacts and History

### A Featured Artifact in the New Exhibit: A Heartbeat Away

On August 9, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum opened a new exhibit in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. *A Heartbeat Away: The American Vice-Presidency* explores the history of the office of Vice President, from the nation's founding to the present. The exhibit commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of Gerald Ford's unusual ascent to the vice presidency on December 6, 1973.

The exhibit features eighty objects, ranging from rarely seen artifacts from the Museum's collection to objects on loan from across the country. The artifacts highlight the changing role of the vice presidency, presidential-vice-presidential relationships, and significant moments for individual vice presidents. The exhibit focuses on vice presidents who, like Ford, unexpectedly rose to the office of President, as well as modern vice presidents from Walter Mondale to Kamala Harris. Mondale's close working relationship with President Jimmy Carter reshaped the office from what John Adams derisively called "the most insignificant office that ever the Invention of man contrived or his Imagination conceived" to something more akin to a close advisor—someone who, according to vice president Joe Biden, was always the "last in the room."

One particularly interesting artifact on display is a Ndebele doll that was gifted to Vice President Al Gore by South African President Nelson Mandela. On loan from the National Archives in Washington, DC, the doll stands two feet tall and features intricate beading on its head, skirt, and legs. The doll's beaded necklace (*isigolwani*) and the brass rings (*idzila*) on its neck and legs are reminiscent of those traditionally worn by Ndebele women upon marriage. The doll wears a red, blue, and green wool marriage blanket, also traditional attire for married women. The Ndebele tribe of South Africa is known for its brightly colored beadwork featuring geometric designs, which appear on everything from clothes to homes. Dolls like the one featured in this exhibit are made by Ndebele women and were given to girls to mark their transition to womanhood. By the 1990s, they had also become a popular tourist gift. Mandela may have gifted this doll to Gore to symbolize the transition to a new, closer relationship between the United States and South Africa.

In December 1995, Vice President Al Gore and Second Lady Tipper Gore traveled to South Africa. Gore had first visited South Africa in 1994 to attend President Mandela's inauguration after the nation's first universal elections. This second trip recognized the nation's new constitution and President Mandela's establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in July 1995. Vice President Gore met with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to discuss the relationship between their two countries. Mbeki and Gore discussed the creation of a new binational commission and signed agreements to create committees related to business development, the environment, energy, education, and science. In an indication of the increasing importance of the American vice president, these were all fields of special interest for Gore, which President Bill Clinton had encouraged him to focus on during his time in office.

Artifacts such as the Ndebele doll highlight how the vice presidency has grown and expanded since the nation's founding. Though personal relationships between presidents and vice presidents are still shaped by the individuals in office, the vice president is now an important representative of a presidential administration both at home and abroad.

You can see the Ndebele doll and visit *A Heartbeat Away: The American Vice Presidency* through June 9, 2024.

**Ndebele doll. Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.**







# Christmas with Gerald and Betty Ford

## 2023 White House Christmas Ornament

The Official 2023 White House Christmas Ornament, the only ornament of its kind, is produced by the White House Historical Association, a private, nonpartisan organization, and made in America by a veteran-founded business. Each ornament funds the work of our historians, researchers, and educators to open the doors to the rich history of the “people’s house” for millions of Americans.

This year, the Official White House Christmas Ornament is a festive holiday wreath, adorned on the front with decorations inspired by the handcrafted Christmas ornaments used in the White House during the Gerald R. Ford presidency. Dozens of cherubs, doves, stars, flowers, gingerbread men, candles, and pentagon balls, in bright, cheery colors are featured with red ribbons at the bottom bearing the words “Christmas 2023” and “The White House.”

On the back of the ornament are emblems related to the life and presidency of Gerald R. Ford.

- “Troop 15” signifies Ford’s success in earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievable rank in the Boy Scouts of America. He is currently the only president to have this achieved this honor.
- A football bearing the number “48,” which Ford wore when playing for the University of Michigan, represents his athleticism.
- The golden retriever is Liberty, the Ford family’s famous dog, who had a litter of puppies while in the White House.
- A Bicentennial pin signifies President and Mrs. Ford’s contributions to celebrating the 200th anniversary of America’s founding, including a State Dinner in honor of Queen Elizabeth II.
- An emblem for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) highlights the first-in-class aircraft carrier commissioned to honor the thirty-eighth president as the flagship of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group.
- And a gold plaque featuring a view toward the North Portico of the White House identifies Ford’s time as president from 1974 to 1977.

Since 1981, the White House Historical Association has been proud to foster the Official White House Christmas Ornament program. Each ornament sequentially honors a president or White House anniversary and collecting and giving these unique ornaments has become a holiday tradition for families across the United States and abroad. Purchase the Official 2023 White House Christmas Ornament and help preserve our shared American story for generations to come.

Purchase yours at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum store or by visiting [www.shop.whitehousehistory.org/products/official-2023-white-house-christmas-ornament](http://www.shop.whitehousehistory.org/products/official-2023-white-house-christmas-ornament)



F<sup>5</sup>ORD





First Lady Betty Ford conducting a press preview of the decorations on the Blue Room Christmas tree.





# The American Dream for All



## Museum Education: Outreach and Inroads

While the 2022-23 school year brought many challenges to bringing school students into the museum, most notably a profound lack of bus drivers in both public and private schools, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum's educational outreach surged in the spring semester and over the summer.

Participating in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Civics for All of US initiative, the Museum's education specialist, Richard Weld, regularly presents a pre-packaged lesson on American history entitled "The Constitution and Our Community," which

uses the Archives' document collection to teach children in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade about how the various Articles of the Constitution have shaped their communities. Group sizes range from a single classroom to a webinar with hundreds of students.

We are also responding to other requests for online programs. In March, Richard presented "The Life and Presidency of Gerald R. Ford" to patrons of the Tewksbury, Massachusetts, Public Library, as well as in the Presidential Primary Sources virtual lesson series. Our lesson, "Interrogating Presidential Photographs," was broadcast into classrooms and to

homeschoolers from Los Angeles to New York. This program proved popular, also being presented to the Tewksbury Library audience, and being re-tooled into a virtual teacher's workshop this summer.

Our outreach is not all virtual, though. At the end of April, Richard gave a presentation for the Caledonia Seniors "Lunch and Learn," and, in July, he flew out to Independence, Missouri, to present on the significance of Presidential visits in international diplomacy at a teacher workshop hosted by the Truman Presidential Library.





While physical visitation by schools still seems to be down in this new school year, outreach efforts keep our visibility up, and allow us to continue to promote civic education and the lessons of the Gerald R. Ford presidency. Starting in the early part of 2024, Richard will be taking part in a partnership between NARA and the New York Historical Society (NYHS), which has developed a program to teach American civics to green card holders who are preparing for their citizenship tests.

As these adult learners have come from countries where they did not study U.S.

history, their lack of context otherwise reduces them to simply memorizing answers to the questions. Over the course of six weeks, two evenings a week, educators with the NYHS and NARA are now teaching crash courses in American history and civics, using artifacts and documents from their institutional holdings.

NARA has long supported naturalization ceremonies at multiple sites, including the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, as we saw on October 18. Two cohorts of new citizens stood before a federal

judge, raised their right hands, and took their oath of citizenship. After years of diligent work and multiple tests passed, it is heartwarming indeed to see each group join us as new American citizens. In the future, we look forward to the day when students who studied for the test by taking an online class offered by the Ford Museum will appear to take their oath here as well.

**Naturalization Ceremony at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.**

# Recent Events

## History in the Making

### Richard Norton Smith Illuminates the Legacy of Gerald R. Ford

On May 19, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) were excited to present the long-awaited final stop for the premiere book tour celebrating the release of *An Ordinary Man: The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*, by Richard Norton Smith. The event featured a deep and insightful conversation between two nationally renowned West Michigan historians. Together, author Richard Norton Smith and Hank Meijer, executive chairman of Meijer Inc. and vice-chairman and trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, explored Smith's new book about our 38th President and Grand Rapids' own Gerald R. Ford.

Book tour partners also included the Michigan History Center in Lansing; Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service at Albion College in Albion.



**Richard Norton Smith, author of *An Ordinary Man*, talking about his book at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. Image courtesy of the Hauenstein Center at GVSU.**





# A Life of Public Service



**Roger Porter, Robert M. Gates, and Mike Ford**

## **The Ford Announces the Winner of the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service**

This year's recipient of the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service was Dr. Robert M. Gates, who served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011). He is the only Secretary of Defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in office by a newly elected president. Dr. Gates served eight U.S. presidents across both parties. He led a distinguished career of service and institutional reform both in and out of government. Gates began his career at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional, including nine years on the National Security Council. He is the only career officer in CIA's history to rise from entry-level employee to director. He served as director of central intelligence from 1991 until 1993 and, through the collapse of the Soviet Union, restructured the intelligence community for a post-Cold War world. Gates currently is a principal in the strategic consulting firm Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel, LLC, with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, and Aspen Strategy Group Executive Director Anja Manuel. Gates serves as chancellor of the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is the first William & Mary alumnus in the modern era to serve as chancellor. He is also National Chairman of the Eisenhower Fellowships, having succeeded General Colin Powell in 2018. He is a member of the national executive board of the Boy Scouts of America, where he served as president of the National Eagle Scout Association from 1996-2006 and national president of the Boy Scouts of America from 2014-2016.

### **Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service**

Each year, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards the Medal for Distinguished Public Service to people who have served the public good in the private and public sector. The award was established by the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 2003 and is presented during a ceremony held in June at the Foundation's annual dinner. The Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service recognizes outstanding public contributions by individuals who reflect the qualities demonstrated by President Ford during his public service career: strength of character, integrity, trustworthiness, fidelity to principles in decision-making, sound judgment, decisiveness (particularly during periods of crisis), determination in the face of adversity, diligence, self-confidence balanced with respect for the views of others, and self-discipline in personal life.

### **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Annual Dinner and William E. Simon Lecture**

This year's annual dinner was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. In 1988, President Gerald R. Ford announced the establishment of the William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs. The series is endowed by Simon's gift to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Simon served as Secretary of the Treasury during the Nixon and Ford administrations. He established this lecture series stating, "These lectures can make a significant, continuing contribution to public debate on how to preserve and strengthen the institutions of our free society." In acknowledging Simon's gift, President Ford said, "Bill Simon's generosity makes possible a top-quality program, featuring outstanding national figures. Their insight on domestic and international issues will foster better public understanding of today's critical policy problems."

## An Evening with Chris Martin

On May 3, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation hosted the 6<sup>th</sup>-generation owner of the iconic Martin Guitar. Founded in 1833, in New York City, C.F. Martin & Co. has made the world's finest acoustic guitars for nearly 200 years. Chris brought incredible prototypes from his personal collection at the Martin Guitar Museum and shared stories from his 35 years at the helm of this American brand. The instruments were played live from Martin clinician and singer/songwriter, Craig Thatcher.

Before Chris Martin took the stage, the School of Rock House Band performed live. This program gives students under the age of 18 the opportunity to join a band composed of fellow musicians from their school. These House Band members become leaders in their School of Rock community and perform live shows throughout the year.



## Jazz and Guitar, A Truly American Experience

Ilya Lushtak

On May 10, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Library & Museum and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation welcomed jazz guitarist and vocalist Ilya Lushtak. The evening was filled with a jazz guitar, vocal, and educational tour that combined America's love of the guitar and the musical genre that was born here.

## The Good Country

Jon Lauck

On May 16, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation welcomed Jon Lauck to the stage to discuss his book *The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest, 1800–1900*.

Lauck, in a conversation moderated by Gleaves Whitney, described a rich civic culture that prized education, literature, libraries, and the arts; developed a stable social order grounded in Victorian norms, republican virtue, and Christian teachings; and generally put democratic ideals into practice to a greater extent than any nation to date. The event was covered by C-SPAN.



## The Entertainer-in-Chief: How Popular Culture Has Remade the American Presidency

Kathryn Cramer Brownell

On May 18, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation welcomed Kathryn Cramer Brownell to discuss her book *Showbiz Politics: Hollywood in American Political Life* and how Hollywood connections can be an asset in the political world.

Gerald R. Ford became president at an unprecedented time of intensifying media scrutiny and growing public cynicism. To build back public trust in the presidency, he turned to popular culture tools, ultimately elevating expectations for presidents to entertain audiences and inadvertently changing what it means to be “presidential” in the United States.



## When Ordinary People Do Extraordinary Things

Doug Stanton

On May 19, 2023, author and historian Doug Stanton reflected on the stories he uncovered while writing *In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors* and *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*. These recollections spanned from World War II to the Vietnam War.

*In Harm's Way* is a harrowing, adrenaline-charged account of America's worst naval disaster—and of the heroism of the men who, against all odds, survived. *Horse Soldiers* is the dramatic account of a small band of Special Forces soldiers who secretly entered Afghanistan following 9/11 and rode to war on horses against the Taliban.

This event was in partnership with Armed Forces Thanksgiving.



## 2023 Gerald R. Ford Wreath Laying Ceremony

July 14, 2023, marked what would have been President Ford's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. President Joseph Biden carried on the presidential tradition of sending a wreath. The Ford family and law enforcement also presented tribute Wreaths. On behalf of Betty Ford, thank you to those who joined us in honoring America's 38th President and his remarkable life of integrity and service to the Nation.



## Restoring Trust and Rebuilding Institutions

Paige Alexander

On August 23, 2023, Paige Alexander, chief executive officer of The Carter Center, and Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, discussed the friendship that developed between former rivals and what their example means for restoring trust and rebuilding institutions today. The conversation was moderated by Jeff Polet, director of the Ford Foundation's Leadership Forum. The event was covered by C-SPAN..



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and the White House

## Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gerald R. Ford Becoming Vice President

Thomas Jefferson famously asserted in 1808 that “we in America can make wine doubtless as good” as the great wines of Europe. Despite Jefferson’s best efforts, however, this prediction was not fulfilled in his lifetime or indeed in the lifetimes of his next 34 successors.

The U.S. President that presided over the coming of age of American wine was none other than Gerald R. Ford, and the event that heralded the rise to global prominence of American wines was the 1976 international tasting that has come down to us under the name of the Judgment of Paris.

On November 2, 2023, our Annual Wine and the White House event, hosted by two certified wine sommeliers from Rome, Italy, recounted this fascinating true story and allowed guests to sample wines from the great American wines that President Ford served to princes and presidents as he highlighted the US contribution to the history of viticulture. We welcomed **Elizabeth Lev** and **Thomas Williams** for an unforgettable evening!

**Thomas Williams and Elizabeth Lev  
presenting at Wine and the White  
House 2023**

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



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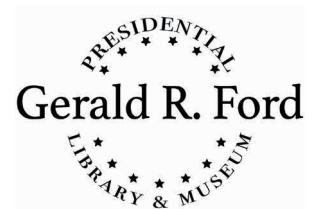
Hilary & Connie Snell Freedom Fund

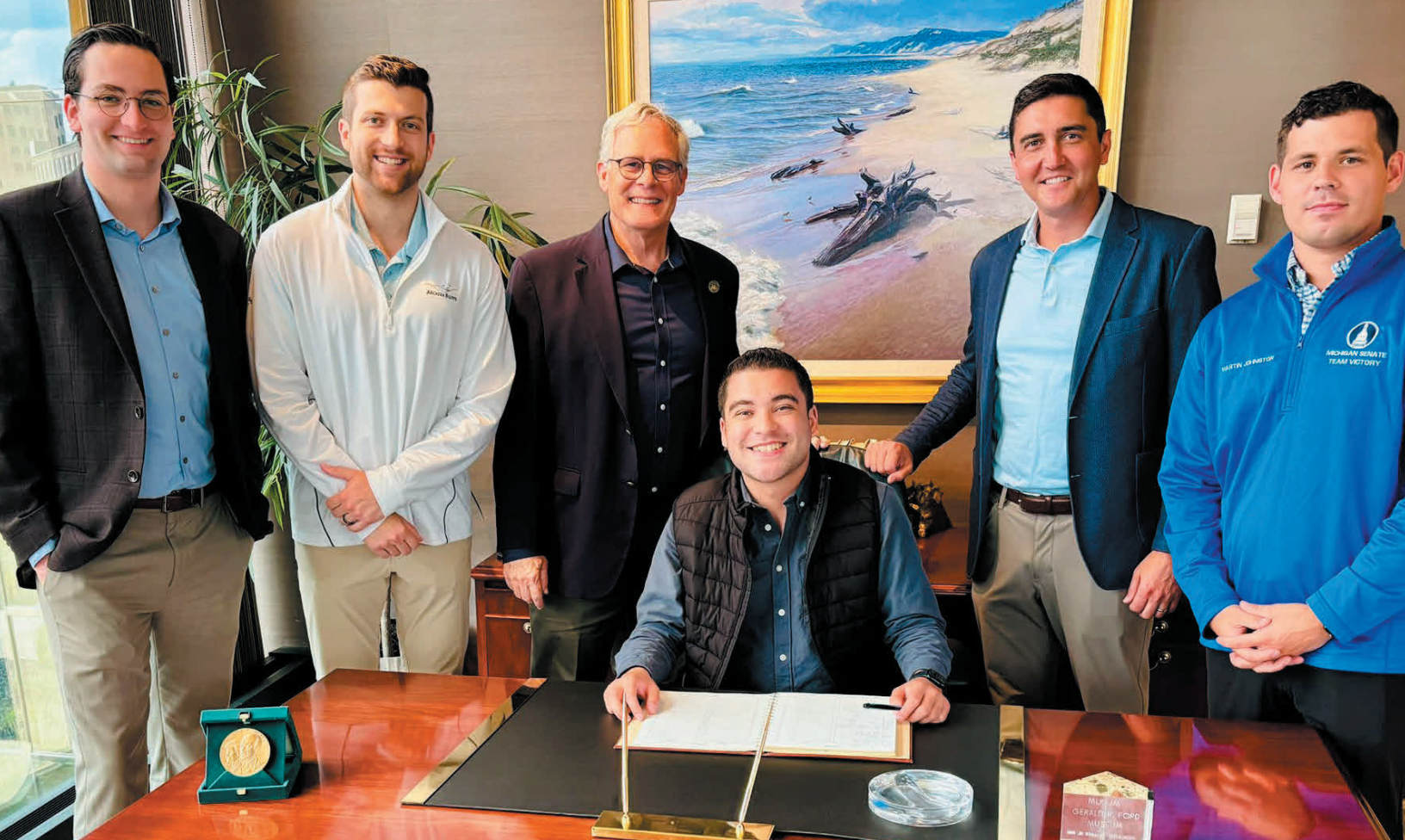
Gleaves Whitney & Mary Eilleen Lyon

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**Brian Martinez and friends visiting the Ford Foundation president's office.**

# Partnering in Our Community

## A Big Fan of Gerald R. Ford Comes to Grand Rapids



**Brian Martinez**

**Brian Martinez**  
**Midwestern Regional Director, American Conservation Coalition**

Brian Martinez is an experienced political communicator dedicated to bipartisan collaboration and changing the narrative on climate action.

As the American Conservation Coalition's (ACC) Midwest Director, Brian currently helps develop the leadership skills of college students and young professionals working in the grassroots environmental sector.

Born in Puerto Rico but raised in purple Wisconsin, Brian understands the importance of working across the aisle to combat the climate challenges currently facing the Midwest and beyond.

Brian attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he studied political science and legal studies. Prior to joining ACC, Brian worked on the Republican National Committee's get-out-the-vote digital operations in Washington, D.C., and was a legislative aide in the Wisconsin State Senate.

When not crisscrossing the Midwest, you can find Brian in Madison, Wisconsin, cheering on his favorite sports teams: the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, Milwaukee Bucks, and Wisconsin Badgers.





## Passing the Torch: The Next-Generation of Ford's Conservation Legacy

by Brian Martinez

A recent Gallup poll showed that prior to the 2022 midterm elections, nearly 70% of young conservatives care about the environment. It's becoming increasingly clear that no matter their political party, young people want actionable solutions and legislation to combat the challenges faced by climate change. The American Conservation Coalition (ACC) was founded to answer that call in June 2017.

A group of young conservative leaders saw an ideological gap in the environmental movement preventing necessary bipartisan action and banded together to create an organization dedicated to changing the narrative on climate action by championing solutions, rather than adding fuel to divisive fires. Fast-forward six years, the ACC now has 30,000 members in communities and on college campuses nationwide, including in President Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan. ACC believes economic and environmental success go hand-in-hand and that everyone should feel empowered to take a seat at the table in discussions concerning conservation, clean energy, sportsmen's rights, agriculture, climate, and more.

These policies sound familiar because many of these ideas were championed by conservative presidents, including President Ford. From expanding and protecting National Parks to continuing President Richard Nixon's environmental initiatives, Ford led his administration with a conservative environmentalist mindset. Even though Ford's 1976 Bicentennial Land Heritage Act failed to pass through Congress, its legacy lives on. In 2020, ACC Action championed a call for Congress to pass the Great American Outdoors Act, which built off of Ford's desire to see the National Parks System funded and expanded. From service events like clean-ups and tree plantings to organizing young Americans to advocate for sound environmental policy, members of the ACC are continuing the legacy of Gerald Ford, especially in Grand Rapids.

In October, ACC Grand Rapids held a luncheon with the Ford Fellowship Program celebrating President Ford's conservation legacy. I joined Gleaves Whitney, the executive director for the Ford Foundation, to discuss President Ford's "both-and" approach to conservation policy.

A "both-and" approach is exactly what ACC supports – policies that are good for people and the planet. With ACC's Climate Commitment, the six big ideas focused on growing the economy and combatting the effects of climate change embody the "both-and" approach that President Ford championed while in office.

It's this "both-and" approach that I found most inspiring about President Ford's legacy. Born in Puerto Rico but raised in Wisconsin, I grew up with a deep appreciation for the great outdoors. At a young age, I came to appreciate President Ford's work and his dedication to healing the country during a season of uncertainty and political turmoil. In fact, part of my admiration for President Ford stems from Ford's time as a National Parks ranger. To this day, he is the only American president to have served as a park ranger in the National Park Service.

Joining the ACC Grand Rapids team for a tour of the Ford Presidential Museum was a full-circle moment. I was reminded of a quote by former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill:

**"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."**

As the world is looking for solutions to the big challenges we're facing today, more people like President Ford need to step up to the plate and bring us back together to face those challenges head-on. That's why the ACC exists: to empower young people to tackle the climate challenges we face and ensure the next generation has a greener and brighter future.

# Featured Trustee

## The Foundation Welcomes You!

### University of Michigan President Santa Ono Joins Ford Presidential Foundation Board



**Santa J. Ono, Ph.D.**, is the 15th president of the University of Michigan (U-M), where he began a five-year term on October 14, 2022.

A recognized leader in higher education in the United States and Canada, President Ono is an experienced vision researcher whose pioneering work in experimental medicine focuses on the immune system and eye disease. At U-M he is professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, and microbiology and immunology in the Medical School, and molecular, cellular and developmental biology in the College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts.

President Ono currently serves as the chair of the U-M Health Board, the chair of Fulbright Canada, the chair of the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3), and is an honorary Chairperson of the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario. He also serves on a range of other boards including

the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors, the American Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities, the U7+ Alliance, the Council on Competitiveness, the University Musical Society, Terramera, the Detroit Economic Club, Business Leaders of Michigan and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees.

He has also been appointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to serve on the Executive Committee of Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Growing Michigan Together Council. He joined U-M from the University of British Columbia (UBC), where he served as president and vice chancellor since 2016.

While at UBC, he chaired the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities and the Research Universities of British Columbia, and served on the board of Universities Canada. He also served on the steering committee of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities; Government of Canada's Industry Advisory Ad Hoc Roundtable on COVID-19 Testing; and the boards of Fulbright Canada and Mitacs.

Prior to his appointment at UBC, he was president of the University of Cincinnati, where he also served as professor of pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. While at the University of Cincinnati, he was appointed by Ohio Gov. John Kasich to lead the state's Biopharmaceutical Task Force and to the Board of the Ohio Third Frontier, the state's technology-based economic development program.

Dr. Ono has served as senior vice provost and deputy to the provost at Emory University. He also has taught at Johns

Hopkins University, Harvard University and University College London.

He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, the National Academy of Inventors, USA and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. In 2022, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

He has advised national and regional governments on higher education and mental health. He also has advised companies such as GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Merck and Novartis, and served as director and chief scientific officer of iCo Therapeutics.

President Ono has served on the editorial boards for several peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals, including *Immunology*, *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *The Journal of Immunology*, and *The Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology*.

He holds honorary doctorates from Chiba University and the Vancouver School of Theology and is a recipient of the Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award from the American Council on Education, the Professional Achievement Award from University of Chicago, a Grand Challenges Hero Award from UCLA, and the NAAAP 100 Award from the National Association of Asian American Professionals.

He earned his B.A. in biological sciences from the University of Chicago in 1984, and a Ph.D. in experimental medicine from McGill University in 1991.

President Ono is married to Wendy Yip, an immunologist and lawyer. They are the parents of two daughters, Sarah Yip-Ono and Juliana Yip-Ono.

Image and biography courtesy of the University of Michigan.



# Featured Friend of Ford

## Our Members Matter!

### Why Our Members Are Fans of Gerald R. and Betty Ford



#### Tom Vance

“I was taking a graduate class in professional writing at Western Michigan University in the fall of 1993, while working in public affairs at The Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo. When our professor asked us what we would do if we won the lottery—the point being, if we didn’t have to work—I said I would write a biography of Elliot Richardson. My empathetic professor and classmates agreed that I would have to figure out a way to do that without winning the lottery. In my free time, I began my research, believing I could write a brief biography geared toward young adults.

“My association with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation began when I was awarded a travel grant in Spring 1994 to study materials on Richardson at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. That experience led to an interview with Richardson that summer in Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, I’d written President Ford with questions about Richardson’s service in his administration and received a wonderful two-page letter in response.

“My research continued, enhanced by Richard L. Holzhausen’s 1997 oral history of Richardson held at the Gerald R. Ford Library. Richardson reviewed a draft in 1998 and in December 1999 the Council for Excellence in Government agreed to publish it as an e-book, edited for a general audience. Richardson died on that New Year’s Eve and *Elliot Richardson: The Virtue of Politics* appeared early in 2000.

“This 158-page book is still the only biography of Richardson. Sadly, Washington attorney Donald Carr was completing a full-length biography of Richardson when he died in 2013. My paperback edition (which became available in 2014 after the Council for Excellence in Government disbanded) is dedicated to Don Carr.”

### About our Research Travel Grants

Two programs are available to support research in the holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Library. These holdings focus on Federal policies, U.S. foreign relations, and national politics in the 1960s and 1970s. There are earlier and later materials depending upon your topic. The programs are:

**The Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award (Dissertation Award) in Honor of Robert Teeter** in the amount of \$5,000 is given annually to one individual to support dissertation research on an aspect of the U.S. political process during the latter part of the twentieth century.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards several **Research Travel Grants** of up to \$2,200 each in support of research in the holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Library. A grant defrays travel and living expenses of a research trip to the Ford Library. Grants are awarded twice a year with application deadlines of March 15 and September 15.

**Want to be a featured Friend of Ford? Send an email to [lvelting@38foundation.org](mailto:lvelting@38foundation.org) with a message about yourself and what you love about Gerald and Betty Ford.**

**Featured Friends of Ford receive a private Museum tour.**

# Gerald Ford: Conservationist

## From Yellowstone to the White House

At the Foundation, we pride ourselves on having the only Eagle Scout president. What you may not know is that Ford is also the only park ranger president. Ford was a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming, in the summer of 1936 and said it was one of the best summers of his life.

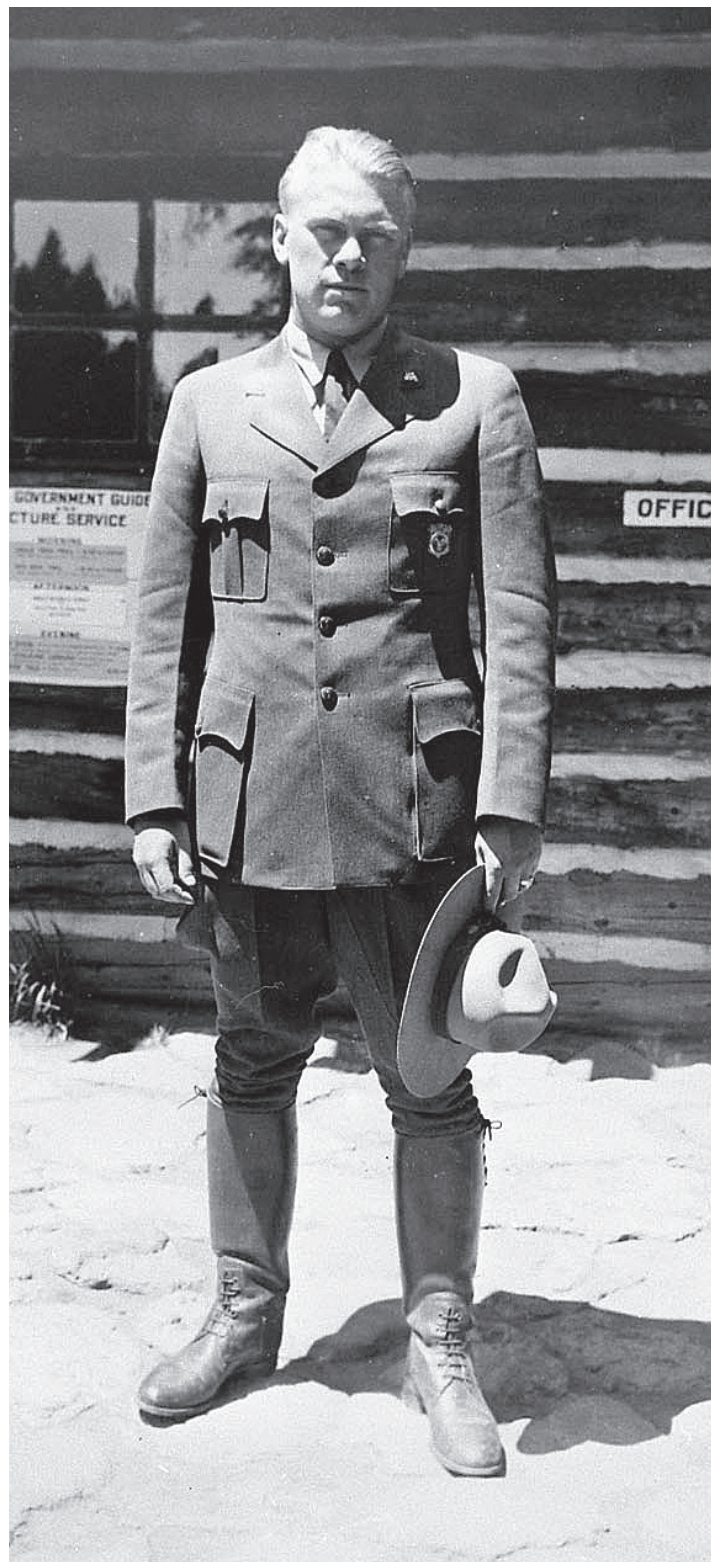
During his time at Yellowstone, Ford worked at Canyon Station. Some of his duties included automobile checks, feeding the bears, and meeting and greeting VIPs.

Every morning each automobile in camp had to be checked for make, model, and license plate number. There were usually 150 to 200 licenses and rangers had to run to get through them in their two-hour time slot of 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. This was one of Ford's favorite jobs as he formerly played football and viewed it as an opportunity to stay in shape.

Another job that Ford had was to feed and monitor the bears. This meant he rode on the back of a garbage truck that would dump a load of garbage for black and grizzly bears to eat. He carried a rifle in case the bears went wild. While there were some close calls he never had to pull his trigger and got some good stories. Ford and his roommate returned to their quarters one evening to find a black bear looking for food in the cupboards. Ford gave it a swift kick on the backside and chased it out of the cabin.

Ford's least favorite task during his time as a ranger was meeting and greeting VIPs at the Canyon Hotel and Lodge. Ford explained to his supervisor that it was "undemocratic and un-American to give special attention to VIPs." This reflects President Ford's character and this theme can be found throughout the museum.

Ford had some great times that shaped his environmental views while he worked at Yellowstone, but he was also influenced by photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams who came to be a good friend. Adams' distress over the relatively low budget of the National Park Service (NPS) led to Ford's largest environmental action: submitting the Bicentennial Land Heritage Act to Congress. This act was a 10-year national commitment to double the NPS budget. Ford announced his plan in the most fitting spot: standing in front of Old Faithful, saying, "We must act now to prevent the loss of treasures that can never be replaced for ourselves, for our children, and for future generations of Americans.... I want to be as faithful to my grandchildren's generation as Old Faithful has been to ours."



**Gerald Ford as a ranger at Yellowstone National Park, 1936. Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.**

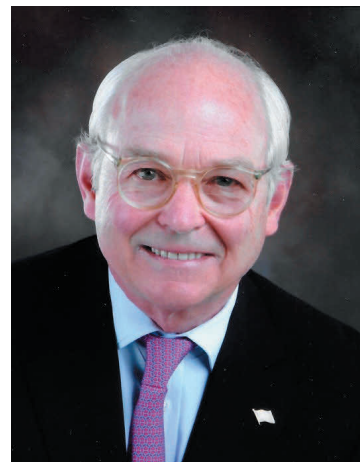


## Honoring Those Important to Us

### Recognizing the Passing of Former Trustee David Frey

January 12, 1942 – June 14, 2023

David Gardner Frey, 81, passed peacefully on June 14, 2023. David was born January 12, 1942, at Blodgett Hospital and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan until attending and graduating from the Cranbrook School, Bloomfield Hills Michigan, in 1960. He went on to earn an A.B. in English 64' and a J.D. 67' from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of Zeta Psi fraternity and the Order of Gimghoul, a secret social society founded in 1889. The society's fraternal Hippol Castle is located in Glandon Forest on the outskirts of Chapel Hill, NC. David was the proud recipient of the William R. Davie Award (2013) and the Dean's Award for Distinguished Service (2015) by the University of North Carolina for his lifetime of extraordinary service to, exceptional vision for, and strong leadership at the university. In addition to his active involvement in the University of North Carolina, David, individually and through the Frey Foundation, demonstrated an extraordinary level of enthusiasm for the University of Michigan, where his wife, father, and many family members attended.



**David Frey**

David served in the United States Navy including a tour of duty as an Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander Service Group III during the Vietnam War. After a stint working in the banking industry in New York with Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, he returned home to Grand Rapids in 1975 to succeed his father, Edward J. Frey, as Chairman of Union Bank & Trust Company, the bank founded by David's grandfather in 1918. David led the bank through a series of mergers and remained an executive and advisor through 2004 upon its merger with JP Morgan Chase. In 1978, David married Judith Campbell Spindle, a widow of four children. David and Judy raised the four children along with two sons of their own. They traveled extensively throughout their 45 years together.

David was first and foremost a proud Grand Rapidian, serving on various boards and leading significant community development. Much of the Grand Rapids we know today reflects his efforts to develop Grand Rapids into a great national mid-sized city. He found success leveraging public private partnerships for the betterment of the community. Perhaps the most visible manifestation of his commitment to Grand Rapids' development and these partnerships was as co-chair of Grand Action (1992-2018) and Chairman of Grand Design (1995-1997). His leadership in both, brought to Grand Rapids Van Andel Arena, DeVos Place Convention Center, the downtown Grand Rapids Grand Valley State University Campus, a historic renovation of Meijer Majestic Civic Theatre, Michigan State University of College of Human Medicine, and the Downtown Market. Later (2009-2013), he co-led the fundraising effort for the construction of Grand Valley State University's Seidman School of Business and International Trade Center. David further supported Grand Rapids through decades of service to various boards including the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, United Way of West Michigan, The Frey Foundation, founded by his late parents in 1974, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. He also was a long-time board member for Foremost Insurance Company, founded by his father in 1952. David was proud to have served as an honorary pall bearer for former President Ford. David's passion for and commitment to the development of Grand Rapids continued up until the time of his death with his involvement in Grand Action 2.0 (2018-2023), which is focused on bringing an amphitheater and professional soccer stadium to Grand Rapids.

David, or "Skeeter" as he is affectionately known by his 15 grandchildren and numerous college friends, will be missed by all whose lives he touched including his family and his college, trout fishing, and hunting friends.

Learn more about David Frey and his time with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/trustee-david-frey/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/trustee-david-frey/)

**Image and information provided by the Grand Rapids Press.**



**President Giovanni Leone of Italy making remarks at a State Dinner held in his honor by President Gerald R. Ford. Image courtesy of the National Archives.**

Watch for exciting 50th Anniversary events coming in 2024 on our website at  
[www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org).





# Upcoming Events

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## **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 6:30 PM**

“Brawling over the Presidency and Vice Presidency,”

with H.W. Brands

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 6:30 PM**

“Election Integrity,” in partnership with Keep Our Republic

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:30 PM**

“The Peril of Promise: African Americans in Defense of America’s Constitutional Republican Democracy,” with Fred Johnson

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, time TBD**

“Watergate: A New History,” with Garrett Graff

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor

## **Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:30 PM**

“UFO: The Inside Story of the U.S. Government’s Search for Alien Life Here—and Out There,” with Garrett Graff

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Thursday, February 29, 2024, 6:30 PM**

“Black Liberation in the Marketplace,” with Rachel Ferguson

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Tuesday Evenings in February & March, 6 PM**

World Affairs Council Great Decision Series

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 6:30 PM**

“Journalism and the Vice Presidency,” with Peter Baker

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6:30 PM**

“Virtue and the Pursuit of Happiness,” with Jeffery Rosen

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## **TBD May 2024, 6:30 PM**

“The Situation Room,” with George Stephanopoulos

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

**View the full schedule and RSVP at [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/events/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/events/)**

**President Gerald R. Ford, Steve Ford, and a group of Steve's Friends meeting with Musician Peter Frampton in the Oval Office, September 8, 1976.**



# New Membership Levels in 2024

## Important Update

### Enhance Your Friends of Ford Membership Benefits

Your Friends of Ford membership helps support the important work of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. From inspiring a rising generation of citizens through educational programs at the DeVos Learning Center, to shaping the virtue of college students and young professionals through the Ford Leadership Forum, to supporting public programs that feature our nation's leading thinkers on American history and civics, the support your membership provides helps continue to advance the legacy of President and Mrs. Ford today.

That's why the Foundation is pleased to announce new, enhanced membership benefits for our Patron, President's Cabinet, and Legacy Circle members beginning in 2024. Because of their special commitment to the Ford legacy, we are pleased to now provide a new annual commemorative gift, special reserved seating at the Foundation's public programs, and a VIP tour of the Museum based on membership level. This special "thank you" recognizes the increased commitment that members at these levels make to the Foundation's mission.

While benefits at other membership levels have been updated to reflect the increased costs faced by nonprofit organizations, the new museum-only memberships are a great way for individuals and families interested in the American presidency to access not only the Museum, but also all museums in the National Archives and Records Administration's presidential library and museum system. These memberships are a way to provide access to an important part of our nation's history. Consider giving one of these memberships as a gift to friends and family this holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation and for the impact that your support is making to advance the Ford legacy. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.



# Join or Renew your Membership

Membership Levels	Price	Benefits
<b>Individual Museum</b>	<b>\$38</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library &amp; Museum</li> <li>• Complimentary general admission to all Presidential Library and Museums in the National Archives and Records Administration (must present membership card)</li> <li>• 10% discount at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library &amp; Museum Gift Shop</li> <li>• Official membership card</li> <li>• A subscription to <i>The Brief</i> – the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation magazine</li> <li>• Advance notice to public lectures and events</li> </ul>
<b>Family Museum</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits for two adults and children under 18 in household</li> </ul>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits for one, plus:</li> <li>• Invitations to private receptions before public programming for one person</li> </ul>
<b>Dual</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits for two people, plus:</li> <li>• Invitations to private receptions before public programming for two people</li> </ul>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits, plus:</li> <li>• Invitations to private receptions before public programming for two people</li> <li>• Commemorative Friends of Ford gift</li> </ul>
<b>President's Cabinet</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits for four people, plus:</li> <li>• Invitations to private receptions before public programming for four people</li> <li>• Commemorative Friends of Ford gift</li> <li>• Reserved auditorium event seating (with advance notice)</li> </ul>
<b>Legacy Circle</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Individual Museum Member benefits for four people, plus:</li> <li>• Invitations to private receptions before public programming for four people</li> <li>• Commemorative Friends of Ford gift</li> <li>• Reserved auditorium event seating (with advance notice)</li> <li>• VIP tour for up to ten people of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum (with advance notice)</li> </ul>

## Thank you!

For further information, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation  
at (616) 254-0396 or email [ford@38foundation.org](mailto: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



**On August 9, 1974, Vice President  
Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as  
President of the United States.**

“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 goodwill 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

**Image by David Hume Kennerly.**