



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

Spring 2023



**FORD**



## 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. The Foundation has 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).

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F<sup>5</sup>ORD

**Introducing the 50th Legacy Anniversary edition of *The Brief!* You will find this logo throughout Grand Rapids over the next few years as we celebrate President and Mrs. Ford through the Vice Presidency, Presidency, and beyond!**

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**“I have an independent streak. You know, it’s kind of hard to tell a independent woman what to do.”**

~ **Betty Ford**

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Cover: First Lady Betty Ford on the phone in the Queen’s Bedroom on the 2nd floor of the White House in the Family Residence, February 2, 1975. Photograph by David Hume Kennerly.



## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

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# A Moment In History

**The Grand Rapids Press, Sunday, October 14, 1973**  
***Mrs. Ford “Greatly Excited”***



WASHINGTON (AP) — Betty Ford, who has been a congressional wife for 25 years, says she is “tremendously excited” about the prospect of taking the role of the nation’s second lady.

“I know it’s going to be very demanding,” she told reporters at Friday night’s White House reception for her husband, Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., who is President Nixon’s vice presidential nominee.

Tall and chestnut-haired, Mrs. Ford, 55, is well-known and liked in Washington circles.

Before her marriage to Ford, the former Elizabeth Bloomer of Chicago danced with the Martha Graham company in New York, taught modern dance for several years, and was a fashion coordinator.

She and Ford met in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was 30 and he 35 when they married Oct. 15, 1948, about two weeks before he was elected to his first term in the House.

They live in an unpretentious home with a swimming pool in suburban Alexandria, Va., and have four children.

Asked how the children were reacting, Mrs. Ford said, “there’s a little question in their minds. But they’re taking it pretty well.”

Sixteen-year-old Susan, a student at a private school, was cooking a steak dinner for the family when President Nixon’s historic call came at 7:30 p.m. Friday. “I was rather shocked and happy,” she said.

The Ford’s oldest son, Michael, 23, a student at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, was telephoning home to find out whether advance news reports on Ford’s selection were true while the White House call was coming in on the family’s unlisted line.

The Ford’s two other children are Jack, 21, a student at Utah State University, and Steven, 17, a high school senior.

In an interview a few years ago, Michael described his mother as “the anchor for the whole family.”

And, Mrs. Ford told how she had to be “fairly firm” in raising the children because her husband was “gone a lot.” She noted, “it was not difficult, but challenging to be in a way both a mother and a father.”

Although House Minority leader Ford appeared to have had a good idea he was Nixon’s choice, he didn’t let his wife know until the last minute.

Mrs. Ford was sitting at dinner, informally dressed in slacks, when her husband tried to drop a few hints.

“He suggested that maybe I should comb my hair and get some makeup on - and maybe put on a dress,” Mrs. Ford recalled.

Because none of the other congressmen’s wives had been invited to be in the East Room audience for Nixon’s announcement, the White House said Mrs. Ford was escorted to the office of Nixon’s personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, to watch the big moment out of sight and via television.



# Direct from the Director

Dear Friends of Ford,

Henry Kissinger, a senior advisor to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, reminds us:

*"According to an ancient tradition, God preserves humanity despite its many transgressions because at any one period there exist ten just individuals who, without being aware of their role, redeem mankind. Gerald Ford was such a man."*

You'd expect an individual of such significance to be remembered by monuments. Indeed, in Gerald Ford's case, there are a presidential foundation, library, and museum dedicated to him; the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and the Ford Institute at Albion College inspired by him; a freeway, airport, and aircraft carrier named after him; and a statue in the U.S. Capitol that stands in watchful perpetuity for him.

On top of all these cultural markers there is now a magisterial biography by the independent scholar, Richard Norton Smith. At 700 narrative pages, the book is itself a monument to the 38th President of the United States.

We've been anticipating Richard's biography for some time, and its publication was perfectly timed. At the Ford we are entering a host of 50th anniversaries between now and 2027: of Ford becoming America's first unelected Vice President (December 2023); of Ford becoming America's first unelected President (August 2024); of the necessity of his administration to clean up after America's first defeat in a major war (April 2025); of President Ford leading Americans in the bicentennial celebration of their nation (July 2026, which will also be the 250th anniversary of the United States).

All these legacy anniversaries give those of us who see Gerald Ford as a just and redemptive leader the unparalleled opportunity to draw Americans' attention to the 38th President. As commander in chief, Ford brought together virtues such as integrity and bipartisanship, compassion and competence, that made him an exemplary leader. These characteristics speak powerfully to us today—by their absence.

This is Ford's time, now more than ever. He was good then, back in the 70s, but he's better now, a half-century later. Gerald Ford's example and message are exactly the example and message that a fractured, wounded America need to bring out the better angels of our nature.

So I don't think it's an accident that Richard's book comes out now—in fact, it's providential—and no one was better fitted to write it. Richard knew President Ford, interned for President Ford, wrote for President Ford, and early on directed the Ford presidential foundation, library, and museum. He has even been living in a place that overlooks the Fords' burial site and Museum, with a panoramic view of the city spanning the Grand River that Ford loved. To write the book, Richard spent more than a decade

reading thousands of source documents, conducting more than 170 interviews, writing 40 drafts, and whittling the whole down to 700 narrative pages. Maybe, just maybe, this is the book Richard was meant to write.

Already before the official release of Richard's book on April 11, it had garnered high praise. Bob Schieffer of CBS News observed: "Gerald Ford is remembered more for how he got to the presidency than for what he did there. In this brilliant book, Richard Norton Smith tells the rest of the story. On every page I found something I didn't know, bringing new and important insights into how Ford kept the nation together and moved it past its most severe political crisis since the Civil War. It will become the definitive work on Ford and his presidency."

True enough.

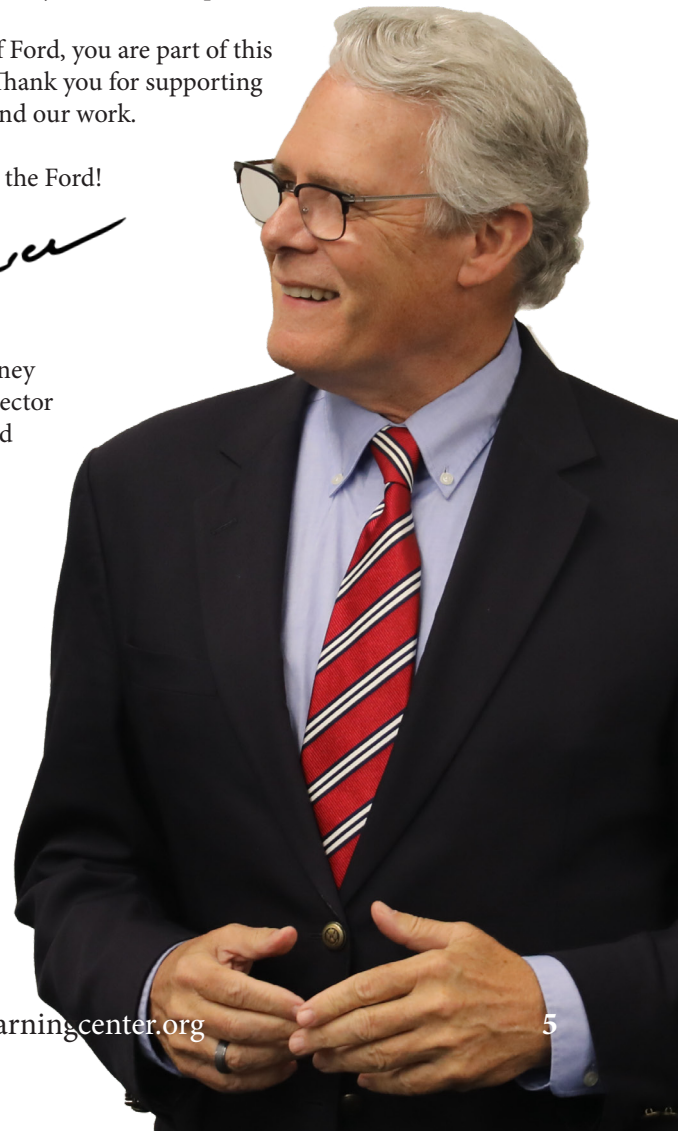
In April, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation organized a book tour across Michigan. It featured Richard and trustee Hank Meijer in conversation about the surprising things Richard discovered about our 38th President. There were presentations in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Albion. Everywhere we went people expressed great appreciation for Gerald "Our" Ford. The book tour was a meaningful way to kick off the 50th legacy anniversaries of a just and redemptive man.

As a Friend of Ford, you are part of this noble effort. Thank you for supporting our mission and our work.

Forward with the Ford!



Gleaves Whitney  
Executive Director  
Gerald R. Ford  
Presidential  
Foundation





On April 11, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum were excited to host the premiere of *An Ordinary Man*—the long awaited book tour with Richard Norton Smith. The tour consisted of a great conversation between Hank Meijer and Richard Norton Smith as they explored Richard's new book *An Ordinary Man: The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*.

The tour locations included the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Michigan History Center, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, Ford Institute at Albion College, and Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley State University.

***An Ordinary Man: The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*  
By Richard Norton Smith**

From the preeminent presidential scholar and acclaimed biographer of historical figures including George Washington, Herbert Hoover, and Nelson Rockefeller comes this eye-opening life of Gerald R. Ford, whose presidency arguably set the course for post-liberal America and a post-Cold War world.

For many Americans, President Gerald Ford was the genial accident of history who controversially pardoned his Watergate-tarnished predecessor, presided over the fall of Saigon, and became a punching bag on Saturday Night Live. Yet as Richard Norton Smith reveals in a book full of surprises, Ford was an underrated leader whose tough decisions and personal decency look better with the passage of time.

Drawing on hundreds of interviews and thousands of documents, Smith recreates Ford's hardscrabble childhood in Michigan, his early anti-establishment politics and lifelong love affair with the former Betty Bloomer, whose impact on American culture he predicted would outrank his own. As President, Ford guided the nation through its worst Constitutional crisis since the Civil War and broke the back of the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression—accomplishing both with little fanfare or credit, at least until 2001 when the JFK Library gave him its prestigious Profile in Courage Award in belated recognition of the Nixon pardon.

Less coda than curtain raiser, Ford's administration bridged the Republican pragmatism of Eisenhower and Nixon and the more doctrinaire conservatism of Ronald Reagan. His introduction of economic deregulation would transform the American economy, while his embrace of the Helsinki Accords hastened the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Illustrated with sixteen pages of black-and-white photos, this definitive biography, a decade in the making, will change history's views of a man whose warning about presidential arrogance ("God help the country") is more relevant than ever.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



“Richard Norton Smith had brought a lifetime of wisdom, insight, and storytelling verve to the life of a consequential president—Gerald R. Ford. Ford’s is a very American life, and Smith has charted its vicissitudes and import with great grace and illuminating perspective. A marvelous achievement!”

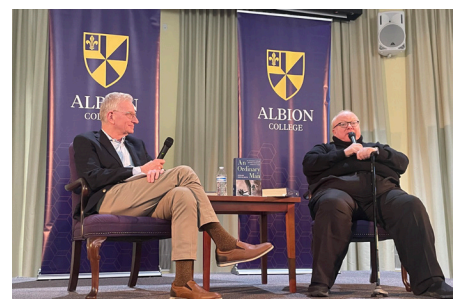
~Jon Meacham



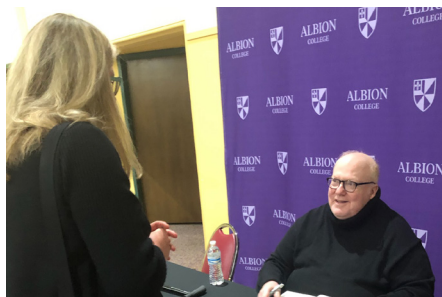
Richard Norton Smith and Hank Meijer  
at the University of Michigan



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library staff  
Stacy and Elizabeth with Gleaves Whitney



Hank Meijer and Richard Norton Smith  
at Albion College



Richard Norton Smith  
signing books at Albion College



Hank Meijer and Richard Norton Smith  
at the Michigan History Center



THE HAUENSTEIN CENTER  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES  
AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY



Albion College



## Message from Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Professor Barry Rabe to Ford Fellow Students



Dear Fordies,

With the passage of time, Gerald Ford becomes more a name on the door of Weill Hall and an image in paintings and photographs throughout its first floor rather than someone who conjures up vivid memories. The pace of Ford School visitors who worked directly with Ford has slowed to a trickle in recent years amid generational transition. Richard Norton Smith's upcoming visit to discuss his long-awaited biography of Gerald Ford, *An Ordinary Man: The Surprising Life and Historic Presidency of Gerald R. Ford*, offers the Ford School community a unique opportunity to better understand the life and political career of a figure who looms large in the development of our School and our ongoing pursuit of its mission. Several previous biographies of Ford have been published and both Gerald and Betty Ford authored memoirs. But Smith's new work promises to be the definitive single-volume account. It incorporates prodigious research that includes exhaustive archival analysis and extended interviews with a diverse range of individuals who knew Ford well, many who have since died. It is an event well worth attending, even as we all near the finish line of a long and exhausting academic year.

I never met Gerald Ford and am neither a biographer nor a scholar of the Presidency. But former Dean Becky Blank asked me not long after I joined the faculty to come up to speed on his historical record, represent the School at events examining his career, and incorporate some "Ford content" into my public management core course. That is a commitment I have maintained over subsequent years and it has led to considerable contact with some of the very figures Smith relied upon for extended interviews. What emerged for me is their deep and abiding respect for Ford's career and engagement in politics and

public service, which is so eminently compatible with the mission of our School. I offer a few reflections from my experience.

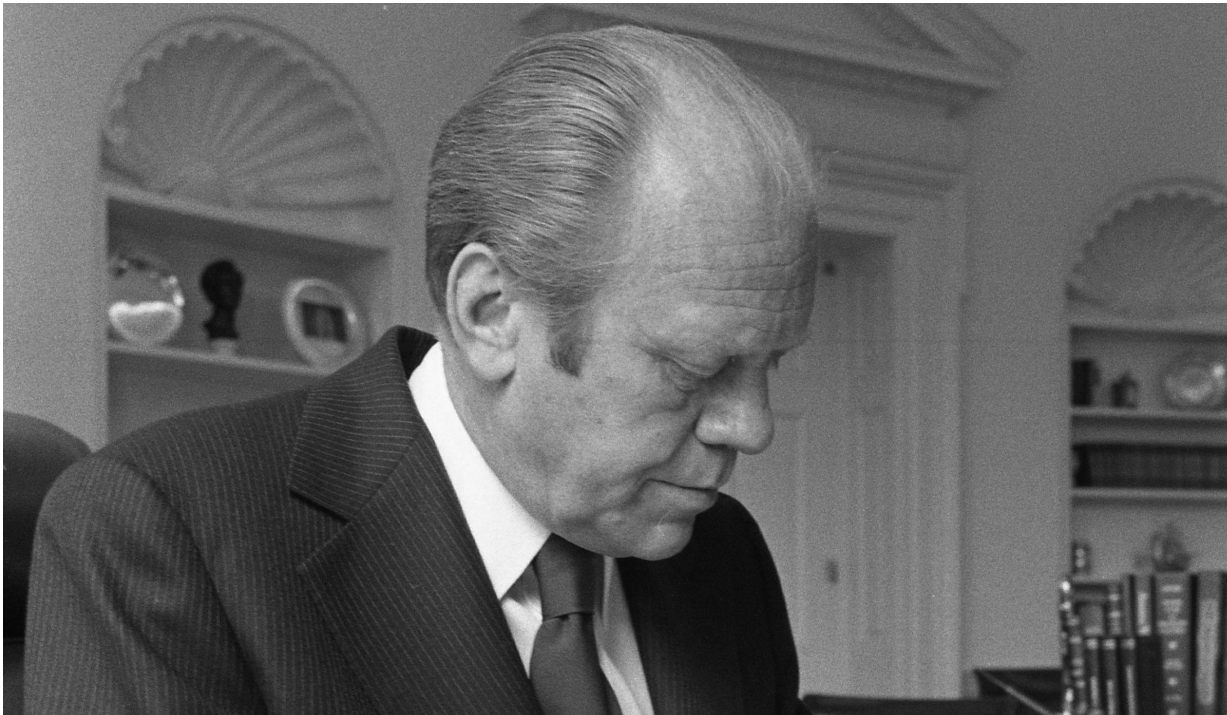
Gerald Ford loved getting into evidence-based public policy long before that became woven into the DNA of the school that bears his name. Paul O'Neill (think Room 1230) often reflected on his experience as a 30-something mid-level budget official who would field unexpected calls at all hours from Ford to discuss innumerable federal budget items, after the President made clear he thought it was his duty to personally lead extended media briefings and be prepared to address any imaginable fiscal policy question. Brent Scowcroft (think Scowcroft Conference Room) emphasized Ford's constant questioning about foreign policy issues, always trying to go deeper into a situation before making decisions, especially when human safety was involved. All of the former Ford Administration members I have ever met describe a level of presidential engagement tempered by a type of humility and kindness unlike anything they experienced elsewhere in their public service careers. Included in that roster is photographer David Kennerly who had unparalleled Oval Office access. He accidentally stumbled into my classroom once, shortly thereafter replacing me at the lectern for the balance of that session.

Gerald Ford never lost an election—until his final one in 1976. He was an upset winner in 1948 in his first Congressional race and remained unbeaten through 1974 re-election. He and Betty Ford were convinced Republicans would not win control of the U.S. House and they prepared for retirement in Grand Rapids. Then the unexpected door to the vice presidency and the "accidental presidency" opened, setting up a daunting race for a full Presidential term. Ford narrowly survived a grueling primary challenge from Ronald Reagan that profoundly divided the

Images courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Page 8: Trip to International Economic Summit Conference in Rambouillet, France, November 17, 1975.

Page 9: President Gerald R. Ford working at his desk in the Oval Office, April 16, 1976.



Republican Party, leaving him trailing Jimmy Carter by more than 30 points entering the national campaign. Ford narrowed the gap, nearly won, and was devastated by the loss. Yet he graciously conceded defeat and immediately set out to complete a seamless transition to the Carter Administration.

Out of that setback emerged a remarkably close and constructive partnership between Ford and Carter. The incoming president began his inaugural address with a remarkable statement: “I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land,” reflecting on Ford’s role in the aftermath of Watergate. Ford was stunned by the remark and the two forged a uniquely robust relationship throughout Carter’s term. They remained close partners and fast friends for their remaining years, even traveling together to events whenever possible. Carter began his eulogy to Ford with the same line he offered in opening his inaugural address—and then closed with it as well.

Finally, it is perhaps appropriate to note how much Gerald Ford loved the University of Michigan. He was a remarkable football player on both offense and defense who turned down an NFL career to attend Yale Law School. And as a first-generation college student without a scholarship, he juggled multiple part-time jobs and maintained a strong academic record without course reductions during football season. He forged a unique bond with Willis Ward, his roommate and the second Black football player to wear the maize and blue uniform, as they confronted efforts by an

opposing team to remove Ward from the field for racial reasons. Whenever Ford returned to campus, he made a beeline for the Big House but also insisted on getting full updates on the Ford School. On more than one occasion, Dean Blank was interrupted during a faculty or executive committee meeting because President Ford called with some question about the School. She would regularly note how absolutely thrilled he was to know that he was being honored in this way, given his deep commitment to public service and public higher education.

Becky often used to say that Gerald Ford’s political career and legacy looked better and better with the passage of time. She said that most recently in December, during her final visit to Weill. Gerald Ford was not the sort of President who enters the conversation of candidates warranting inclusion on Mount Rushmore or meriting a Nobel Prize. But his record of engagement, service, humility, and decency provides an important foundation for us all to consider as we conduct our work in Weill and attempt to make constructive contributions to society during these exceedingly challenging times. Tomorrow, with the release of this new book and conversation with its author, we get a unique opportunity to reflect as a community on this heritage. I hope to see you there.

Warm regards,

Professor Barry Rabe

# Features

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The Economic Club of Grand Rapids honored the 2023 winners of Business Person of the Year and Slykhouse Community Leadership Awards, Tina Freese Decker and Teresa Weatherall Neal. Both awardees are Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Congratulations to Mrs. Decker and Mrs. Weatherall Neal!

**Business Person of the Year Award**  
**Tina Freese Decker**  
**President & CEO, Corewell Health**



**Slykhouse Community Leadership Award**  
**Teresa Weatherall Neal**  
**President & CEO, LEAD 616**



## **Michigan Matters: Celebrating First Lady Betty Ford & Frankenmuth's Dorothy Zehnder**

CBS News Detroit

Southfield (CBS Detroit) - As Women's History Month continues, it's a "Michigan Matters" spotlight on two dynamic leaders from our state – former First Lady Betty Ford and Dorothy Zehnder, the 101-year-old restaurant owner from Frankenmuth.

Susan Ford Bales, daughter of the late First Lady and President Gerald Ford, who now lives in Texas, talked with Senior Producer/Host Carol Cain about her Mother and the White House years in this special encore episode. Bales was a teen when her Dad was suddenly thrust into the presidency after President Richard M. Nixon resigned over the Watergate scandal.

Bales told about her Mother, who was raised in Grand Rapids, and how she talked with such candor about important issues that were controversial at the time including substance abuse and alcohol addiction, and surviving breast cancer, since Mrs. Ford dealt with all of them.

Bales recalled lighter moments too, including having her high school prom at the White House.

Donald Holloway, former curator of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, also appeared with Cain to talk about Mrs. Ford's impact. He discussed the unique relationship between the late President and Mrs. Ford.

Then Dorothy Zehnder, who turned 101 on Dec. 1, 2022,



Photograph of First Lady Betty Ford, President Gerald Ford, and Susan Ford playing with their dog Liberty's puppies on the White House lawn.

Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

discussed her inspiring life and career as she helped build Bavarian Inn Restaurant in Frankenmuth with her late husband, Tiny. Several generations of the family work there.

Judith Zehnder Keller, founder and President of Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge, the couple's daughter, also worked in the business. Mrs. Keller, who died last year of cancer, talked about her Mother and her impact. Dorothy was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2020.

Mrs. Keller was a trailblazer for women in business as well as politics, and she shared thoughts on how things have changed for women through the years.

Read the full article by visiting <https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/news/michigan-matters-celebrating-first-lady-betty-ford-frankenmuths-dorothy-zehnder/>

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

## Celebrating Presidents Day Weekend

Image and information provided by keysnews.com

This past February, the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation, in partnership with the Society of Presidential Descendants, hosted a series of events in celebration of Presidents Day Weekend, on the grounds of the Harry S. Truman Little White House.

The centerpiece of the event was a discussion among presidential descendants on the topic of “Working Across the Aisle: American Bipartisanship,” which included our very own Susan Ford Bales; daughter of Gerald Ford, 38th President.



Moderated by Dr. Kurt Graham, director of Independence, Missouri's federally operated Harry S Truman Presidential Library and Museum, this year's scheduled participating presidential descendants were: Susan Ford Bales; Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of Harry S Truman, the 33rd President; Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of 34th President General Dwight D. Eisenhower; Massee McKinley, great-great grandson of 22nd and 24th President Grover Cleveland and great-great nephew of 25th President William McKinley; and Patricia Taft, great-granddaughter of William Howard Taft, the 27th President.

The annual “Presidential Families Weekend and Forum” is the largest Presidents Day Weekend gathering of presidential descendants in the country. Traditionally hosted solely by the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation, in 2022 the foundation partnered for the first time with the recently founded Society of Presidential Descendants, a membership organization for individuals with direct lineage to one or more of the 46 United States Presidents.

## Congratulations, Reagan Zomer!

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Ford Leadership Forum Intern, Reagan Zomer, has officially accepted a full-time position with the Foundation beginning in June. We are excited to have you on board full-time! Congratulations on all of your hard work with the Foundation and graduating from Davenport University.

With the Forum, Reagan will help develop programs and events, recruit students, create mentorship guidelines, and more. Her mission is to instill the values of President Ford in the students of the Forum.



## Happy Birthday!

On March 16, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation staff celebrated Martin Allen, Jr.'s 87th birthday! The Foundation staff is grateful for his continued support, institutional knowledge, and caring personality. Marty makes the Foundation staff a family.

Happy birthday, Marty! We hope it was a wonderful day full of love, laughter, and lots of chocolate!



# Ford Leadership Forum



Americans display declining levels of confidence in our political leaders and in our political system itself. More young people are opting out of politics entirely; according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* poll and report:

- “Some 38% of respondents said patriotism was very important to them...that was down sharply from when the Journal first asked the question in 1998, when 70% deemed patriotism to be very important.”
- “The share of Americans who say that having children, involvement in their community and hard work are important values has also fallen. Tolerance for others, deemed very important by 80% of Americans as recently as four years ago, has fallen to 58% since then.”
- These numbers are especially dramatic among young persons, only 23% of whom say that both patriotism and having children are very important to them.

America has overcome deep divisions before, but this feels different because, rather than being overeager agents of change, young people are withdrawing into themselves. Rather than having them look increasingly inward, our goal is to get young people to look outward. Our goal is to accomplish this through learning, mentoring, and service programs. We are actively partnering with schools, other presidential foundations, and public service programs to create opportunities for young people to develop their virtues.

Our partnership with Baylor University has resulted in on-campus events as well as two major events at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., both of which played to a packed house. We’ve also been partnering with the Woodson Center in Washington, D.C., inviting Mr. Woodson and his associates to Grand Rapids for a day-long summit with local community, education, political, and business leaders, followed by a full panel event in the museum that night. One of our goals is to make Grand Rapids an example to other cities for how cooperative community building can and ought to take place.

We’ve been continuing the process of building partnerships in all the places where President Ford spent much of his life and had an impact, most importantly in Washington, D.C. and in the Coachella Valley. We’ve been especially encouraged by the warm response to our initiatives in the area where President Ford spent the last years of his life. We’ve also been busy working with the Carter Center and *More Perfect* and the National Constitution Center to build programs that focus on civic education. On April 20th we hosted, along with the Charter School office at Grand Valley and the National Constitution Center, a summit that featured over forty school board presidents from around the state of Michigan.

Probably the most important initiative of this year has been the launch of our new website: [www.fordforum.org](http://www.fordforum.org). With already over 10,000 subscribers, the website is filling an important niche in today’s America. In addition to informing the public about our programs, the website delivers original content. We have commissioned new essays on issues that matter to the American public; “reflection” essays that meditate on other material available on the internet; and, maybe most importantly, a “heritage” series that introduces or reintroduces readers to important themes, figures, events, and works from American history.

We’ve been continuing to build campus chapters around the country. Whereas other student groups tend to be “affinity groups,” our groups are intentionally inviting students of different beliefs and backgrounds, teaching them how to engage in civil dialogue. Campus conversations have been augmented by our “deep learning seminars” where we bring students from different campuses to the DeVos Learning Center for lengthier conversations designed to get them engaged in first principles. This past semester we hosted seminars on “civic friendship” and the difference between good people and good leaders.

## Current Ford Leadership Forum Chapters

Albion College  
Grand Valley State University  
Hope College  
Houston Christian University (pictured)  
Middle Tennessee State University



## Past Events

### A Black History Month Event, “Restoring Our Communities: Social Activism and Local Solutions,” with Bob Woodson and Associates

On February 28, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Ford Leadership Forum welcomed Robert Woodson of the Woodson Center, along with his associates, to Grand Rapids for a conversation on grassroots solutions to social problems, on how to reduce violence, and how we can go about creating resilient citizens and communities.



Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.fordforum.org/2023/02/28/restoring-our-communities-with-bob-woodson/](http://www.fordforum.org/2023/02/28/restoring-our-communities-with-bob-woodson/)



### A Women’s History Month Event, “The Black Intellectual Tradition,” with Angel Parham

Dr. Angel Adams Parham demonstrated the importance of the Black intellectual tradition in America and how much of its strength comes from its immersion in the great texts of the Western tradition. By drawing on students’ own experiences and placing them in “The Great Conversation,” we deepen their experiences of truth, beauty, and goodness – the keys to a flourishing life. Join the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

and Ford Leadership Forum as Dr. Parham shows us how great African-American thinkers have engaged the tradition and how such engagement can become a template for contemporary education.

Watch the recorded program at [www.fordforum.org/2023/03/10/the-black-intellectual-tradition-with-angel-parham/](http://www.fordforum.org/2023/03/10/the-black-intellectual-tradition-with-angel-parham/)

### A message from Carrie Walling, Faculty Director, Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service at Albion College, following the February 18, 2023, Ford Forum seminar.

Thank you for another engaging program today. Students talked about it the entire drive home—what they agreed with, what they disagreed with, the ideas that intrigued them, and provoked them.

I take that as a good sign of engagement and impact.

And one of the challenges I think they/we struggled with was trying to accept a shared definition of friendship—it kept sliding to different understandings.

So thanks for all the work you do to convene this program and being so welcoming.



# Ford Leadership Forum Continued



## Washington, D.C. — Facing Fragility

On October 11, 2022, at a luncheon featuring Jean Twenge and Washington insiders, co-hosted by the Ford Forum and Baylor in Washington they discussed facing fragility. Today's youth are often criticized for their fragility. Indeed, some experts argue that a fear of failing and a hyper-sensitivity to safety keep young people from meeting the normal challenges of life. Is this "fragility" real, or is this nothing more than the age-old concern: "kids these days!" If young people are demonstrably more fragile, why is this? Most importantly, what are the best cures for fragility? Some experts say that by cultivating "resilience," young people can recover hope, creativity, and courage. Are they right? And how, in any event, is resilience to be cultivated?



## Houston, Texas — What is Courage?

On November 12th, 2022, the Ford Leadership Forum partnered with Houston Christian University to host a virtual event, "What is Courage?" "No man is a hero to his valet." So goes the old saying, indicating in part that public displays of courage are often not what they seem to be. People might think they're doing something courageous while not actually risking anything. Whatever else courage means, it has to include a response to serious risk. In this seminar we will consider Plato's argument in the dialogue Laches concerning the nature of courage and its relationship to prudence and justice.



## Grand Rapids, Michigan — Planning Your Financial Future

On January 11, 2023, students and young professionals heard from Alexander Velting, a Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual. He demonstrated the importance of planning for both short-term and long-term goals, such as paying down debt, wealth accumulation, and tax efficiency. This event helped to educate taking your financial practices to the next level with planning that is tailored to your life and goals.



## Washington, D.C. — The Politics of Forgiveness

On February 8, 2023, the Ford Leadership Forum partnered with Baylor University to host "the Politics of Forgiveness," at the National Press Club. Forgiveness is a Christian virtue. Is it also a political one? To what extent does forgiveness depend on repentance, and upon justice? Some say democracies cannot survive without practicing forgiveness; others that this is too much to expect. Should we resign ourselves to mere toleration, or can forgiveness be approximated in concrete political ways? These are questions at the forefront of American public life, and how we answer them has meaningful implications for our civic leaders. Watch the recorded program by visiting <https://fordforum.org/2023/02/08/the-politics-of-forgiveness/>



## Grand Rapids, Michigan — Civic Friendship

On February 18, 2023, Ford Fellows discussed the intriguing topic of civic friendship and engaged in leadership exercises. Is Civic Friendship Possible? Ever since Aristotle described politics as a mode of civic friendship, political thinkers and actors have adopted it as the model for organizing political life. But is friendship the best analogy for understanding political life? What are the limitations of the model, and are there more useful models for us to consider?



## Grand Rapids, Michigan — Ordinary Virtues and Splendid Vices: Should a Community Tolerate Bad Character?

April 1, 2023. Ford Fellows did not joke about bad character at this Ford Forum seminar. What, exactly, is vice, and why does it captivate our attention and capture our character the way it does? What kinds of vices contribute to good order and what kinds detract? How do we figure out how to tolerate vice while respecting the demands of community, complexity, and freedom itself? Ford Fellows had many engaging conversations and participated in a leadership activity that tested their morals and values.

# DeVos Learning Center

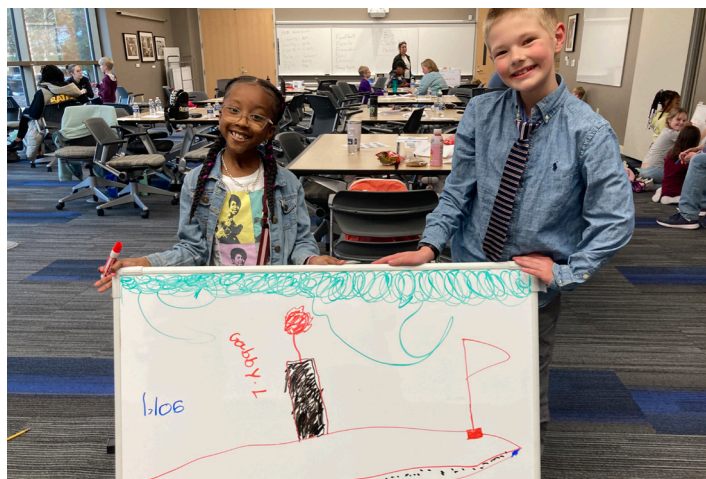
After a pandemic-caused hiatus, the DeVos Learning Center (DVLC) has reopened to school visits as well as other groups that have used the facility for meeting space. Losing our director required a reset of the programs as well as hiring faculty who could teach the Center's curriculum. The slowdown also allowed for some review and updating of the curriculum. Once everything was up and running, we began welcoming schoolchildren back into the Center.

A typical school visit lasts from 10:00AM-2:00PM and involves age-specific activities and learning. The visits are divided between instruction in the DVLC and guided museum tours, and often involve "scavenger hunts" where students are asked to identify markers and events from the lives of the Fords. So far this spring we have welcomed over three hundred students from nine different schools. Our hope is that in the coming school year we will be hosting school groups nearly every day.

In addition, the Ford Leadership Forum sponsored and organized two summits this past spring in the DVLC. The first event brought together leaders from the Woodson Center in Washington DC and included community, political, business, and educational leaders from the West Michigan area. The purpose of the summit was to share ideas concerning how to build strong and resilient communities, with special attention paid to how race and the ways we think about race factor in to such efforts.

The second event involved a partnership with the Charter Schools Office at Grand Valley State University as well as the National Constitution Center, and summoned from across the state presidents of school boards to discuss leadership strategies for governance of local school boards, as well as ways to promote civic education. The event began with opening addresses from Executive Director Gleaves Whitney and Ford Leadership Forum Director Jeff Polet and concluded with a series of Jefferson Dinners that brought the conversation deep into the evening.

The main focus of the DVLC remains on getting as many school groups as possible to learn from the curriculum and the museum environs. We expect that the 2023-2024 school year will witness a significant increase.



**Learn more about the  
DeVos Learning Center by visiting  
[www.devoslearningcenter.org](http://www.devoslearningcenter.org)**

# Ford Institute at Albion College

This past academic year has been a historic one for the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service at Albion College. Between hosting sailors from the USS Ford in the fall, hearing from Ford biographer Richard Norton Smith in the spring, and trips to the Ford Museum in between, we celebrated our 45th anniversary. Since 1977, Albion College has shared the lessons and legacy of President Ford with generations of public servants.

Albion's relationship with Gerald Ford goes back to 1963. As a member of Congress, he caught the attention of Albion College alumni in Grand Rapids and was invited to serve on Albion College's Board of Trustees. Due to his increasing leadership roles in Congress, Representative Ford only served on the board for five years, but even after his tenure he stayed engaged with the students and faculty of Albion College. To honor his character and accomplishments, Albion bestowed upon him an honorary doctorate degree in 1965. 48 years later, the college would bestow the same honor on his youngest child, Susan Ford Bales. Upon receiving her honorary degree, Ms. Ford Bales thanked the college and said, "I know how very proud dad would be that his daughter is being honored by this institution that he loved and respected."

As Representative Ford became Vice President Ford and ultimately President Ford, his support of Albion College stayed consistent. Upon leaving the White House, he realized his service to his nation was not complete. In order to see our country prosper, the next generation of public servants needed the proper education and training. In October of 1977, President Ford returned to the small liberal arts college that he was so fond of and founded the program that bears his name. In the college's Goodrich Chapel, he told an at-capacity crowd that "I believe

it is the duty of good men and women to enter public service as our best hopes of strengthening the moral fiber not only in but outside government. In this belief I am honored and I am proud to make the announcement of the establishment of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service at Albion College. Our forefathers, when they wrote the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, had a dream of freedom, liberty, and prosperity. That dream has not been fully realized, but with the participation of those who go to the institute, that dream can become a reality."

After 45 years and an expansion of our title, the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service continues to instill in the next generation of leaders the vision outlined by President Ford. Our current cohort of 90 "Fordies" have academic interests that represent 25 different majors and career paths that are even more wide ranging, but all share a passion for making the world a better place. As members of the Ford Institute, they will take classes, complete volunteer work, hear from expert lecturers, and complete an individually designed internship in order to gain an understanding of the policy process and what it means to be an engaged citizen. Ultimately, they will join a network of 900 diverse alumni who have become legislators, attorneys, doctors, priests, educators, historians, activists, and leaders in a multitude of other fields.

As our students and alumni make an impact in their communities, the legacy of Gerald Ford is personified. By using the former President as an example of moral integrity, empathetic leadership, civil discourse, and public service, members understand what it means to be an engaged citizen who makes a positive difference. The Ford Institute looks forward to another 45 years (and beyond) of implementing the vision of our founder.

## Featured Students of the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service



**Andrew Sowa**

Major in Finance with a minor in Political Science

The Gerald R. Ford Institute at Albion College has challenged me to become a better student, person, and most importantly a leader. Through service activities, community collaborations, and academic speakers I learned what it meant to become a holistic leader embedded with the principles of stewardship, professionalism, and patience. The legacy of Gerald R. Ford has served as an inspiring reminder of the transformative work that can transpire out of our hard work and leadership. As I enter into my professional career, I think of the words of President Ford when he said "Never be satisfied with less than your very best effort. If you strive for the top and miss, you'll still 'beat the pack'".



**Chris Kerber**

Double Major in Economics & Management and Political Science

President Ford's legacy is deeply intertwined with the mission to the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and service. His lifelong commitment to public service and his unwavering dedication to principles of integrity, civility, and bipartisanship serve as an inspiration to our students and faculty alike. Through all of its programs and initiatives, the Ford Institute truly strives to prepare the next generation of leaders to embody these values and make a positive impact in the communities and beyond.



From left to right: Maria Heyboer, '26, Alia Olan, '23, Christopher Kerber, '23, Wyatt Falardeau, '26, Eddie Visco, Donna Calvaruso, Joe Calvaruso, '78, Carrie Booth Walling, Andrew Sowa, '23, Beata Karwaczka, '26, Stanley Chidozirim, '26, Valentine Ansumana, '26, Natasha Mwila, '23

## New 'Fordies' sign in to Ford Institute at Albion College

By Ward Mullens

Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

That was certainly the case when President Gerald R. Ford signed his name at Albion College, Oct. 3, 1977 and established the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership and Public Policy in Service.

President Ford's legacy in helping to develop community minded leaders has continued for the past 45 years and has seen hundreds of "Fordies" go on to carry out that mission.

The newest class of "Fordies" started a new tradition at the institute recently (Jan. 27) as they signed their names as new members of the Ford Institute and took up the mantle that Ford carried.

The day-long celebration at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation in Grand Rapids featured a tour of the Ford Presidential Museum, an introduction to the new Ford Leadership Forum that connects students from around the state, an address by Albion College Interim President and former Ford Presidential Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso and lunch. Approximately 10 new "Fordies" signed, according to Dr. Carrie Walling, faculty director of Albion's Ford Institute.

"These are students who are interested in making an impact, not just in their communities, but in the world," said Albion College Interim President Joe Calvaruso. "We are honored to have such a strong relationship with the Ford Foundation and the Ford family to provide these kinds of opportunities to help them develop as leaders."

"We want our new cohort of Ford students to feel a strong sense of connection with the "Fordies" who have come before them and with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation," said Walling. "We want them to feel the connection to President Ford and the Ford Presidential Foundation. They sat at President Ford's personal desk in his personal office at the Ford Foundation and they signed their name into membership."

Eddie Visco, '04, the current executive director and a graduate of the Ford Institute, knows what it means to be a Fordie.

"The Ford Institute is what brought me to Albion (twice!)," said Visco, who returned to his alma mater in 2011 and became the executive director in 2021. "As an undergraduate student, I enjoyed building relationships with faculty and staff and my peers, hearing from impressive speakers, interning in our nation's capital, and learning about the Albion community through volunteer work. All of these experiences provided a valuable insight to the policy process and what public service looks like. As a staff member of the Ford Institute, it is inspiring to see the next generation of leaders passionate about making a positive difference, and I consider myself lucky to be a part of their development."

Chris Kerber, a current "Fordie" and Prentiss M. Brown Honors College member, agreed.

"I'll never forget freshman year exploring the town with our class. We met with community leaders and small business owners to learn about their challenges and how we as students can get involved in our home-away-from-home," Kerber said. "But we weren't just identifying problems or areas of improvements, we were also creating solutions as well, several of which have been implemented around the city. An immediate lesson emerged from this, that no matter how big or how small an action, whether it be volunteering or leading a country, we can all make a difference."

"The Ford Institute embraces Albion's Liberal Arts philosophy. Students are exposed to topics like economics, statistics, philosophy, ethics and more — in order to create well-rounded leaders who are ready to make a stand. I personally have found myself constantly applying this broad base of knowledge in the real world throughout internships in the public and private sector," said Kerber.

The Gerald Ford Institute for Public Service exists to enhance student awareness, understanding and appreciation of life's public dimensions. It strives to develop leaders and engaged citizens who understand the competing and conflicting interests of our world and strengthen their ability to advocate for the greater good.

# A Message from the Library & Museum

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Happy Spring! The Library and Museum are officially gearing up for the 50th anniversary celebrations, with an in-house exhibit on the Vice Presidency to debut in August! *A Heartbeat Away* will explore the office of the Vice President, examining how it changed over time and diving into the stories of particular Vice Presidents. Right now, visitors to the Museum can enjoy the temporary exhibit *America at the Crossroads: The GUITAR and a Changing Nation*. This exhibit has been a lot of fun, and we have had the opportunity to host several terrific programs in conjunction with it. I truly enjoyed our evening with Reverend Jones - what a special program that was! We co-sponsored this event with the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives (GRAAMA) - if you missed it, please visit our YouTube page to watch the video.



We have hosted Brown Bag discussions at both the Museum and the Library in the past six months. The Library's was held near Veterans Day and, as such, the staff pulled together some great, rarely before seen/heard items from President Ford's military service. A highlight was a letter from a former flame of Ford's during his time at the Chapel Hill flight school - which included a shoutout to Ted Williams! The Museum's Brown Bag focused on President Ford's role in recognizing Black History Month, showcasing an Ed Dwight sculpture ("Hands That Once Picked Cotton Now Can Pick Our Public Officials").

Staff at both facilities also participated in volunteer activities during the holidays. The Museum staff helped pack food boxes for senior citizens at Kent County Community Action, and the Library staff volunteered at Food Gatherers, an Ann Arbor food bank. It was truly rewarding to give back to each of our local communities, and we look forward to doing this again!

Some additional highlights from the past few months have included: an AP (Advanced Placement) class from Clinton High School visited the Library; the Museum hosted two naturalization ceremonies; partnering with Endless Opportunities, a Grand Rapids organization whose mission is to mentor the younger generations; and groups from Leader Dogs for the Blind visited both the Library and Museum with their service dogs in training. The latter was a special treat given that President and Mrs. Ford donated one of Liberty's puppies to this program!

I do want to provide an update on the Museum's outdoor water feature, as many have been asking about its status. Some historical context: The water feature was added to the grounds of the building after dedication and paid for with a private donation. After nearly 40 years of use, it fell into disrepair in 2019. In 2021, the National Archives and Records Administration (which administers the Presidential Library and Museum) funded an engineering study to determine the extent of the repairs and renovations needed to return the fountain to its previous state, as well as provide options for retrofitting the space in whole or in part. In looking at these options and considering sustainability for the future, the Foundation and NARA would like to renovate the fountain complex. To do this, we need to raise nearly \$4 million dollars. I understand that there may be questions or confusion as to why the federal government is not funding this project at this time. Unfortunately, when considering facility needs or projects in annual budgets, critical needs will always come first. A water feature, sadly, cannot compete with mechanical failures and/or safety measures at federal sites.

Finally, we have had some staff turnover of late. Museum Technician Sara Zabriskie accepted a promotion at the Lewis Army Museum near Tacoma, Washington. Kristin Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist, also accepted a promotion within the National Archives. And Exhibits Specialist Bettina Cousineau retired after 25 years of federal service! We are so happy for each of them and wish them all the best!! We are in the process of backfilling these positions, but in the interim, their absence is felt!

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Clement". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke Clement

# Library & Museum News

## Congratulations on your retirement, Captain Ron Krussell!

Captain Ron Krussell, a dedicated security professional to the Ford Museum for over four decades, retired as the full-time security site supervisor in January of 2023. Ron's unswerving contributions to the safety and security of both the Museum and Library bring unmeasured credit to not only the two Ford facilities but also to NARA and to himself and his many years of committed service.

Ron's successor? No unfamiliar face! Anthony "Tony" Whitehead has served the security needs of the Ford Museum in various roles for over three decades. Pictured in the right image, the Museum's Deputy Director, Joel Westphal, pinned Tony with his Captain bars in a short ceremony.



## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library Staff Volunteer at Food Gatherers

Five volunteers, 10 total work hours, and 866 pounds of produce rescued: those are the statistics behind the Ford Library staff's recent volunteer trip to Food Gatherers, a local Ann Arbor food bank and food rescue program. Five Library staff (Stacy Davis, Elizabeth Druga, Geir Gundersen, Tim Holtz, and Lauren White) visited the Food Gatherers' warehouse on December 14, sorting through unused produce donated by restaurants and grocery stores, "rescuing" those fruits and vegetables that were still good to eat and composting the rest. The 866 pounds of rescued produce will be distributed to Washtenaw County residents in need through Food Gatherers' public food pantries and meal programs.

President Ford noted in a message for the 14th Annual United Nations Dinner, saluting the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, "The ability of the world to feed its billions of people is under unprecedented challenge." The issue of hunger in our communities remains as prevalent today, and the Ford Library staff were thankful and humbled by the opportunity to volunteer their time during the holiday season.

# Library & Museum News Continued

## Clinton High School Students Visit Ford Library

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the Ford Library and Museum's education and teaching efforts over the past two years, but this December the Library was happy to welcome a group of students from Clinton High School for a tour and research visit.

Social Studies teacher Tyler George's class of 20 students in Advanced Placement History stopped by on December 16 to tour the Library's exhibit and research spaces, learn about the Presidential Library system, see how the Ford Library manages historical documents, and do some hands-on research of their own with primary sources from the Ford administration. Research topics included the Warren Commission, the Nixon pardon, and Fall of Saigon, among others.

The students learned a lot not only about the events for which they were examining records, but also about the records themselves. One team, when they noticed that all of their documents were marked SECRET, wondered if the strikethrough meant that they had been declassified. They were thrilled to find out that the answer is yes, and that they were allowed to see files that had previously been restricted.

As part of their trip, all of the students completed Researcher registration cards so that they can return on their own for the next year. Their next step for their class is to choose a topic on which they will write a thesis paper, and we hope that many of them will take the opportunity to return and utilize the resources we offer.

Of the class' visit, Mr. George said, "The trip was awesome and I am hoping to book annually!"



Curator Dr. Mirelle Luecke stands with volunteers Larry Avery and Andy Seif (not pictured, Mike Peterman) who helped build and install the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Express train.



## Congratulations on your retirement, Bettina Cousineau!

In March, Bettina Cousineau retired after twenty-five years of service as the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum's Exhibits Specialist. During her time at the Museum, she helped develop many temporary exhibits including *The World of Lewis and Clark*, *Growing Up Grand: Jerry Ford at 100*, *The Presidential Express*, and *In Step With Betty Ford: A Celebration of Her Centennial*.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

### Preamble Scramble

The Constitution of the United States outlines the basics of our government, and it starts with a special section called the Preamble. The Preamble outlines what the people who wrote the Constitution wanted to accomplish.

We've removed some words from the Preamble, and scrambled up their letters. Can you put everything back in the right order?

"We the 1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect 2. \_\_\_\_\_, establish 3. \_\_\_\_\_, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general 4. \_\_\_\_\_, and secure the Blessings of 5. \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of 6. \_\_\_\_\_."

1. olePpe
2. onniU
3. tcJeisu
4. fleWrae
5. bretyiL
6. acemAir

Do know the meanings of these words? Write them in if you do. If not, look them up!

**Tranquility** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Posterity** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Think about this: Why did the authors of the Constitution capitalize certain words. What makes those words different?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer Key can be found on page 38.**

# Past Events

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## Connected Soldiers

### Colonel Spencer

On November 9, 2022, in honor of Veterans' Day, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation welcomed Colonel John Spencer to the stage. He discussed his book *Connected Soldiers: Life, Leadership, and Social Connections in Modern War*.

In *Connected Soldiers*, Colonel Spencer addresses how the positives and negatives of instant connections and social media can impact the military's ability to build cohesive teams and perform during and after combat. The lessons operating effectively in this new connected world apply as much to the military as they do to business, families, and our personal lives.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/connected-soldiers/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/connected-soldiers/)

## Becoming FDR

### Johnathan Darman

On December 7, 2022, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed Jonathan Darman to discuss his book, *Becoming FDR: The Personal Crisis That Made a President*.

*Becoming FDR* traces the riveting story of the struggle with polio that forged Roosevelt's character and political ascent. By the time he reemerged on the national stage in 1928 as the Democratic candidate for governor of New York, his character and his abilities had been transformed.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/becoming-fdr-with-jonathan-darman/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/becoming-fdr-with-jonathan-darman/)



## Eyeing The Bench: A Supreme Court Panel

### James Romoser and Adam Libtak

Image and information provided by the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

The past year has been monumental for the United States Supreme Court. The court has announced controversial opinions with sweeping effects across several national issues including immigration and reproductive rights. Public opinion of the court has declined; recent rulings have led to unprecedented levels of polarization and heralded the return of old critiques about the court's non-partisan role in the American system of government.

On December 8, 2022, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed Supreme Court journalists James Romoser (SCOTUSBlog) and Adam Liptak (The New York Times) for a conversation about the impact of recent Supreme Court rulings and explore what is next for our highest court.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/eyeing-the-bench-a-supreme-court-panel/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/eyeing-the-bench-a-supreme-court-panel/)

## ***America At the Crossroads: A GUITAR and a Changing Nation Exhibit***

*America At the Crossroads* looks at America's evolution through the lens of its most popular instrument—an instrument that has been part of our cultural heritage since the country's founding. The guitar has been a symbol for everything from generational differences and racial divides to politics, consumer marketing, and fashionable relevance. This exhibit is a touring exhibition of The National GUITAR Museum.



### **Exhibit Opening**

Dick Boak

On January 27, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed Dick Boak to open the Museum's new exhibit *America at the Crossroads: The GUITAR and A Changing Nation*. As an author, historian, and guitar builder for Martin guitars, Dick Boak brought these instruments to life. A Martin isn't just a guitar. It's playable history; part of a long line of legendary instruments stretching back to the company's beginnings in 1833.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/exhibit-opening-with-dick-boak/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/exhibit-opening-with-dick-boak/)

### **An Evening with Reverend Robert Jones**

On February 17, 2023, the Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed Reverend Robert B. Jones Sr. for an evening of music in conjunction with the featured exhibit on display at the Ford Museum. *America at the Crossroads: The GUITAR and a Changing Nation* delves into the history of the instrument and its influence on American history. The exhibit was on loan from the National GUITAR Museum.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/an-evening-with-reverend-robert-jones/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/an-evening-with-reverend-robert-jones/)



### **Guitarmania to Beatlemania**

Laurence Juber

On April 20, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed Laurence Juber as he presented an illustrated history of the acoustic guitar and its role in music. This session of 'guitarology' focuses on the six-string guitar and its relatives from its roots in antiquity through its explosive popularity in early 19th century Europe and documents the instrument's subsequent journey to the United States, its mass marketing, social function, and continued utility in popular music.

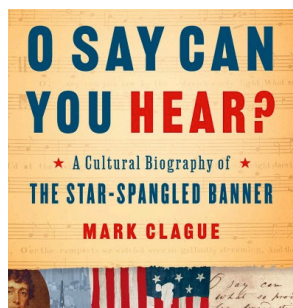
Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/guitarmania-to-beatlemania/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/guitarmania-to-beatlemania/)

### **O Say Can You Hear?**

Mark Clague

On April 26, 2023, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum welcomed University of Michigan musicology and American Culture professor Mark Clague to recount the history of "The Star Spangled Banner" and how its meaning has evolved.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/mark-clague/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/mark-clague/)





## Watergate: When the Seventies Really Began

H.W. Brands

Gerald Ford went from the House Minority Leader to Vice President to President in less than one year. He became our nation's first unelected Vice President and first unelected President under the 25th amendment. Ford's life mirrored the roller-coaster of his times—the 1970s.

On December 13, 2022, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, and Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at GVSU welcomed H.W. Brands back to West Michigan. Bill's command of history and his skill as a storyteller deepened our insights into the 1970s and Ford's place in that pivotal decade.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/watergate-when-the-seventies-really-began-with-h-w-brands/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/watergate-when-the-seventies-really-began-with-h-w-brands/)

## Frankie Welch and the First Lady

Ashley Callahan

Frankie Welch and Betty Ford shared a friendship and a love of fashion. In 1963, Welch, who was from Georgia, opened a dress shop in Alexandria, Virginia, that became a social and shopping mecca among Washington's political elite. When she debuted her first scarf design, the Cherokee Alphabet, Ford was one of her models. When Ford needed to select an outfit for her husband's swearing-in, Welch was there to assist. On April 6, 2023, Ashley Callahan introduced Frankie Welch and highlighted her connections with Betty Ford. It was based on the recent publication from the University of Georgia Press, *Frankie Welch's Americana: Fashion, Scarves, and Politics*.

Watch the recorded program by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/frankie-welch-and-the-first-lady-with-ashley-callahan/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/frankie-welch-and-the-first-lady-with-ashley-callahan/)



## 2023 Progressive/Conservative Summit:

### Preventing Political Violence

Javed Ali, Congressman Charlie Dent, David LaGrand, Adam London, and Peter Meijer

Incidents of political violence have surged in recent years, leaving our national, state, and local government officials fearful for the safety of themselves and their families. On April 19, the 2023 Progressive / Conservative Summit brought policymakers and scholars together to find actionable common ground on issues facing our polarized democracy. This half-day event explored the theme of political violence in the United States and offered the opportunity for victims to speak about their experiences. The

Common Ground Initiative, in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, invited the public to learn about the history of political violence and what we can do to promote a politics of nonviolence.

Watch the recorded programs by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/2023-progressive-conservative-summit/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/2023-progressive-conservative-summit/)



For more information on our upcoming events and partnerships,  
please visit [www.GeraldRFordFoundation.org](http://www.GeraldRFordFoundation.org)

# *2023 America's First Ladies Luncheon*

## *"First Ladies Pat Nixon and Betty Ford: Lives of Leadership, Courage, and Grace."*

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation welcomed Ed Cox, son-in-law of President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon; Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford; Patti Matson, former Assistant Press Secretary to First Ladies Pat Nixon and Betty Ford; and moderator, Rick Albin, political reporter. These special guests spoke about the leadership, courage, and grace of First Ladies Pat Nixon and Betty Ford.

### **Nixon's son-in-law recalls White House departure at luncheon in Grand Rapids**

by: Rick Albin, WOOD TV 8

Posted: Apr 27, 2023

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation held its annual America's First Ladies event in Grand Rapids Thursday.

The program took an in-depth look at two first ladies, Betty Ford and Pat Nixon, and their contributions in a moderated conversation entitled *Lives of Leadership, Courage and Grace*.

The program was first imagined by Susan Ford Bales, President Gerald R. Ford and first lady Betty Ford's only daughter. Ford Bales was one of the guests sharing memories of the first ladies. She was joined by Edward Cox, the husband of Tricia Nixon Cox, the daughter of President Richard Nixon and Pat Nixon; and Patti Matson, who handled press duties for both women.

"The main thing that they both had was this great empathy for people and their kindness," Matson said of the two women.

Ford Bales talked about the connection between the two first ladies born out of shared experience.

"My mother was close to Pat," she said. "The had been through so much together, just like my mother became good friends with Nancy Reagan. There are only so many people who have been in

this fishbowl that understand where you're coming from and so they become dear friends. Lady Bird (Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Johnson) was another one who was a dear friend."

One of those shared experiences was that day that President Nixon was leaving office after resigning and President Ford was about to take office. Edward Cox, son-in-law, was there as President Nixon said goodbye to his staff. Cox remembers well the helicopter ride to Andrews Air Base after Nixon resigned.

"Then we got on the helicopter, (the Fords) accompanied us there ... and we went on to San Clemente with President and Mrs. Nixon," Cox recalled. "As we passed by the Washington Monument, the president is there, I'm sitting here and Mrs. Nixon next to him... I said, 'Mr. President, in 10 years, you'll be back.' That's the kind of person he was and Mrs. Nixon was; they were fighters. Ten years later, by order of Katherine Graham, who booked him to give a speech, he was on the cover of Newsweek saying 'He's back.'"

At the event, the Ford Foundation unveiled the new White House Christmas ornament from the White House Historical Association. Each year, the group produces an ornament that recognizes presidents and their time in office. This year, it honors the Ford presidency with an ornament that includes his Boy Scout troop number (Ford is the only president to reach the rank of Eagle Scout), his jersey number while playing football at the University of Michigan and a picture of the USS Gerald R. Ford, the first of the new Ford class of aircraft carrier.

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# Featured Trustee - Dr. Maria Cimitile

Professor of Philosophy in Honors College, and Academic Consultant  
at Grand Valley State University

Dr. Maria Cimitile has served on the board of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation since 2017. She currently chairs the Strategic Planning subcommittee, and co-chairs the DeVos Learning Initiatives Committee. Prior to her appointment to the board, she has worked with the foundation since 2012 assisting with the DeVos Learning Center inception and curriculum, chairing the strategic planning group for the center, and serving on the hiring committee for the inaugural director of the center. Dr. Cimitile has lived in Grand Rapids for over 20 years and has worked at Grand Valley State University as a professor and administrator, leaving her last administrative post as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs in 2021. Dr. Cimitile earned her A.B at the College of the Holy Cross, her M.A at Villanova University, and her Ph. D at the University of Memphis, all in philosophy. Dr. Cimitile also serves on the Varnum Law Offices Community Diversity Board, and the Van Andel Institute Graduate School Board of Directors.



## Featured Friend of Ford



### Richard Oliphant

A native of Iowa who majored in mathematics at the University of Iowa, Dick has justly “been accused of being a visionary and doer.” As a builder and developer his imprint can be found on the landscape of different places, particularly the Coachella Valley. An engineer engaged in community-building and betterment, his lifelong motto that “Community Service is the Price you Pay for the Space you Occupy” reveals his heart for giving back. Perhaps the best example of this is his commitment to education. He was instrumental in working with the State University system in California to open a four-year campus in the desert, from which he later received an honorary doctorate. His work with and support of the public schools in the area led the Desert Sands Public School District to name an elementary school after him. He also formed the desert’s first volunteer fire department and served for years as a fireman and paramedic. He served on Indian Wells’s city council and then later as mayor for eight years. Space restrictions prohibits us from listing all his awards and accomplishments. Dick

remembers fondly his times with President Ford. “Occasionally, Penny Circle, the Presidents secretary, would call me and ask if I could come over and speak with the President. I always accepted and would come to his office. We would be setting in his office overlooking the Thunderbird Country Club and discuss local issues. He liked to keep up with the community. Penny would always tell me, ‘only stay for a half an hour as the President is very busy.’ After nearly an hour, Penny would come to remind me it was time to leave. The President would tell her, ‘Dick and I are not finished, he will leave when we are done.’ I would be there sometimes for as much as two hours.” Dick is a living embodiment of the virtues of public service, personal integrity, hard work, good manners, and deep connections to a place that we celebrate here at the Ford Presidential Foundation, and we are thrilled to name him our “Featured Friend of Ford.”

**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 R. Ford and Betty Ford.**

2022 Donor Page Images. Images courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

Page 28-29: Photograph of First Lady Betty Ford greeting the 1976 Cherry Blossom Festival Princesses in the White House Rose Garden, April 7, 1976.

Page 30-31: Photograph of President Gerald R. Ford and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel meeting in the Oval Office, June 7, 1975.

Page 32: This photograph depicts Betty Bloomer, the future Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, Jr. The portrait was featured on the Grand Rapids Herald Society Page. It was used as part of the wedding announcement for William Bloomer (Betty’s brother). July 1937.

# Milestones

## Peter Roussel (October 23, 1941 – December 26, 2022)

Image courtesy of Sam Houston State University



Peter Roussel, Press Secretary for George H. W. Bush, Dies After Battle With Cancer

KBTX News 3  
By Morgan Riddell

BRYAN, Texas (KBTX) - Known for his public speaking and work with three presidents, Peter Roussel died Tuesday at the age of 81 after a battle with cancer.

Roussel worked as the Press Secretary for George H. W. Bush prior to his presidency when Bush was a member of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He also worked as President Gerald R. Ford's staff assistant and Deputy Press Secretary under President Ronald Reagan.

KBTX met with Roussel in 2018, following the death of Barbra Bush. He shared stories about his time with the Bush family.

"Barbara and George Bush are two of the most down-to-earth, sincere, and genuine, help me out I'm running out of adjectives," Roussel said in 2018.

According to Sam Houston State University, Roussel began his career in 1966, working in advertising and public relations with five firms in three cities. He was the Executive Vice President and a managing partner of Neumann Roussel Public Relations prior to joining Sam

Houston State University in 2009. Roussel was distinguished as the S.H.S.U. Philip G. Warner Chair of Journalism, where he worked as a professor teaching the next generation about public relations and press-presidency interactions.

The S.H.S.U. College of Arts and Media posted on social media saying, "it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Roussel, our distinguished Philip G. Warner Chair of Journalism. He lived and taught the value of a life of service and stands as an exemplar for all who were fortunate to know him."

Included in the post was a preview of a recent musical debuted by Roussel. In 2009, Roussel wrote a book about his time as press secretary. He turned that into a play and then a musical in 2022.

Read his obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/houstonchronicle/name/peter-roussel-obituary?id=38509769>

## Rebecca Blank (September 19, 1955 – February 17, 2023)

Image courtesy of OnWisconsin Magazine



Remembering former Ford School Dean Rebecca Blank

President Emerita Mary Sue Coleman and Provost Emeritus Paul N. Courant share their Michigan memories of Rebecca M. Blank, dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy from 1999 to 2007. Blank also served in multiple federal roles and was appointed chancellor of the University of Wisconsin after leaving U-M. She died of cancer Feb. 17 at age 67.

Mary Sue Coleman  
President Emerita

"I first encountered Rebecca Blank, then dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, when I arrived at the University of Michigan in 2002.

"The big issue confronting me and Becky was a compelling imperative to work with President Gerald R. Ford and his friends to raise enough money to build what became known as Weill Hall (named after Sandy and Joan Weill), a building designed by the noted firm Robert A.M. Stern Architects. What a wonderful and effective partner Becky was in that endeavor. She was relentless.

"Provost Paul N. Courant and I did encounter grumbling in some quarters because we permitted the Weills to name the building for a bit less of a donation

than the "posted price." Paul came to the rescue by adopting a new rule, with which Becky was happy to comply. Such naming "exceptions" would only apply only to former U.S. presidents who also happen to be U-M alumni.

"In addition to making possible a wonderful new home for the school, Becky substantially expanded the size of its academic programs (including establishment of an undergraduate program), recruited wonderful new faculty and substantially raised the national profile of this important unit on campus."

Read the full article by visiting <https://record.umich.edu/articles/remembering-former-ford-school-dean-rebecca-blank/>

## Robert D. Hynes (February 29, 1936 – March 3, 2023)

Image and obituary courtesy of Bob's wife, Gail Raiman

Bob Hynes of Arlington, Virginia, passed away March 3, surrounded by love with his wife and friends by his side. He was 87 years old, or a mere 21 as a Leap Year baby.

Bob is survived by Gail Raiman, his adoring wife of almost 40 years; his son Jim, by a previous marriage (Lisa); grandson James Robert; brothers Michael (Carol) and Richard; sister Kathleen, and his beloved nieces and nephews, devoted friends and family.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Bob grew up in Cincinnati, where he was the first of four children. At age 16, Bob's life changed abruptly when, as a renowned high school football running back, he contracted polio. Encased in an iron lung for six months and told he was going to die, Bob changed his life goals from pro football to public policy and beat his death predictions. His steely determination coupled with his strong Jesuit education at St. Xavier High School prepared him for life, following his graduation from the University of Cincinnati with B.A. and J.D. degrees.

After a brief period practicing law, he was director of public affairs and house counsel for the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants in Columbus from 1962-1964. In 1964, he came to Washington, D.C. where he served as Minority Counsel to the Committee on Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives. During that time, he was co-author of a manual of House Procedures, updated editions of which are still used by House Committee counsels today. Bob served as the Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian to Republican Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford and was Assistant Parliamentarian at three Republican National conventions.

In 1972, Bob joined NBC's Washington office as Director of Government Relations. From October – December 1973, while on leave from NBC, Bob served as a member of the legal team for Ford's Congressional confirmation hearings for the vice presidency, the first time the provisions of the 25th Amendment were implemented. Following Ford's successful confirmation, Bob returned to NBC where he was named Vice President, Legislative Liaison in 1981 and appointed Vice President, Washington NBC in 1983, a position he held until his retirement in 1992.

While at NBC, Bob headed the networks' successful efforts seeking to repeal the FCC's financial interest and syndication rules, which prohibited network companies from having any ownership interest in programs they financed and presented on the network. Following his retirement from NBC, he was a partner in the lobbying firm, Colling, Swift & Hynes. In addition, he was a founding partner and participant in the Backroom Politics podcast.

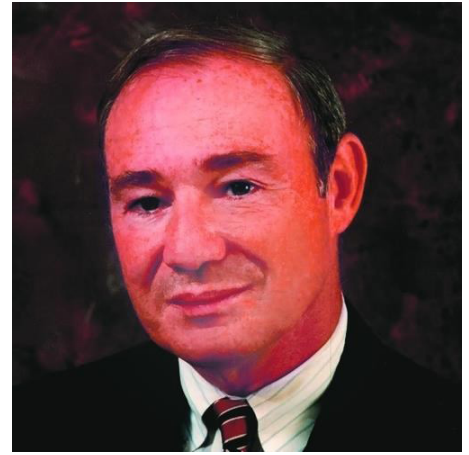
Bob was known for his incredible kindness, warmth, big smile and infectious laugh. He was respectful, humble, brilliant and politically astute, a truly honorable gentleman who loved a good party, jazz, his Irish heritage and the game of golf. Most important was his love for his family and friends, for whom he was always there through thick and thin. Anyone who knew him knew of his and Gail's absolute devotion to each other.

Bob is a past chair of the Arlington County Disability Commission, having served on the Executive Committee of the Citizen's Counsel, advising county government on matters of emergency preparedness. He also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Cincinnati's College of Law and, from 2009-2020, was a trustee of the Gerald R Ford Presidential Foundation which operates the Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan and supports the School of Political Science at the University of Michigan.

## Thinking of You

Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Executive Director Gleaves Whitney would like to personally recognize Gail Raiman, wife of Robert Hynes, in this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, Gail honored Bob with donations in his memory to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

Learn more about Robert's involvement as a Former Trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/trustee-bob-hynes](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/trustee-bob-hynes)



## Bob Orben (March 4, 1927 – February 2, 2023)



Mr. Orben at the White House with President Ford in 1976. He fed jokes to the president and coached him on how to deliver them. Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

### **Bob Orben, One-Man Gag Factory and Speechwriter, Dies at 95** *The New York Times*

By Richard Sandomir  
Published Feb. 8, 2023

Bob Orben, who after writing jokes for Dick Gregory, Jack Paar, Red Skelton and others in the 1960s found a new avenue for his wit when he became a speechwriter for President Gerald R. Ford in 1974, died on Feb. 2 in Alexandria, Va. He was 95.

His death, at a nursing home, was confirmed by his great-niece, Yvette Chevallier.

Mr. Orben was a one-man gag factory. He wrote joke books. He dispatched one-liners to entertainers, politicians and disc jockeys through his subscription newsletter, *Current Comedy*. And he wrote a column, *My Favorite Jokes*, for *Parade* magazine.

“I don’t mean to blow my own horn,” he told *The Washington Post* in 1982, “but between Johnny Carson’s monologues, the political cartoonists such as Herblock and Oliphant, and me, if we all decide what the hot subject in the country is, that’s what it is.”

In 1968, Gerald Ford, a Michigan Republican who was then the House minority leader, needed someone to spice up a speech he was going to give to the Gridiron Club, an organization of journalists whose annual dinner was an opportunity to lampoon political figures. George Murphy, the former actor and United States senator, knew Red Skelton, for whom Mr. Orben was a writer, and recommended him.

Mr. Orben’s goal was to make Ford funny, or at least funnier than Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, another speaker at the dinner. After listening to tapes of Ford’s delivery, Mr. Orben came up with a few zingers.

“Ford was the surprise hit,” Mr. Orben recalled in 2008 in an oral history interview with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Among the Orben lines Ford delivered was the observation that he had no interest in the

presidency, except that “on that long drive back to Alexandria, Virginia, where I live, as I go past 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I do seem to hear a little voice within me saying, ‘If you lived here, you’d be home now.’”

Mr. Orben continued to feed jokes to Ford during his vice presidency. When Ford became president in 1974, after President Richard M. Nixon resigned, he hired Mr. Orben.

A 1975 profile of President Ford in *The New York Times Magazine* quoted him reading aloud from a speech written by Mr. Orben that he was going to give to the Radio and Television Correspondents’ Association. It included references to a prominent Democratic senator and an agriculture secretary known for his off-color remarks.

Continued...

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

"I have only one thing to say about a program that calls for me to follow Bob Hope," he read. "Who arranged this? Scoop Jackson? It's ridiculous. Bob Hope has enormous stage presence, superb comedy writing and the finest writers in the business. I'm standing here in a rented tuxedo — with three jokes from Earl Butz!"

Mr. Orben cautioned the president not to pause when delivering a good one-liner.

"Watch Hope," he told him. "You'll see he really punches through a line."

Mr. Orben fed Ford self-deprecating lines that suited his personality. One of those lines, also delivered in 1975, played off something Lyndon B. Johnson had famously said about him.

"It's a great pleasure — and great honor — to be at Yale Law's Sesquicentennial Convocation," he said. "And I defy anyone to say that and chew gum at the same time."

Mr. Orben became the director of the White House speechwriting staff in early 1976 and served through the end of the Ford administration.

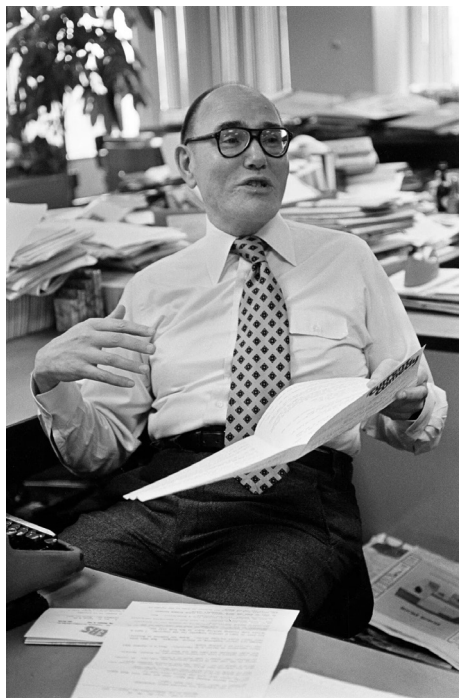
John Mihalec, a speechwriter for President Ford during the 1976 presidential campaign, said it was not surprising that a comedy writer should excel at writing speeches.

"Comedy writing is so precise — the setup and the punch line and everything has to be at exactly the right volume and in the right place," Mr. Mihalec said in a phone interview. "It's good training for the precision of presidential speechwriting."

Robert Orben was born on March 4, 1927, in the Bronx to Walter and Marie Orben. His father was in the hardware business. Bob was smitten by magic at an early age,

and when he was 12 he and his brother, Walter, performed a mentalist act in the Catskill Mountains, "The Boy With the Radio Mind." It flopped.

After graduating from high school in 1943, he attended Drake Business School. He also started his short-lived career in magic.



Bob Orben in 1977. He wrote jokes for Dick Gregory, Jack Paar and Red Skelton before becoming a speechwriter for Gerald R. Ford. Image courtesy of Teresa Zabala *The New York Times*

He was hired as a magic demonstrator in a shop in Manhattan, but he found his métier not in performing magic but in writing about magicians; he was impressed by one magician's onstage comedic patter, which led him to publish a pamphlet, "The Encyclopedia of Patter," in 1946.

Over the next decade he would publish books like "Blue Ribbon Comedy," "The Working Comedian's Gag File," "Tag-Lines," "Bits, Boffs and Banter" and "The Emcee's Handbook." He published dozens of joke collections in his career.

He began writing his comedy newsletter in 1958, and in the 1960s he wrote for "The Jack Paar Program" and then for "The Red Skelton Hour."

After coming to the attention of the groundbreaking Black comedian Dick Gregory, Mr. Orben said, he sent him a page of jokes every day.

Another of his clients was someone very different from Mr. Gregory: Senator Barry Goldwater, the conservative Arizona Republican; Mr. Orben wrote for him during Mr. Goldwater's unsuccessful campaign for the presidency in 1964.

"One of the jokes that I wrote for Greg was talking about Goldwater," Mr. Orben said in the Ford Presidential Foundation interview. "And as you know, the campaign slogan was, 'In your heart, you know he's right.' And Greg used to say, 'In your heart, you know he's white.'"

Mr. Orben never returned to the White House. But he kept writing joke books, among them "2500 Jokes to Start 'Em Laughing" (1979), "2100 Laughs for All Occasions" (1983) and "2000 Surefire Jokes for Speakers" (1986).

He continued to write his newsletter through 1989, as well as writing speeches for business executives and working as a consultant to IBM.

Mr. Orben's wife, Jean (Connelly) Orben, died last year. He leaves no immediate survivors.

In 1974, Mr. Orben was helping Vice President Ford rehearse his speech for the Gridiron Club dinner. One line, about Ronald Reagan, who was then the governor of California, worried Ford: "Governor Reagan does not dye his hair. Let's just say he's turning prematurely orange."

He asked Mr. Orben, "Do you think the governor would take offense at that?"

"Now, I'm looking at this blockbuster joke of the year go up in smoke, but I think I gave him a fair, honest answer," Mr. Orben said in the 2008 oral history interview. "I said, 'You know, Mr. Vice President, Reagan has been in show business a good part of his life. He has gone through a thousand roasts, and I'm sure he has heard dyed-hair jokes. So I really don't think so.'"

To Mr. Orben's relief, Vice President Ford delivered the line.

Article courtesy of *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/08/us/bob-orben-dead.html>

# Why Give to the Ford?

Dear Friends of Ford,

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation has an unrivaled opportunity to champion President and Mrs. Ford in a series of 50th anniversaries over five years, from 2023 to 2027. Never again in our lifetimes will we be able to focus so much of our nation's public discourse on President Ford and leverage that focus to (1) raise awareness of his character and achievements, (2) attract students to study his bipartisan approach to civics and government, and (3) further his legacy through programs and exhibits:

- 2023: 50 years since Ford became Vice President;
- 2024: 50 years since he became President and she began her battle with cancer;
- 2025: 50 years since his integrity and policies helped heal the nation;
- 2026: 50 years since he ran for President with compelling ideas of his own to put America on a better footing, domestically, internationally, and culturally;
- 2026: 50 years also since President Ford helped lead Americans in the celebration of their bicentennial; and 250 years since America was founded;
- 2027: 50 years since President and Mrs. Ford left the White House, thus inviting assessment of their legacy—a legacy that speaks powerfully to our need today to form a more perfect union around the better angels of our nature.



Let's be ambitious for the Ford. Let's honor the 38th President and First Lady by resolving to do more to further their legacy. This is our time to speak to a divided nation; our opportunity to raise up a new generation of virtue-anchored leaders.

Forward with the Ford!

**Please donate by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/donate](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/donate) or by contacting Abby Vander Vliet at 616.254.0396 or email [ford@38foundation.org](mailto:ford@38foundation.org). See page 39 for additional information.**

## Growing Democracy Answer Key:

1. People
2. Union
3. Justice
4. Welfare
5. Liberty
6. America

**Tranquility** means peace, so “domestic Tranquility” means peace in our nation.

**Posterity** means the people who came after the writers, so “to ourselves and our Posterity meant that they wanted the Constitution to last.”

## Official 2023 White House Christmas Ornament (Back Cover)

The White House Historical Association released the Official 2023 White House Christmas Ornament: 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.

The only ornament of its kind, the Official White House Christmas Ornament is produced by the White House Historical Association, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, and made in America by a veteran-founded business. Each ornament helps fund the work of the Association's historians, researchers, and educators to open the doors to the rich history of the “people's house” for millions of Americans. The ornament includes these emblems related to the life and presidency of Gerald R. Ford:

- “Troop 15” signifying Ford's success in earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievable Boy Scout rank
- A football bearing the number “48,” which Ford wore when playing for the University of Michigan
- An image of Liberty, the Ford family's famous dog, who had a litter of puppies while in the White House
- A Bicentennial pin signifying President and Mrs. Ford's contributions to celebrating America's Bicentennial
- An emblem for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) highlighting the first-in-class aircraft carrier commissioned to honor the thirty-eighth president as the flagship of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group
- A gold plaque featuring a view toward the North Portico of the White House identifying Ford's presidency from 1974 to 1976

The Official White House Christmas Ornament is available at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum store or online at [shop.whitehousehistory.org](http://shop.whitehousehistory.org).



Image of President Richard Nixon, Pat Nixon, Vice President Gerald Ford, and Betty Ford walking from the White House to the President's helicopter, August 9, 1974.  
Image courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.



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

Become a member of Friends of Ford to help support the Foundation's civic and leadership initiatives as well as the Library and Museum's exciting exhibits and programs. Join us as we seek to enhance public understanding of American history, government, and culture.

- Participate in special Library and Museum activities that are not open to the general public
- Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
- Advance notification of speakers and exhibits at both the Library and Museum
- Invitation to exclusive exhibit tours by staff members
- Foundation Newsletters
- 10% discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
- Free admission to other Presidential Libraries and Museums
- Membership card
- Check out our membership levels by visiting [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/membership](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/membership)

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Details on page 38



THE OFFICIAL 2023 WHITE HOUSE

# Christmas ORNAMENT

We have a full fall schedule of events including Gordon Wood, H.W. Brands, John Robert Greene, Elizabeth Lev and Thomas Williams, and more! Keep an eye on our website and your mailbox for details.

[www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org)