

*USS Gerald R. Ford*  
CVN 78  
*Christening*  
November 9, 2013



Ship's Sponsor Susan Ford Bales christens the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). She is joined by (l-r) Commanding Officer Captain John Meier, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, and Matt Mulherin, Newport News Shipbuilding. Matrons of Honor Heather Devers and Tyne Berlanga look on.

**The Christening of the *USS Gerald R. Ford***

The Christening of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* was based on traditions thousands of years old. Ancient shipbuilders accompanied the launching of their ships with religious ceremonies invoking favor over the ship and her sailors. Today, the tradition has evolved into a ceremony that honors the individuality of the ship and the life ahead of her. Susan Ford Bales, the Ship's Sponsor proclaimed, "I christen thee United States Ship Gerald R. Ford. May God bless this ship and all who sail her." She then shattered a ceremonial bottle of American sparkling wine against the bow of the carrier. The ship was "launched" on November 17 and moved to a pier where outfitting will continue until the ship is ready for delivery.

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*Letter from the Foundation Executive Director,  
Joseph S. Calvaruso*



Joe Calvaruso presents a gift to President Ma Ying-jeou, of the Republic of China, during his visit to Taiwan, September 2013. Photo Courtesy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

The Christening of CVN-78 on Saturday, November 9, capped off a wonderful year of tributes to President Ford during his Centennial Year. Book ended around the Christening, the night before was the Ship Sponsor's Dinner, and following the Christening was a Foundation Dinner. The Foundation Dinner honored President Ford, the Newport News Shipbuilders, and the Captain and Crew of the USS Gerald R. Ford. Chairing the very special dinner was Foundation President Red Cavaney. Personal tributes and remembrances were given by Foundation Trustees Doug DeVos, Henry Kissinger, and Dick Cheney. Members of the United States Army Chorus performed President Ford's musical favorites.

September started with Trustee Donald Rumsfeld speaking to a capacity crowd at the Museum on his

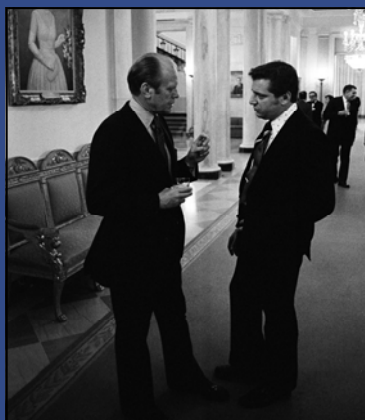
new book, "Rumsfeld's Rules." The following week, Jack Nicklaus shared stories at a luncheon in Grand Rapids with Foundation Chairman Steve Ford in front of a sold out audience. This program was in conjunction with the "Ruth's Chris Cares Charity Golf Outing" that was held the following day. Proceeds of the two events went to the Curriculum Development for the new Learning Center at the Museum. Thank you Ruth's Chris and Amway for this opportunity and your support! In addition, it was my great honor to represent the Foundation during a visit to Taipei, Taiwan to celebrate the opening of an exhibition at the National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall titled "Hello, Mister President! - A Retrospective on ROC (Taiwan) - U.S. Friendship", a special event highlighting Taiwan - U.S. relations.

On October 20, 2013, former First Lady Betty Ford was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In addition, Spectrum Health of Grand Rapids paid tribute to Mrs. Ford with the 2013 "Candid Conversations" a Betty Ford Breast Care Services Event. Following the tribute and panel discussion, thousands formed a pink *Ribbon of Hope* in Ah-Nab-Awen Park adjacent to the Ford Museum. Thank you, Trustee Susan Ford Bales, for speaking at both of these wonderful tributes and for your extraordinary efforts as Ship Sponsor of the CVN 78.

Thanks to all of our Trustees, sponsors and *Friends of Ford* for your support to make possible the wonderful tributes to President Ford during his Centennial Year! We wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

*Joe*

*Newsletter Photos Courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries unless otherwise noted.*



President Ford and Benton Becker, White House, August 23, 1974.

*Looking Back  
Benton L. Becker*

Although not a member of President Ford's Congressional or White House staff, Benton L. Becker played an integral role in important events of Gerald Ford's career, including the investigation of Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, Gerald Ford's confirmation as Vice President, the Nixon pardon, and the disposition of President Nixon's papers. Benton Becker continued to counsel President Ford throughout the 1974 Presidential Transition. *Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.*

## USS Gerald R. Ford Christening “President Gerald R. Ford: A Personal Remembrance”

November 9, 2013



Photo Courtesy of Susan Ford Bales.

Today, we celebrate an American whose life was straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Americans knew him as our Nation’s 38th Chief Executive - President Gerald R. Ford; to me, he’ll always be Dad.

Most historians remember him for healing the bitter wounds of the Vietnam War and Watergate. But he did more than heal the nation - much more. His presidency was conducted with resolute integrity, irrespective of adverse political consequences or prevailing partisan winds. As Pulitzer Prize journalist David Broder explained, “In

an odd, inexplicable way, the truth has begun to dawn on the American people that Gerald Ford was the kind of President Americans always wanted - and didn’t know they had.”

Raised in America’s heartland, Dad was educated at the University of Michigan, where he excelled in the classroom and on the football field, and at Yale Law School, where he was instilled with intellectual rigor and a steadfast respect for the rule of law. Ever the Eagle Scout - literally and metaphorically - he led his life with the same virtues he learned as a boy in Grand Rapids; his moral compass remained true for the entirety of his 93 years.

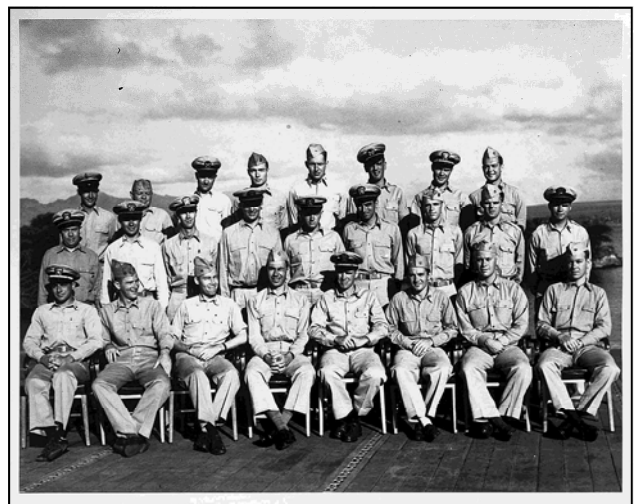
When Pearl Harbor shocked the nation, Dad immediately joined the Navy. During his service as Lieutenant Commander, he petitioned for combat-duty and served in the South Pacific aboard the carrier *USS Monterey*. Dad subsequently brought that same selfless integrity to Washington. For over a quarter-century, first in the U.S. House of Representatives, and then as Vice President and President, he won the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. So in 1974, when America faced its greatest constitutional crisis since the Civil War, they needed a man of resolve, a man of unflinching integrity, and a man of, yes, humility; the Nation turned to Gerald Ford.

Dad always knew what he stood for, and he didn’t need some fancy focus group to dictate his decisions in the Oval Office. Immediately upon becoming president, he set about to heal the deep divides throughout our country. Whether grappling with the ravaged economy, the toxins of Watergate, or the threats of nuclear war, he led as a man of principle. His point of reference was singularly focused: what was best for the American people - period. He promptly (and controversially) granted amnesty to draft evaders and military deserters from the Vietnam War and pardoned President Nixon for the sins of Watergate. He knew the pardon was the only way to suture permanently the Nation’s wounds - no matter how politically damaging the consequences. As House Speaker Tip O’Neill subsequently observed, “God has

been good to America, especially during difficult times. At the time of the Civil War, He gave us Abraham Lincoln. And at the time of Watergate, He gave us Gerald Ford - the right man at the right time who was able to put our nation back together.” Renowned presidential historian Jon Meacham recently concurred, “No other American President in our long history - including George Washington - has more closely resembled the ideal of Cincinnatus, the leader summoned from his plow to restore the nation in a time of crisis, than Gerald Ford. Like Cincinnatus, he did not seek, but did accept, ultimate responsibility in an hour of maximum danger. And like Cincinnatus, he left his nation a better place than he had found it.”

Henry Adams once observed, “A President, like the commander of a ship at sea, must have a helm to grasp, a course to steer, and a port to seek.” Dad had all of those. And in the three decades after he left the White House, he completed a journey and on our Nation’s future: “Without seeking them, I was called up to fill this Nation’s highest offices. For two and a half years, I had the greatest privilege that can come to any American - to lead my countrymen through trying times, and uphold the sacred honor of free men and women everywhere. So I ask you to join me in saluting the past, savoring the present, and anticipating the future. For in America, the best has never been - *it is always yet to be.*”

In the twilight of his life, Dad wrote poignantly of his enormous pride in the new generation of American soldiers and sailors - men and women who embody what has been described as his “Integrity At The Helm”. He would have been similarly proud to have his name associated with the unparalleled shipbuilders of Newport News Shipbuilding. Thus, it is altogether fitting that we honor him today with the christening of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, an aircraft carrier that soon will be the mightiest warship in history, protecting our freedoms and securing our homeland. As we christen this magnificent ship, we honor his selfless spirit, his unflinching moral compass of integrity, his firm and honest leadership, and the decades of steadfast service of President Gerald R. Ford, the man I’ll always be so proud to call - Dad. ~ Susan Ford Bales



Lieutenant Commander Ford (front row, second from right) October 24, 1943, with other Gunnery Officers on board the *USS Monterey*. Photo courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

## Christening of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)

November 9, 2013

### Remarks by Susan Ford Bales:

A presidential historian was once asked how he would describe Gerald Ford. Without any hesitation, he replied, "In order to understand President Gerald R. Ford, three words tell you all you need to know: Integrity, Integrity, and Integrity - in that order!"

Today, we remember and honor a "Lifetime of Integrity", an Eagle Scout, an All-American football player, a distinguished graduate of the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, a Navy Lieutenant Commander, Congressman, Vice President and President.

Of course, with his integrity, came Dad's ever-present humility. Thus, he would have insisted that I focus today not on Dad himself, but, instead, on two other very special groups.

Earlier, Matt Mulherin referred to me as a Newport News Shipbuilder. I've welded with you; I've been up in Big Blue - the giant crane; and I've calibrated valves. Last month, I operated the pumps to flood this dry dock. And yesterday I worked on the ship's List Control System.

This shipyard's motto, "Always Good Ships", is not just a phrase; it is a way of life here for over a century. There is nothing - absolutely nothing - that can describe how proud I am to be your fellow shipbuilder. Your integrity and patriotic commitments to excellence are without equal. Shipbuilders of Newport News, you are a national treasure!

In a few days, the newly christened *USS Gerald R. Ford* will leave this dry dock - forever; but she will not leave alone. Unlike ships before her, when the *USS Gerald R. Ford* leaves this dry dock, her future voyages will be different than those ships - much different.

It is now my honor to make an announcement regarding the official name of CVN 78:

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Ship's Sponsor and on behalf of Gerald R. Ford, I hereby declare that the ship's name "USS Gerald R. Ford" is, and shall be, permanently united with the shipbuilders of Newport News Shipbuilding. Thank you, Fellow Shipbuilders.

In the twilight of his life, Dad learned that Navy

Secretary Winter was considering whether to name CVN 78 the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Upon learning the news, and as Dad had done tens of thousands of times before, Dad wrote a letter.

But this particular letter was unique. This was a very personal letter to his long-time friend Greg Willard. This was a letter from Dad's heart. This was a letter about the United States Navy. This was a letter that expressed Dad's personal feelings about CVN 78 and her Crew. And, as we realized, with Dad's death just one month later, this letter had special significance - very special significance. This letter was Dad's last.

Captain Meier, would you and your crew members and all of your family members please stand. In this his last letter, Dad wrote:

"In closing, Greg, please permit me a personal reflection. In my life, I've received countless honors. But none was greater than to wear the uniform of Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. On an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during World War II, I learned to respect and to rely on my comrades as if my life depended on them - because often it did! As a World War II veteran, I yield to no one in my admiration for the heroes of Omaha Beach and the heroes of Iwo Jima. But, at the same time, I take enormous inspiration from their grandsons and granddaughters who are writing heroic new chapters around the globe. Thus, it is a source of boundless pride and humility to know that an aircraft carrier bearing my name may be forever connected with the valor and patriotism of the men and women of the United States Navy."

Captain Meier and crew members, as you just heard in his own words, Dad was proud and humbled by each of you and the wonderful tribute your ship represents. But Dad would be even prouder if fifty years from now the ship's Captain and crew will pause to look upon this carrier and the other Ford Class



Susan Ford Bales reading President Ford's last letter in which he wrote poignantly about the crew of CVN 78.

Carriers in the fleet and consider whether Dad deserved this tribute. In particular, will those future crew members consider Dad worthy of the motto of this Ship - "Integrity At The Helm?"

Today, Captain Meier, you and your crew have spoken to those future crews about Dad's lifetime of integrity. You've expressed your own views about his integrity and its importance to this magnificent carrier.

Dad... their message fills this shipyard. You kept your promise; you healed the Nation; you gave the American people a presidency that was a shining beacon of Integrity At The Helm. And, as demonstrated by Captain Meier, by the crew, and by this mighty carrier, the American people are - and will be - forever grateful to you. And Dad... I'll always be proud.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the 38<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the extraordinary tribute to my dad. May God bless and watch over the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, those who build her; and the brave men and women who will sail her into harm's way. And may God's Perpetual Light shine upon Gerald Ford and Betty Ford and the nation they loved and served. Thank you.

Remarks by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld:

Men and women of the crew, shipbuilders of this vessel, Susan and members of the Ford family, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Seven years ago this month, I phoned President Ford to wish him a happy Thanksgiving. He sounded fragile. My wife Joyce and I decided to fly to California to see him, sensing that it might be his last Thanksgiving. Though weakened, he greeted me that day with a vigorous shout of welcome, and beamed as I handed him a cap with this ship's name, and a sketch of what this next class of aircraft carriers, the "USS Gerald R. Ford," would look like.

As it happened, my link to Gerald Ford began with an aircraft carrier many decades before – a ship much smaller than the one being christened today. In 1944, the *USS Monterey* was one of several ships in the Third Fleet hit hard by a violent typhoon in the Pacific that took out 3 destroyers and 150 aircraft.

A team worked seven punishing hours in 100-knot winds to keep the *Monterey* afloat. At the head of the fire brigade was an unassuming attorney who had volunteered for the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor – Lieutenant Commander Gerald Ford.

A decade or so later, that ship, the *Monterey*, was stationed at Pensacola, Florida. As a budding naval aviator, I made my six carrier qualification landings on that ship. That was June 5, 1955. It means something to me that the carrier I landed on was the same ship whose history was intertwined with the man I came to admire and respect.

Eight years later, in 1963, I would have the

privilege of serving with Jerry Ford in the U.S. Congress, an institution he loved. He helped make history by working to achieve passage of the historic Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s, and then made history again, a decade later, when he assumed the Vice Presidency and then the Presidency of our country at a time of crisis and calamity.

At that time of enormous pressure and high stakes, our enemies were searching for weakness; so our President needed to be strong. Our institutions were shaken; so the President had to be decisive. And our people were reeling from mistrust; so the new President had to be open and candid. President Gerald Ford was all of those things.

He was a man of courage and solid values. I know that the men and women who sail this ship will bring those same qualities in their service to our nation. It's fitting that the *USS Ford* is the first new class since the *Nimitz* Class carriers. In the first year of his presidency, Gerald Ford spoke at the Commissioning Ceremony of the *USS Nimitz*.

That day, the new President observed that a naval vessel is "a symbol of the person whose name she bears." He said one of the things he was proudest of was that he could say, "I served under Admiral Nimitz in the Pacific."



Trustee Don Rumsfeld speaking at the Christening Ceremony.

Today, I know something about how he felt – because one of the things I am proudest of, is that "I served with President Gerald Ford."

May God watch over the officers and crew who will serve aboard this great ship. And may God bless the nation that this ship's namesake loved and served so well.

Now, it is my honor and privilege to introduce a man who worked closely with President Ford, a former Secretary of Defense and an outstanding leader who I have had the great pleasure to know as a close friend for now more than four decades: Ladies and gentlemen, former Vice President, Richard B. Cheney.



Trustees Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, and Susan Ford Bales. Photo Courtesy of Trustee David Hume Kennerly.



Christening Ceremony. Photo Courtesy of Trustee David Hume Kennerly.

Remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney:

Don, thank you very much. Members of the Ford family, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I appreciate the chance to be here, and count it a real honor to join all of you in this ceremony today.

It's not every day you see the world's greatest ship receive the finest of names. And how fitting that I was introduced by Don Rumsfeld, since it was Don Rumsfeld who introduced me to Gerald Ford. As he mentioned, Don and I go back quite a ways. Whenever I see him I marvel at that youthful glow and vitality of the man. These days people comment that we are both the picture of health - though in my case, let's just say it's been a little harder slog to get there!

One blessing of our later years is the chance to think back on some of our best years, which for me were spent at the side of President Gerald Ford. For all of us old Ford hands, it's hard not to feel the passing of time as we survey the scene here this morning. Next month, it will be exactly four decades since our boss became Vice President - a job he didn't much like, but which some of us just have to settle for!

For Jerry Ford, of course, the second spot was merely brief preparation for the hardest responsibility. When that command fell to him in the summer of 1974, the White House was what you might call a listing ship. And what followed, in the decisions and conduct of his presidency, explains why we're all here today.

Becoming president, especially by accident of history, doesn't automatically get a man's name on a carrier. As with the next one in the Ford class, the *USS John F. Kennedy*, the honor

conveys the special regard of the Navy, and of the people of the United States.

President Ford is remembered for the cheerful, unassuming spirit he brought to the nation's highest office, at a time when a dose of the normal and the modest went a long way. Scandal, bitter conflict, needless drama and posturing - all of these were at their worst in Washington. And here, almost by chance, was perhaps the one man best suited to put it all behind us.

Gerald Ford accomplished that by being more than a nice guy, though he surely was that. He saw America through its travails - through the end of the war in Vietnam as well - by wisdom and by strength of character. When Americans can look at the Oval Office and see our country's finest qualities at work, that's always worth a lot. In the 895 days of the Ford presidency, it mattered more than anything. No one who saw it up close can ever doubt the difference that one good man can make.

It's nice to recall that the last time I ever spoke to President Ford; it was to pass along some welcome news. I had heard from Senator John Warner, a great name in Virginia, and in our Navy. An amendment proposing to name this



Trustee Dick Cheney speaking at the Christening Ceremony.

carrier had just been approved, and John called to ask if I'd like to be the one to make the call to Jerry and Betty Ford. It was a happy moment, one of so many that I was lucky enough to share with them. Jerry Ford brought a lot of good things into my life, and the best of all was an enduring friendship.

Thirty-seven years after he left office, and seven years after he left us, this President seems an only larger figure in our history. Like the carrier, he's impressive from any distance. May this ship and all who sail her bring nothing but credit to our country, just as her namesake did. In the many years of service to come, may she give strength to America's cause, and be a force for the good wherever time and chance should find the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.



Members of President Ford's Family: (l-r) Dick Ford, Vaden Bales, Mike Ford, Gayle Ford, Steve Ford, Jack Ford, Juliann Ford, Christian Ford, Jonathan Ford, Hannah Crafford, and Chad Crafford.

University of Michigan "Victors Quartet" performs the *National Anthem*.

Remarks by Matt Mulherin, President of Newport News Shipbuilding:

Good morning! It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Newport News Shipbuilding, and to the christening of *Gerald R. Ford* – CVN 78! Distinguished platform guests... our sponsor Susan Ford Bales... Huntington Ingalls Industries corporate leadership and Board of Directors... Navy flag officers... Elected officials... Union leadership... The crew of *USS Gerald R. Ford*... Shipbuilders... Ladies and gentlemen... We are so pleased you could join us and take part in today's ceremony. My special thanks to Captain Hinson for delivering the invocation this morning, and to our Eagle Scout Color Guard Troop, and the United States Fleet Forces Band... for their roles in opening our ceremony with such patriotic spirit. I'd also like to offer my special thanks to the University of Michigan quartet – for their fantastic performance of our *National Anthem*. Thank you all.

I would also like to extend special thanks to all of you for sharing in our celebration today. We have many people who have traveled to be here. Ford family, friends and colleagues who served in President Ford's administration – it's truly an honor to have you with us. I'd especially like to recognize President and Mrs. Ford's three sons Michael, Jack and Steven – who are here with their families. The President's brother, Dick Ford, is also joining us today. Thank you, sir, for being here.

We have really been overwhelmed by the outpouring of respect and admiration for President Ford from everyone who wanted to be here today. There are far too many to recognize, but I would like to welcome two very special people. They don't travel much anymore, but they wanted to be here, to honor their shipmate. They are proud World War II veterans who served aboard *USS Monterey* with President Ford – Mr. Dominick DeMasi and Mr. John Fifer. We are deeply honored you could be here, and we thank you for your service to our country.

Today is a very special day for the Ford family, for the Navy, and for our shipbuilders. The video that kicked off our ceremony shows four years of work condensed into a mere four minutes. Although I do not "tweet" or "Facebook" – or any of that stuff – I am told it will be available on our social media sites. I'm also told it will probably go "viral."

While I don't exactly know what all of that means, I do know that video was pretty amazing to watch. It shows the very best of engineering, design and manufacturing – of taking raw steel and turning it into something beautiful and lethal. It shows the magic of shipbuilding.

But what it can't show in four minutes are the late nights... the long week-ends away from family... and the countless hours of welding, inspecting, and planning. It doesn't show the freezing cold winter mornings, or the blistering heat of an August afternoon. It doesn't show the work of our suppliers from across the United States. And four minutes doesn't show the thousands of shipbuilders, right here in Newport News, whose hands – and hearts – have touched this mighty vessel. It truly is remarkable.

Today, I am extremely honored to be here representing the 23,000 shipbuilders of Newport News. They are the magic behind the art and science of shipbuilding, and they make it all happen. I am also extremely proud to see so many shipbuilders here today with their families. We couldn't build the most complex ships in the world without the support of our families – and we thank you for being here for us today, and every day.

CVN 78 represents years of hard work that began as a design concept now engineered into the complex machine we celebrate today. She represents the U.S. Navy's continued dominance of the seas. And she represents the very best of American manufacturing and innovation: Built in the USA. Built by an all-American workforce.



John Fifer (left) and Dominick DeMasi were both honored during the Christening Ceremony, having served with Gerald R. Ford on the aircraft carrier *USS Monterey* during World War II.



Matt Mulherin speaking at the Christening Ceremony.

For more than a century, generations of Newport News Shipbuilders have built ships under this guiding principal: "We shall build good ships here. At a profit if we can. At a loss if we must. But always good ships." We take great pride in this responsibility: To never sacrifice quality and integrity – to always do what's right for our Navy and our nation. This creed also exemplifies the manner in which President Ford lived his life – from his early childhood as an Eagle Scout – to his service in the Navy – and later, as our nation's 38th commander-in-chief.

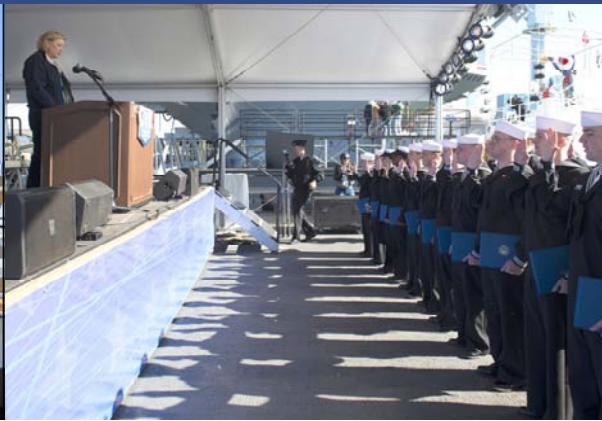
To Susan, and the entire Ford family: We want you to know we feel a tremendous sense of pride, ownership and responsibility in the role we play to build upon President Ford's legacy. Because we know when *USS Gerald R. Ford* joins the Navy's fleet in 2016, she will reign for

50 years. She will stand as a symbol of sovereign U.S. territory wherever she sails. She will represent her namesake – a man who embodied integrity, honor and courage. And she will forever carry with her the spirit of her sponsor, the strength of her crew, and the heart of her shipbuilders.

Thank you.



Susan Ford Bales being interviewed by Grand Rapids WOOD-TV8 reporter Rick Albin.



Susan Ford Bales administering the oath of re-enlistment to sailors of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Photo courtesy of Trustee David Hume Kennerly.



Susan Ford Bales congratulates newly re-enlisted sailors of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.



Foundation Secretary and President Ford's Personal Representative to CVN 78 Greg Willard and Captain John Meier, Commanding Officer of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, reviewing Christening Ceremony plans.



Cordon of Honor by 78 Boy Scouts from West Michigan greet guests as they arrive for the Christening Ceremony.



Mike Ford visiting with Jack Ford and his sons Christian and Jonathan.



Former President Ford Secret Service Agents who assisted on Christening Day. (l-r) Roy Nedrow, Tony Poggi, Tom Harrington, and John McEleny.



*USS Gerald R. Ford* Matrons of Honor Tyne Berlanga (left) and Heather Devers (Right) escorted at Christening Ceremony by Newport News Shipbuilders Kevin Stuart and Gerald Barnes, respectively.



(l-r) Mike Petters, President and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries; Admiral John M. Richardson, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; Senator Carl Levin, Michigan; Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations; Honorable Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), during the Christening Ceremony of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.



Top Left: Susan Ford Bales with Captain John Meier, Rachel, Michael, and Matthew Meier at the bottle break site.

Top Center: Foundation Vice Chairman Hank Meijer.

Right: Trustee Doug DeVos and Maria DeVos.



The broken Christening bottle is presented to Susan Ford Bales.

Trustees Henry Kissinger and Dick Cheney visit following the Christening Ceremony. *Photo Courtesy of Newport News Shipbuilding.*



Left Photo: Jack Ford with his family and Right Photo: Mike Ford with his family at the bottle break site. *Photos courtesy of Trustee David Hume Kennerly.*

Susan Ford Bales with her family at the bottle break site.

*USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)  
Sponsor's Dinner  
November 8, 2013*



President Gerald Ford's Casket Flag which will be placed on board the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.

**Inscription:**

**This American Flag draped the casket of President Gerald R. Ford during the State Funeral services and ceremonies conducted from December 29, 2006 through January 3, 2007.**

**It was presented to Mrs. Elizabeth B. Ford by Vice President Dick Cheney during the Interment Service and final military honors on January 3, 2007.**



Susan Ford Bales presenting President Ford's Casket Flag to the *USS Gerald R. Ford's* Commanding Officer, Captain John Meier.

*Remarks by Susan Ford Bales:*

Matt Mulherin and fellow shipbuilders, thank you for this very special Sponsor's gift of a gold charm representation of the carrier. I'll wear it proudly, as I christen the *USS Gerald R. Ford* tomorrow, and in the years ahead.

From my first CVN 78 tour with Sammy Vreeland several years ago to working with Geoff Hummel earlier this morning on the ship's List Control System, I've always been so impressed with the shipbuilders' teamwork. That teamwork has been evident on each of my visits to the shipyard and in each department. Every shipbuilder I've met - without exception - is a patriotic tribute to the proud traditions of this shipyard. Shipbuilders of Newport News, you are singularly unique; thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

When I was first named the Ship's Sponsor, I learned a little secret - there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that told me how to be a Ship Sponsor. What in the world was I supposed to do - or not do?!? What would be most helpful to the shipbuilders and crew?!? Fortunately, these past seven years I've had lots of great coaches and supporters. Fellow shipbuilders, Captain Meier, and crew mem-

bers, I hope I've met your expectations as your Ship's Sponsor. If, in any measure, I've helped in the important work you are doing, then consider me the happiest Sponsor in the history of shipbuilding. Thank you.

Captain Meier, would you please join me here at the podium for a presentation.

Many of you will recall Dad's State Funeral. It was a time to pay tribute, and it was a time to say goodbye. At the conclusion of the Funeral, we gathered at Dad's Tomb for his final service. During that final service, the American Flag that had draped Dad's casket throughout the State Funeral was presented to Mother by Vice President Cheney. Mother received and then gently kissed the Flag. She held it close to her for the remainder of that day. And she held it close on our long flight home on Air Force One the next day. When she arrived home, she quietly placed the Flag on Dad's pillow. And, in the years after, she kept the Flag always close by - always.

Several years ago, Mother began to consider what she wanted done with the Flag after she was gone. She knew how proud Dad was of his service as a Lieutenant Commander in the

United States Navy. She saw Dad's happiness and pride when he learned Secretary Winter was going to name CVN 78 the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Mother's decision about the Flag was characteristically firm. She asked that Greg Willard and I create the *President Gerald R. Ford Historical Legacy Trust* for her. We immediately did so. And the first item Mother put into the Trust was the one most special to her - Dad's Flag.

Not surprisingly, especially to those of you who knew her, Mother also gave both of us Trustees specific instructions about the Flag - very specific. Tonight, we are honored to fulfill Mother's heartfelt wish and instructions:

Captain Meier, on behalf of Mother and the President Gerald R. Ford Historical Legacy Trust, I present to CVN 78 the Flag of President Gerald R. Ford .... I hereby entrust this Flag to you, and the Ship's future captains, to remain at all times aboard the ship until such time as she is decommissioned.

Thank you, Captain Meier, and Godspeed.



**Top Left:** Former White House Staff members, David Kennerly (left), Red Cavaney, and Terry O'Donnell (right) at the Sponsor's Dinner.



**Top Right:** Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with *USS Monterey* veterans John Fifer and Dominick DeMasi at the Sponsor's Dinner.



**Left:** Lt. General Guy Swan (Ret.), Matt Mulherin, and Vice Admiral David H. Buss at the Sponsor's Dinner.



**Left:** Ship's Sponsor Susan Ford Bales, and Matrons of Honor Heather Devers and Tyne Berlanga with their special gifts from the Newport News Shipbuilders.

**Right:** Susan Ford Bales, Vaden Bales, and John McConnell visit during the Sponsor's Dinner.



Trustees Donald Rumsfeld, Vaden Bales, and Susan Ford Bales, with Joyce Rumsfeld at the Sponsor's Dinner.



Captain John Meier in front of the CVN 78 Ice Sculpture at the Sponsor's Dinner.

*Special Reception and Dinner Honoring President Ford in His Centennial Year,  
the Newport News Shipbuilders and the Captain and Crew  
of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)*

November 9, 2013



Foundation President Red Cavaney speaking at the Foundation's Christening Dinner.

The newly christened *USS Gerald R. Ford* is scheduled to join the United States Navy fleet in 2016 as the most efficient aircraft carrier ever-designed. Its design reduces necessary maintenance by 30%, saves \$4 billion over its 50-year lifespan and the bigger deck allows for 25% more flight missions (sorties) per day. With a final weight of over 90,000 tons, the ship is a symbol of steadfast strength and integrity mirroring its namesake. There is no more fitting motto for a ship of such valor than "Integrity at the Helm."

Starting with the Island Landing Ceremony in January, the Foundation has celebrated the Ship's progress throughout the year, including a dinner in honor of the Newport News Shipbuilders and CVN 78

Captain and Crew Members for President Ford's Birthday in Grand Rapids July 13, and their participation the next day at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at President Ford's Tomb. Finally, the November 9, 2013 Christening Ceremony was an extraordinary end to a year full of spectacular events celebrating the ship and President Ford's legacy.

At the Christening Ceremony, the Ship was christened by the Ship's Sponsor, the daughter of President and Mrs. Ford and Foundation Trustee, Susan Ford Bales. There was a program of distinguished speakers, including fellow Foundation Trustees Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney. The speakers offered their personal stories and testaments to the strength and character of the Ship's namesake. The program ended with a magnificent bottle-break as Susan broke a bottle of American sparkling wine across the ship's bow marking the beginning of a new "Ford" Class of aircraft carriers that will serve our country for the next century.

That evening the Ford Family, Foundation Trustees, and friends gathered for the Foundation's special reception and dinner in honor of President Ford and the shipbuilders and crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.

The program included fond remembrances by some of President Ford's closest confidantes and admirers, including Foundation President Red Cavaney, along with Trustees Doug DeVos, Secretary Henry Kissinger, and Vice President Dick Cheney. Before enjoying the various international delicacies of the strolling dinner, guests were treated to President Ford's musical favorites by members of the United States Army Chorus. It was a fabulous evening and the perfect end to a year of excitement and energy surrounding the magnificent *USS Gerald R. Ford* and the Centennial of President Gerald R. Ford.



Red Cavaney announces the CVN-78 Ceremonial Cake Cutting by Susan Ford Bales and Captain John Meier.



Trustee Doug DeVos.

*Remarks by Foundation Trustee Doug DeVos:*

It's a tremendous honor to have the chance to be here and represent all of our friends from Grand Rapids, the Trustees, and all the Grand Rapids friends of President Ford, many who have made the trip and are able to join us this evening.

I want to try to explain the best I can the love affair that Grand Rapids has with President and Mrs. Ford and the entire Ford Family. The stories I had heard when I was growing up, when President Ford was a Congressman, always centered around what everyone would say about him -- President Ford would always be there for you. If there was an opening that was happening, if there was an event that was happening - whether it was the *Red Flannel Days* in Cedar Springs or something else - President Ford was always there. And that was how I had a chance to meet him the first time.

It was the spring of 1973, Amway was opening a new headquarters building, and President Ford was there to help us with the celebration. I have a wonderful photo where I am wearing a plaid shirt, a plaid coat, plaid pants, plaid shoes, a plaid tie, or something like that! (laughter) I had the honor to be with him. I was a younger guy then, and I thought what a wonderful person he was; he's our Congressman, and he is great!

But things changed from the spring of 1973 to the spring of 1974. I remember that spring; there was a raffle ticket sale at my elementary school, and my father was going to Washington to see Vice President Ford. I said "Dad, do you think he would buy some raffle tickets?" He said "I don't know." And I said, "Well... you should be a good salesman! So why don't you go... I am going to give you some tickets and see if you can seal this deal." And, sure enough, Dad came back with a ten-dollar bill. Dad said "Vice President Ford bought some tickets". I filled out the tickets with Vice President Ford's name, and said "If he wins something, he is going to get it!" I saved that ten-dollar bill, I kept it. And, I kept it... for years. It wasn't until - not that long ago when I was telling that story - when I thought... I don't think Dad actually sold those tickets to Vice President Ford. It's possible that he just gave me ten bucks! (laughter)

The moral of that story is that myself, and I would suggest like everyone

in Grand Rapids, would believe that President Ford would take the time to pay attention to anything you were doing no matter how big or how small; no matter how old or how young; President Ford was always there for us. Grand Rapids has a love affair with President and Mrs. Ford and the entire Ford Family. Every experience that I can remember from then on, whatever it may have been, whether it was when he visited as President or after he was President, the city was always there. The town always appreciated our favorite friend. And the characteristic that comes to mind is genuine humility. He was genuine in everything he did. Whenever he would arrive for an event, he didn't bring a lot of fanfare. Sure... there was a lot of support that had to be there but... he was just there

as a person and as a friend. Even at the opening of the Presidential Museum when Bob Hope was in town and doing his special and the University of Michigan Marching Band was marching around, it was still President Ford, our friend. That was the feeling that everybody had. Genuine humility... and the town loved him!

And when it was time to say goodbye, the town was there. If you live in Grand Rapids, Michigan you know that sometimes the weather in early January is not the nicest time for the sun to shine or for it to be warm. But God smiled on President Ford so we could all be there to say goodbye, to line the streets, to give our condolences to the family, and to recognize our friend. Those cold January days were pretty warm and sunny to allow that to happen in a way where we could all be there and the same for Mrs. Ford, too, the town was there. And it's been a love affair that has continued. I thought today - November in Newport News - might be a little chilly. But God smiled again Susan, the Ford Family, and we all had the opportunity to say thanks.

One particular moment stands out that demonstrates President Ford's humility. It was at the opening of Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. President Ford was there again. He was there to be part of the ceremony. For some reason, Maria [DeVos] and I were at the back of the room when President Ford entered. We were standing next to Peter Cook, a long time Trustee of the Foundation, and Peter just kind of looked over and said, "Well hi Jerry!" And President Ford said "Hi Peter, how are you doing?" The two of them, who went to school together, began a conversation just about life and about everything. Maria and I looked at each other and thought, "What are we doing here!" It was a surreal moment that demonstrated, once again, the genuine humility that President Ford carried with him - everywhere he went.

So that is the characteristic and remembrance I would like to share with all of you. I know that for my fellow Trustees and for my fellow citizens in Grand Rapids and West Michigan that love affair continues. And it continues with the Ford Family; your commitment, your dedication to our town and to maintaining President Ford's legacy through the work of the Foundation, for being there, for participating, for being with us. For not letting go, not forgetting the connection that we have and, for that, we will be eternally and forever grateful. So on behalf of all of our West Michigan contingent and the Trustees from the area, I am honored to share these remembrances and pass along our thanks and our deep love and appreciation to the entire Ford family.

*Remarks by Foundation Trustee Henry Kissinger:*

Susan and friends, permit me a correction--I did not help Jerry Ford establish these relationships around the world; he did that by himself, by the personality that he was! And that personality was summed up when he met Chairman Mao. Chairman Mao made one of these profound statements, whose meaning was not always clear. He'd say, "I always say that it's turmoil under the heavens, and the situation is excellent". People are still studying it! (laughter) When it came President Ford's turn to respond he said, "I always say people can disagree without being disagreeable". Of course, this doesn't mean anything in Chinese, so Chairman Mao said, "Why would you always say that??" (laughter)

I mention it because there is a deeper significance to it. President Ford came into office at one of the most tragic moments of American history. The country was divided as it had not been since the Civil War. We were in the middle of the Cold War, confronting an implacable adversary. The Middle East had seen a war a few months earlier and was still totally unsettled. Foreign policy depends on credibility and on the confidence people can have in America. This has been and remains the indispensable element of international order.

The day before he took his oath of office, Jerry Ford invited me to come to his office. He asked me what some of the immediate necessities were. I said to him, "You have 160 ambassadors here from foreign countries, all of whom are going to be writing reports to their own country. Over the next few weeks you ought to see them in one way or another." He said, "We will see them over the next four days." So, we got some together in groups, some as individuals.

The problem was not to convey to the President what the specific issues were for each country. The problem was to convey to these Ambassadors that somebody was in charge; that somebody had confidence; and that somebody had a vision for America. And you know, no matter what briefing I may have given him in the hour or two that we had, those were innate qualities he conveyed because of who he was.

I would say the quality President Ford most reflected was serenity. Jerry Ford was at peace with himself. He did not have to prove anything to himself. He knew what his duty was, but he did not advertise it. Every President has to act on the basis of assessments that cannot be proved when they are made. And he has to go a road, which, in part, has never been traveled before. That's what makes him a leader. The extraordinary quality of Jerry Ford was that he went on this road without self-pity as to the job that had been handed to him; proud that he could represent a great country; humble in not relying on the atmosphere of his office. Look around this room tonight at these flags of countries with which President Ford had a special relationship. What is significant is that in Washington very often when you lose your power you lose your friends. The leaders of Germany, of France, of Canada, of Great Britain, would come annually, a pilgrimage almost, to Vail, which is not the most accessible place in the world and whose altitude presents problems for the less hearty. But they came there because of their personal affection for President Ford and their confidence in him. This was his single greatest contribution.

I was talking about those first meetings. The Soviet Ambassador was sent back from Moscow (he had been on vacation) to talk to President Ford. I'm sure that my staff had prepared briefing books of staggering profundity. But President Ford decided, on his own, to raise an issue



Trustee Henry Kissinger.

that would never have occurred to any of us. There was a Lithuanian sailor who had jumped a Soviet ship and then been rescued by the Coast Guard. He was returned to the Soviets due to some screw-up and was now in a Soviet jail. We had no legal claim to this man at all; technically, it was none of America's business what they did with deserters. But Jerry Ford (believe me unscripted!) and to the horror of the State Department people asked [Ambassador] Dobrynin whether this man could be released. Unbelievable! And then he was released! It showed from the very beginning a quality of motivation and of human concern that was unique to Jerry Ford.

He was in office less than 3 years. In that period he had to deal with a Soviet Union that was developing larger and larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons; a country where it was conceivable that they would interpret the American leadership crisis as a strategic opportunity. But President Ford managed this relationship through a combination of firmness, while at the same time laying out before our adversaries the vision of a positive and peaceful world. And he did that because, against strong domestic opposition, he was convinced that in a world of such great dangers it was essential that at every moment the American people understand that their President would use every opportunity for peace, but would also firmly resist any pressure on our national interests. He, in a very difficult negotiation, brought about the first political agreement in the Middle East between Israel and Egypt which led directly to the ultimate peace agreement. In Africa, he supported the principle of majority rule in the middle of a primary campaign in this country, in which this was not, shall we say, the number one priority of every member of the Republican Party in every state! But he did that even when he was warned that it might give him some political difficulty because, he said "It was the right thing to do."

I've known ten Presidents. Anyone who knows the complexity of this world has to respect their office and their charge. Jerry Ford was the president with whom I enjoyed working with most and whom I can say I loved -- a feeling not every president automatically inspires! Nancy and I loved Jerry Ford because he was pure of heart, subtle in his analysis, extremely thoughtful, and very courageous. We talk of him and think of him with affection and great admiration.

*Remarks by Foundation Trustee Dick Cheney:*

This is one of those moments (*following Henry Kissinger to the podium*) when I wish I could do a German accent. (laughter) It's always a pleasure to be with Henry and to hear his thoughts. I never tire of witnessing his pronounced profound respect for President Ford and all that we went through during those days.

I thought tonight I'd spend a few minutes on a more personal note. I've had tremendous experiences in my life. But most of it goes back to when Jerry Ford was willing to take me on as a very young inexperienced, untrained, first Deputy White House Chief of Staff and then Chief of Staff. Some of you may know... if you've read my book (I'm sure all of you have) (laughter) that I had worked with Don Rumsfeld in the first Nixon term. Then, when the Nixon resignation occurred, we were asked to go back and help out with the transition, which we did. And that ultimately led to the President asking Don to come on board as Chief of Staff.

I'll always remember the first day; it was a Sunday we went back. The President had been in office about a month; so this would have been in September of 1974. We were in the corner office that the Chief of Staff occupies looking over the digs, trying to familiarize ourselves with the setup because the next day we were formally to take over. Don left for a few minutes, and when he came back he had with him the President of the United States - Jerry Ford! I had been in a meeting once with about 200 other people on Capitol Hill where the President had been when he was the Republican Leader, but I had never formally met him. Don introduced me to him. That morning he had told the President he wanted me to be his Deputy. The President immediately signed on and took me under his wing and immediately granted me, in effect, total acceptance. Now this would not perhaps have been all that unusual, except I didn't have - shall we say - a spotless past. (laughter)

Where the President graduated from Yale Law School, I was kicked out, *twice* - not from the law school - I never made it that far! (laughter) Later on, as a young man, I had twice been arrested for driving under the influence. All of that, of course, was on my resume, well not a resume, the FBI report. (laughter) And, as would automatically happen when the question came up of the White House, clearances and necessary security checks and so forth, it always cropped up. The good news was that we had been there before, and I had properly filled out the forms when Don had signed me up early in the Nixon administration. So, when it came up in the Ford Administration, the President asked him about it, and Don basically said, "Well, I've checked it out Mr. President. He has been totally honest about it, and he's been cleared previously. And I want him to be my Deputy." And Jerry Ford said, "Ok - that's good enough for me."

That decision obviously is something I've never forgotten. He had a profound impact on my life as I think back about it. Probably only my parents could legitimately lay claim to having had a bigger influence. But after we left the White House at the end of the 1976 campaign in 1977, I was contemplating my future - what did I want to do. I was, at that point, 36 years old. I was obviously too young to retire. So I



Trustee Dick Cheney. Photo Courtesy of Trustee David Hume Kennerly.

ultimately decided to go home to Wyoming and run for Congress. That decision was influenced very significantly by my experiences over the years with Jerry Ford. I thought that if a man like Jerry Ford could come out of that experience - be a candidate for Congress and a Congressman for 25 years and all that that represented - that it was a legitimate line of work. It was something that I could aspire to.

So, I went home to Wyoming and shortly thereafter the Congressman announced his retirement and I announced for the race and jumped in. Of course, one of the high points of the campaign was when the President agreed to come to Wyoming and campaign for me. But, it was delicate. It had to be handled very carefully because, of course, the Wyoming delegation at the convention in 1976 had been evenly split between the Ford forces and the Reagan forces. The last thing I needed was a situation where we handled it in some kind of ham-handed fashion. Certainly the Reagan delegates - the Reagan supporters in Wyoming - would not have welcomed a heavy-handed approach by Jerry Ford.

So, we set up an arrangement where the President came to Casper, Wyoming. I arranged for him to make a speech at the local community college. He spent the night with us in Casper. We had a big old house we had purchased, had done a lot of work on it and so forth, but we didn't get everything exactly right. The President stayed upstairs in the master bedroom and used the bathroom up there. We hadn't yet perfected the drainage system in the bathroom upstairs! (laughter) So, the next morning Lynne and I, together with our daughters, Liz and Mary, were downstairs looking forward to having breakfast with the former President of the United States. We were sitting around the table waiting for the President to arrive when all of a sudden the ceiling in the dining room started to leak. It turned out the President had not gotten the shower curtain inside the bathtub; instead, it was outside the bathtub. What do you do! We got out a lot of pots and pans and spotted them around the floor, mopped up as best we could before he came down. We never had the nerve to tell him you were supposed to put the curtain inside the tub! (laughter)

*Continued on page 16.*

Dick Cheney Remarks continued from page 15.

But we went on from there and went up to Jackson Hole where the Republican Party was having the State Convention, and he was the keynote speaker. I had arranged for that, but he never mentioned my name while he was there. We went up separately. Everybody knew he was there because I had asked him to be there. But we didn't want it to appear that somehow he was trying to dictate to the voters of Wyoming who their next Congressman was going to be. Obviously it worked! It had a big impact on my success in that primary.

Over the years I've, from time to time, taken pride in the fact that my career, in part, paralleled his own career; both serving in the House of Representatives, serving as Leadership over the years. One item that always stood out, of course, was when I eventually got elected Vice President of the United States. The President, I'm convinced (although he never said this to me) I am convinced he was proud of the fact that I had followed his career path and eventually arrived at the point where I was Vice President of the United States. But every time he saw me in those eight years that I was Vice President, early part of it anyway, he never failed to tell me, "Dick - that was the worst damn job I ever had!" (laughter) And then he would laugh. He took great delight in goading me and letting me know that those were the worst eight months of his career.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to function in a number of capacities. But, as I look back and be serious for a moment about Gerald Ford and how he became President and the circumstances under which he became President and had to function in the world's toughest job, dealing with many of the items obviously that he did in concert with Henry, I am always struck by the uniqueness of that set of circumstances. I look for parallels of other Presidents who have come to the office and had to take over under difficult circumstances.

Once, back in the 1980's, there was a period of time when we had a highly classified program that was focused on the continuity of government. We actually put together teams and we dealt with, thought about, and exercised the contingency of what we would do to preserve the legitimacy of the government, the legitimacy of the Presidency in the event of an all-out global conflict, for example, with the Soviet Union. I've often thought as I contemplate what we did in 1974-76 when he came to office under extraordinary circumstances that we have from time to time, obviously, find ourselves in a situation for one reason or another, sometimes political as was the case with the Nixon administration or militarily as with Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. What we did, what the President insisted on doing, which is rarely commented upon, was he took us through the most difficult constitutional crisis that we'd had since the Civil War. And he did it under the authority of power the Constitution grants to the President, including the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which is how he got to be Vice President and then how he then got to be President himself and then pick another Vice President to succeed him. It was a classic example, as good as it's ever been done, I think, of how we protect and preserve using our Constitution and continuity of government in the world we live in.

Jerry Ford did it better than anybody else could have done it because of the depth of his understanding and love for our country and because of the tremendous personal characteristics of integrity that he brought to the job. The Nation will always be better for his example and the fact that he led us through some very difficult and dark days. I can't think of a more appropriate way, a more suitable way, or a way that he would appreciate more than having the *USS Gerald R. Ford* named after him - recognizing his service to the country and embodying all those values that were so much a part of the man we all love and respect here tonight. Thank you.



Trustee Dick Cheney with members of the U.S. Army Chorus.



Susan Ford Bales receives oil painting of the Christening Ceremony from artist Brian Murphy and Jennifer Dunn of Newport News Shipbuilding.



Mike and Gayle Ford with Captain John Meier.



Richard and Tati Wennkamp with Susan Ford Bales.



(l-r) Dave Willard, Mike Willard, Annie Willard, Trustee Dick Cheney, Secretary Greg Willard and John Willard.



Former Secret Service Agents with the Ford Family.



Captain John and Rachel Meier with Henry and Nancy Kissinger.



Red and Sheri Cavaney with Dick Cheney.



(l-r) Greg Ford, Carla Ford, Karen Ford, and Bob Ford.



Chairman Steve Ford with Jennifer Dunn and Bryan Moore of Newport News Shipbuilding.



(l-r) Fran Usery, Bill Usery, Juliann Ford, and Jack Ford.



Trustee Doug DeVos with Captain John Meier.



(l-r) Treasurer David Hoogendoorn, Chairman Steve Ford, Trustee Mark Murray, Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen.



(l-r) Nancy Kissinger, Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer, Trustee Henry Kissinger, Dave Willard, Annie Willard.



Foundation Chairman Steve Ford has "A Conversation" with "The Golden Bear" Jack Nicklaus.

## *A Conversation with Golf Legend Jack Nicklaus*

September 12, 2013

On September 12, 2013, golf legend and close friend of President Gerald R. Ford, Jack Nicklaus, regaled a capacity audience at the JW Marriott with his personal stories about his relationship with President Ford and some of his own favorite stories and tips from the golf course. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation held this fall luncheon, "A Conversation with Golf Legend Jack Nicklaus," where the "Golfer of the Century" was joined by the son of President and Mrs. Ford and Foundation Chairman, Steve Ford, for a candid conversation about Jack's relationship with golf and President Ford. In addition, Zach Hope, grandson of Bob Hope, attended the luncheon and shared a few stories about his grandfather.

Steve Ford started out the event drawing a comparison between Jack Nicklaus' and President Ford's humble, Midwestern upbringings. Steve fondly remembered his father talking about Jack. "He talked about your character, about who you were as a man," said Steve. "I think that you had that in common." Jack Nicklaus and President Ford were both known for their innate determination and integrity, and it was something they shared and bonded over.

Then the conversation turned to golf, and Steve and Jack compared their experiences playing

golf with President Ford. Steve described his experience with his Dad at the Bob Hope Desert Classic. "That day he played with President Clinton, President Bush, and Bob Hope. And I was so proud because Dad did not hit anyone with a golf ball that day," said Steve. "And Clinton hit two, and Bush hit one I think."

Jack also talked about how much he enjoyed playing golf with President Ford. "I haven't played with many presidents, but your dad was by far the best player and by far the best athlete," said Jack. "He played pretty well. He was an actual 13 (handicap) when he said he was an actual 13. Most who say they're a 13 are actually a 25."

Of course, no conversation with Jack Nicklaus would be complete without asking for a few golfing tips. Jack Nicklaus said one of the most important lessons that he learned after a particularly tough course was preparation. "That's what I always prided myself on, is being prepared" said Jack.

Another important lesson from Nicklaus and his advice to future novel golfers: "The most important thing about golf or anything, is understanding yourself. And, once you understand yourself and what your abilities are, you

try to stay within them. If you're a 15, play like a 15... and you'll break through your handicap!" Following the luncheon, *Ruth's Chris Cares* kicked off the festivities to their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Ruth's Chris Cares Golf Event*. Each year *Ruth's Chris Cares* designates a charitable cause benefiting children and youth in the Grand Rapids community. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation was honored that their *Capital Campaign* for the Museum's new Learning Center was chosen to be the beneficiary of the golf outing's profits this year. Thursday night, the festivities kicked off with the Golf Outing Dinner and Auction at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse which is located in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

The following day golfers headed to Egypt Valley Country Club for a round of golf filled with delicious foods at every hole. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation was very grateful for the generosity of *Ruth's Chris Cares* and this extraordinary opportunity to continue President Ford's Legacy through his love for golf and the new learning center.

Thank you to Amway for sponsoring this luncheon in conjunction with the *Ruth's Chris Cares Charity Golf Event* and to Meijer for sponsoring First Tee of West Michigan.



Steve Ford (right) greets Barbara and Jack Nicklaus upon arrival at the JW Marriott.



Jack Nicklaus spends time with students from First Tee of West Michigan prior to the luncheon. The First Tee is Grand Rapids' top youth development program which teaches life skills and leadership through golf. Meijer sponsored the First Tee table at the luncheon.



Trustee Doug DeVos with Jack Nicklaus at the luncheon.



Trustee Steve Van Andel welcomes guests to the luncheon.



**Top:** Rick Winn, President of Amway Hotel Corporation (left) and Steve Ford prepare to auction items at the Ruth's Chris Cares Auction and Dinner for this year's golfers.

**Left:** (l-r) Steve Ford, Greg Ford, and Zach Hope at the 2nd Annual Ruth's Chris Cares Charity Golf Tournament.

**Right:** Steve Ford visits with Richard and Helen DeVos at the Ruth's Chris Cares Auction and Dinner.



"Hello, Mister President! - A Retrospective on ROC (Taiwan) - US Friendship".



National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, Taipei City, Taiwan.

In September Executive Director, Joe Calvaruso was honored to represent the Foundation on a visit to Taipei, Taiwan to celebrate the opening of an exhibition "Hello, Mister President! - A Retrospective on ROC (Taiwan) - US Friendship". The exhibition was on display at National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei City, as a special event highlighting Taiwan-U.S. relations. Joe spoke at a panel discussion on the exhibition where he mentioned several touching stories paying tribute to President Ford and his visits to Taiwan.

Other distinguished guests attending the opening were American Institute in Taiwan Director Christopher Marut; President Eisenhower's granddaughter Mary Jean Eisenhower; and Eisenhower Memorial Commission Executive Director General Carl Reddel.

President Ford's first trip to Taiwan was in August 1953 while a Congressman and he made a second trip in 1991 on behalf of President George H.W. Bush.

President Ford wrote to his family while on the 1953 trip:

"The late afternoon arrival found our party met at the airport. I was informed that Chiang Kai-shek and Madame Chiang

were expecting us for tea. Their residence, 45 minutes up the mountainside took us over a winding road which was in surprisingly good shape. Our transportation pulled into the President's home where we were met by one of his top aides who escorted us into the

living room that was furnished in the most appropriate style. Chiang Kai-shek sat in the far corner. But as we entered he arose, shook hands and through an interpreter, expressed a cordial welcome. We chatted for a few minutes, always by an interpreter, and then Madame Chiang made her appearance. I ended up sitting between the President and Madame Chiang. She, by the way, speaks English fluently.

It was an exceedingly interesting hour with our hosts serving iced tea with mint leaves, a food concoction, and a large dish of American ice cream. As we left, one of President Chiang's advisors presented me with two boxes of his special brands of red and green tea plus the Ford Family seal in Chinese. Our quarters for the night were in the palace. It's a tremendously large place with beautiful gardens."

Both President Ford and President Chiang were men of integrity and courage. A lifetime of respect and friendship began over a cup of tea and a bowl of ice cream in 1953.



Congressman Gerald R. Ford meets President Chiang Kai-shek, August 9, 1953. Photo Courtesy of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.



This set of carved ivory signature chops was a gift from President Chiang Kai-shek to Congressman Gerald Ford during his visit in 1953. The chop is similar to an ink stamp, with the owner's name carved in Chinese characters. Chops have been used in China for centuries as a means of identification in place of a signature. Chop stamps in red ink are still used in Taiwan to authorize legal documents. Photos Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Susan Ford Bales receives Honorary Doctorate Degree.

President Ford arrives on Albion College campus October 3, 1977 to dedicate the Ford Institute for Public Service. Photo Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

## *“A Daughter’s Look at the Ford Presidency”*

### Albion College Opening Convocation

August 29, 2013



Analysis of a presidency and a walk down memory lane combined for a uniquely enlightening evening as Susan Ford Bales presented the 2013 Stoffer Lecture on August 29. The youngest child and only daughter of President Gerald R. Ford gave a heartfelt presentation and some thoughtful history to hundreds of Albion College students, faculty, staff and community members gathered for the College’s Opening Convocation.

Awarded an honorary doctorate for her decades-long advocacy supporting

breast cancer research and education and effective treatment for combating chemical dependency, Ford Bales grew emotional as she thanked the College. “I know how very proud Dad would be that his daughter is being honored by this institution he so loved and so respected,” she stated. “Albion College and the College’s Ford Institute were a source of special pride to my dad.”

With that, Ford Bales helped the students understand and appreciate the significance of her father’s 895 days in office, from August 1974 through Inauguration Day in January 1977. Following the Watergate scandal and nearing the end of the Vietnam War, the country was in a “bitter season,” with deep public distrust of the government.

Nonetheless, her father’s accession to the presidency was an extraordinary moment for the country. Then House Speaker Tip O’Neill, who was both a close friend and a political adversary, voiced positive support for the new president. A 17-year-old at the time, “I was on top of the world,” said Ford Bales on the family’s move to the White House.

Just a few weeks later came a family crisis and one of the Ford presidency’s unlikely legacies. Betty Ford’s “controversial and courageous” decision to share news of her breast cancer changed the world’s understanding of the disease. Ford Bales recalled the discussions she and her dad had with her mother. Was it prudent to admit to disease within the First Family? “Could the President’s wife even say the word ‘breast’ in public?” Ford Bales mused. “Mother announced that the time for women to hide this disease behind closed doors must stop.”

Ford Bales noted that the experience prepared her mother to later admit publicly to alcoholism and prescription drug dependency, and ushered in a new understanding of issues surrounding addiction.

Ford Bales also shared with the audience some less well-known achievements of her father’s time in office, grounded in his deep convictions for fairness and human dignity. President Ford, she noted, insisted that all countries that were part of the Helsinki Accords must agree to uphold human rights, the first such international agreement ever made. This action was widely criticized by both liberals and conservatives, yet Ford Bales explained that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger later credited that provision with providing the crucial framework for the anti-communist movement in the Soviet Union, eventually leading directly to the fall of Communism there.

President Ford also opened U.S. military service academies to women; the adoption of Title IX, mandating equal support for women’s athletics; and a change in banking rules to allow the use of ATM machines.

“Dad had one question—What is best for the American people?—and he would move forward from that point with integrity and steadfast determination,” Ford Bales said. *Article and photos courtesy of Albion College.*



First Lady Rosalynn Carter during video presentation.

On October 20, 2013 First Lady Betty Ford was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. A new class is selected every other year based on the inductees' lasting contributions to society. Susan Ford Bales accepted the honor on her Mother's behalf. A Special Video from First Lady Rosalynn Carter introduced Betty Ford to the audience:

"I wish I could be with you in person today for the induction of my friend Betty Ford into the National Women's Hall of Fame. I am pleased to send my warm regards to Susan and the entire Ford Family and to join you all in celebrating Betty's great achievements and legacy. As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, I am reminded of the Hall's important role in recognizing pioneering contributions of women and of its value as a national and international institution. I applaud Betty's inclusion in this year's class.

## First Lady Betty Ford Inducted Into the National Women's Hall of Fame

I nominated Betty to pay tribute to this remarkable woman. Considered by many to have been the most politically active and candid first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt, she used the influence of her position to change the Nation's attitudes about breast cancer, about equal rights, and about treatment for addiction. Her public disclosure of her own personal battle with breast cancer and her struggles with alcohol and pain killers lifted the veil of secrecy from these previously unmentionable issues.

Her passionate support of the Equal Rights Amendment has been credited with rejuvenating the movement. At the same time she commended women who chose not to work outside the home. When she, Lady Bird Johnson, and I stood together at the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston, it was a very special moment for me, as we worked together to improve the status of American women.

Betty was also a vocal advocate for children, using her influence to champion federally funded daycare. And, when President Ford authorized thousands of orphaned children to be evacuated from Viet Nam to the United States in the final days of that war, Betty welcomed them to their new lives.

Prior to her White House years, seeded in part

by her love of dance and her performance with the Martha Graham Dance Company, she provided dance classes in an African-American community and to children who were hearing and sight impaired. As first lady she supported access to performing and fine arts for children with disabilities and to underserved communities.

In our post White House roles we found that our interest in addictive diseases and mental health came together in many ways and that we could be a stronger force if we worked as partners; which we did for many years.

In all of her endeavors Betty's public candor about real life situations that were traditionally stigmatized, broke new ground and led the way to an era of openness. She was willing to do things a bit differently than they had been done before, and she had the grace and courage to fight fear, stigma, and prejudice wherever she encountered them. She was an independent thinker who resisted political and social restraints to become an advocate for justice, civil, and political rights. She gave women a voice within their families, the workplace, and in the political system.

We owe so much to Betty Ford and it is fitting that she will be forever honored in the National Women's Hall of Fame."

## Spectrum Health's Ribbon of Hope

On October 14, 2013 Susan Ford Bales joined Spectrum Health in honoring her mother and other breast cancer survivors and the great success of the Betty Ford Breast Care Services. Spectrum Health's *2013 A Candid Conversation: A Betty Ford Breast Care Services Event* started with a touching tribute video honoring First Lady Betty Ford's courageous fight against breast cancer and her public advocacy for its prevention and treatment.

Following the video, Susan welcomed an audience of over 200 guests and shared her experience with her mother's illness and the importance of being proactive in the fight against breast cancer. "Mom would have been so proud to see so many people gathered to talk about breast cancer," said Susan. Recalling her mother's courage to tell the truth about her disease and start the public discussion, she stated: "Mom bluntly said, 'The time for women hiding this disease in shame

and behind closed doors has to stop and who better to make that happen than the First Lady of the United States'" Susan's speech closed with an impassioned call to continue what Mrs. Ford started. "Each and every one of us can make a difference...to help defeat breast cancer. We WILL NOT let her down!"

Following the program, Susan and guests crossed the river from DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, MI to the Ah-Nab-Awen Park in front of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. This was a fitting place to continue the tribute to Mrs. Ford's legacy with Spectrum Health's *Ribbon of Hope* event. There, Susan greeted over 1,500 guests wielding Spectrum Health's pink umbrellas. Susan then joined the sea of pink umbrellas to form Spectrum's "Human" ribbon.

"This opportunity—to honor the legacy of Betty Ford and be candid about the cancer journey—inspires me to continue to do what I can to make a difference," said Dr. Judy Smith, Department Chief of Oncology at Spectrum Health.



Top Photo: "Ribbon of Hope" at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Bottom Photo: (l-r) Dr. Judy Smith, Spectrum Health Chief of Oncology, Joan Secchia, Janelle Logan, Spectrum Health Director of Community Engagement, Susan Ford Bales, and Richard Funnell, Spectrum Health Director of Oncology. Aerial photo provided by EAI Aerial. Photos courtesy of Spectrum Health.

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

This centennial year has been marked by a number of milestones at the Library and Museum. The staff has worked very closely with the Foundation to present an increased number of programs and large-scale events which generated extensive coverage by the media. Museum staff designed a special feature exhibit, *Growing Up Grand: Jerry at 100*, and designed a small-scale version for the Library lobby. Staff also helped design a centennial exhibit on President Ford for display at Archives I.

This year marked the first time in our 32 year history that there are now directional road signs in place to guide visitors to the Library. This required working through the intricate bureaucracies and regulations of the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Ann Arbor, and fulfills a dream since I began this position nine years ago!

As a result of systematic digitization funded by the Ford Foundation, the Library now has 192,000 pages and 13,000 White House Photo contact sheets available on our website. While this is still a very small portion of our collections, it represents major progress in providing researchers around the world with access to our materials.

The Library hosted the National Archives Presidential Timeline Summer Institute on Vietnam in June, and worked with Chairman Steve Ford and the Foundation to plan a character curriculum development workshop in August.

Library and Museum attendance increased to 320,901, an increase of 7.3% over 2012. The

number of school group visits increased by 26% over FY 2011, bringing more than 8000 students to the Museum.

The *ArtPrize* exhibition was a huge success. The Museum garnered the most visitors of all 169 *ArtPrize* venues, drawing 237,000 people over the 19-day exhibit. Further, four of the Museum's 25 works of art won the top four prizes as voted by the public – and that was out of the 1,524 artists who took part in the competition!

The Library continues to receive high marks and frequent praise and thanks for the quality and timeliness of our support to researchers. We continue to host classes from UM and other universities in the region as well as national and international researchers who come for extended periods, often with the help of a Foundation Research Travel Grant.

While the Padnos internship program continues to provide rich experiences for students interested in Museum Studies, the Library has increased its utilization of specialized student interns over the past year. We had the first-ever Wikipedia Ambassador placed at a presidential library, who uploaded selected documents, photos and images of artifacts during the pilot project. He also organized a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon that brought UM students and staff to the Library, with pizza graciously provided by the Foundation. We were pleased that he elected to stay on for a "traditional"



Trustee Donald Rumsfeld, Joyce Rumsfeld, and Library and Museum Director, Elaine Didier, September 3, 2013.

archival internship in AV preservation for the summer. We also hosted an intern from Cooley Law School who developed materials on the 25<sup>th</sup> amendment for our website, and a doctoral student from Bowling Green State University who developed a module on Betty Ford for our website.

The Library now has three vacant archivist positions following retirements over the past year-and-a-half (David Horrocks, Nancy Mirshah, and Bill McNitt), and there will be a fourth retirement in March 2014 when Helmi Raaska retires. As you can appreciate, these losses of senior highly expert individuals has had a major impact on our ability to process and open more materials from our collections. Although the National Archives has a hiring freeze in place, we are hoping to be able to fill at least one of these by restructuring staff roles.

As we end this fantastic centennial year, the Library and Museum continue to give thanks to the Foundation for its outstanding ongoing support. **Happy Birthday, Mr. President!**



After 32 years, there is directional road signage to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan!



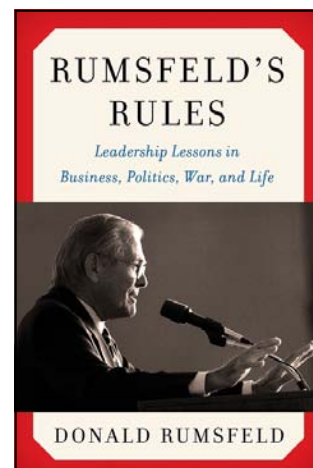
Trustee Donald Rumsfeld.

*“Rumsfeld’s Rules  
Leadership Lessons in Business,  
Politics, War, and Life”*

by

**Secretary Donald Rumsfeld**

September 3, 2013



Foundation Trustee Donald Rumsfeld graciously stopped in Grand Rapids to speak at the Museum on September 3 about his most recent book, *Rumsfeld’s Rules*. Traveling from his ranch in Montana to Washington, DC, Mr. Rumsfeld spoke to a capacity crowd in the auditorium.

*Rumsfeld’s Rules* was born from a suggestion by President Ford in 1974. When Mr. Rumsfeld told President Ford about these rules he had on index cards, the President ordered these aphorisms typed up and given to the White House staff. Over the years as a Congressman, a CEO of two Fortune 500 companies, and the only two-time Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld collected hundreds of observations about leadership, business and life. These rules developed out of what Rumsfeld had read, heard, or observed over his nearly 80 years of life.

Mr. Rumsfeld began his presentation with a ten minute period of remarks with both some serious and humorous observations. He spoke fondly of his years in both the Ford and the George W. Bush administrations, commenting more so on President Ford in this

the centennial of his birth. After his brief opening remarks, Rumsfeld fielded a host of questions from a rapt audience. Many of the questions focused on the current hot topic of Syria and its leadership’s use of chemical weapons on the Syrian people. Several members of the audience asked about Ford’s style of leadership while many asked about the Bush decision to invade Iraq. In all cases, Rumsfeld offered his candid views citing several of *Rumsfeld’s Rules* in his responses.

Autographed copies of the book were available for the audience resulting in brisk sales at the Museum store. Prior to his public address, both Mr. and Mrs. Rumsfeld paid their respects at President and Mrs. Ford’s Tomb. ~ Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



(l-r) Executive Director Joe Calvaruso; Treasurer David Hoogendoorn; Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer; Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen; Trustee’s John Baab, Donald Rumsfeld, Mike Jandernoa, and Bob Hooker; Library/Museum Director Elaine Didier; Trustee Dick Ford.



(l-r) Trustee Donald Rumsfeld, Joyce Rumsfeld, Joan Secchia, and Trustee Peter Secchia.

## ArtPrize 2013

### Ford Museum Captures the Top Four Artists!

*ArtPrize*, the world's largest prize money competition, began its all-encompassing festivities as over 1,500 artists from around the world showcased their talents at hundreds of venues in downtown Grand Rapids. Nearly 500,000 people came to experience this annual event in its fifth season. The nineteen-day *ArtPrize* opened on September 18.

Once again the Ford Museum took part hosting 25 artists featured both inside the facility and on the grounds. Several of the artists had shown their talents here in the past. For the second year in a row, the Museum was a registration site for anyone to register to vote on the art entries.

While the Museum was braced for the onslaught of visitors, the staff was unaware of the immense success that was about to come as a result. Early on attendance surpassed previous years with the parking lots jammed, the plaza a sea of people, and the lobby full of visitors from the moment the doors opened at 9 AM. In the end, over 237,000 people came to the Museum over the 19 days of *ArtPrize*; a 22% rise from last year's record of 195,000 made the Museum the most visited venue of all during the competition.

When the top ten vote-receiving artists were announced, the Museum had an inkling of why there was such a rise in visitors. Four of the top ten were at the Ford Museum, the first time any *ArtPrize* venue had

more than three as the finalists for the prize money. On Friday October 4, an hour long, televised awards ceremony was held to announce the final tally for the ten artworks. After setting the mark of having four artists in the top ten, many were stunned to hear that the top four were those same artists.

Top prize went to Ann Loveless and her "Sleeping Bear Dunes" collecting the \$200,000 grand prize. Anni Crouter came in second with her paintings "Polar Expressed"; Andy Stacksteder came in third with his bronze "Uplifting"; and Paul Baliker came in fourth with his sculpture "Dancing with Mother Nature".

What made it all the more remarkable was that on October 1 the Ford Museum had to close its doors due to the government shutdown. That morning the Museum staff worked with Ann Loveless and Anni Crouter to ensure that their two top-ten artworks would be available for the public in those last days of voting. Utilizing tents from Loveless and exhibit panels from Crouter, the staff was able to protect the pieces on the Museum plaza.

We want to congratulate all 25 artists on making *ArtPrize 2013* an immense success despite the forced shutdown of the Museum.

~ Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



1st Place, "Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore" quilt by Ann Loveless.



2nd Place, paintings by Anni Crouter titled "Polar Expressed".



3rd Place, bronze sculpture by Andy Stacksteder; "Uplifting".



4th Place, sculpture by Paul Baliker; "Dancing with Mother Nature".

## 9-11 Scout Salute

For the 12th year in a row, the Gerald R. Ford Council of the Boy Scouts of America, observed a sunrise to sunset flag ceremony at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on September 11, 2013. Zach Hope, the grandson of Bob Hope, joined thousands of people, including firefighters, police, emergency service personnel, and military at the

Museum to commemorate those that lost their lives that tragic day in 2001. ~ Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Zach Hope presents remarks at the evening program. Photo Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Cub Scout Nicholas Rea, of Shelby, Michigan salutes the flag near police and firefighters during a ceremony marking the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Photo taken by Cody Morse, 2013 MLive and The Grand Rapids Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission of MLive and the Grand Rapids Press.



Dr. Clyde Rivers. Photo Courtesy of Golden Rule International.

## Golden Rule Awards August 30, 2013

Dr. Clyde Rivers, Ambassador-at-Large from Burundi, presented the **Golden Rule International Award** to several well-deserving people who have contributed to the betterment of their fellow man. The award ceremony was held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on August 30.

Dr. Rivers requested the opportunity to present these awards at the Museum saying, "It is such a privilege to bring this prestigious award on a platform such as the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Former President Ford was a great man of peace and his Museum resonates the principles of the Golden Rule." Recipients of the award included Dr. Roberto Micharo Borrero, Karen Spano, Dr. Pepe Rammath and Dr. Cedric Back Eagle. ~ Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

## Artist Workshop for Area Students

ArtPrize artists taught 16 classes at the Museum for area students during ArtPrize 2013.

Landscape quilt artist, and 2013 Grand Prize winner, Ann Loveless conducted Confetti Landscape Quilts classes. Ann's winning quilt, *Sleeping Bear Dunes Lakeshore*, was on display at the Museum during ArtPrize 2013.

Award-winning art educator and ArtPrize artist Charlotte Ambrose had students explore the art of optical illusion, or Op Art in her classes. Char's 2013 ArtPrize entry, *Space Pioneers Tribute*, was displayed in the Department of Corrections window in downtown Grand Rapids.

Nearly 500 students participated in the Museum's ArtPrize classes this year. ~ Barbara McGregor, Education Specialist at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



Photo Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

*Tree Lighting Ceremony*  
November 20, 2013

Grand Rapids came out in force for the Museum's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 20. Begun in 1996 with President Ford presiding over the ceremony, the opening of **Christmas on the Grand** saw over 1,200 people come to enjoy the Museum decked out for the holidays, music, hot chocolate and cookies, and to get the first glimpses of over 20 trees decorated by local groups and organizations.

The Salvation Army set up its canteen and the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys along with the Salvation Army Band entertained the crowd. WOOD-TV anchors, Susan Shaw and Brian Sterling emceed the program. ~ *Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.*



Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys performed at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Photo Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

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*Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Research Travel Grants*

Fall 2013 Recipients

**Allen, Neal**  
Wichita State University

**Camp, Michael**  
Emory University

**Cooper, James**  
Oxford Brookes University, (UK)

**Davis, Robert**  
Army Command and General Staff College

**Fear, Sean**  
Cornell University

**Haichami, Hunane**  
Hassan II University (Morocco)

**Jain, Romi**  
Indian Journal of Asian Affairs

**Jang, SeYoung**  
Graduate Institute (Geneva)/George Washington University

**Koncewicz, Michael**  
University of California, Irvine

**Marsh, Steve**  
Cardiff University (UK)

**Martinez, Michael**  
University of Tennessee

**Miodek, Anais**  
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Ojo, Patrick**  
Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)

**Olsen, Erik**  
University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)



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**Members of Friends of Ford receive many valuable benefits:**

- ★ Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
- ★ Advance notification of speakers and exhibits at both the Library and Museum
- ★ Invitation to pre-opening exhibit tours by staff members
- ★ Foundation Newsletter, 5 issues per year



*As a member of Friends of Ford you are invited to participate in many special Library and Museum activities that are not open to the general public.*

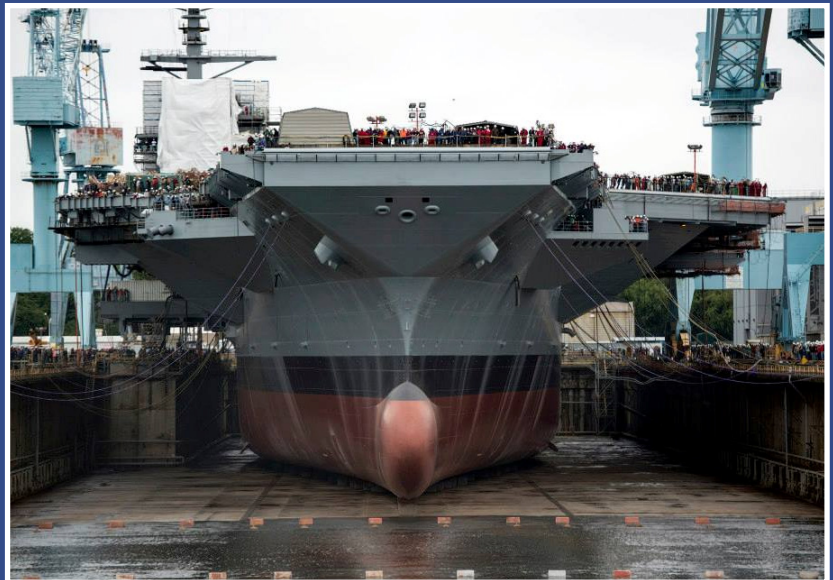
- ★ 10% Discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
- ★ Free admission to other Presidential Libraries and Museums
- ★ Membership card
- ★ Members at the Family, Associate, Sustaining, Patron, President's Cabinet and Legacy membership levels receive additional benefits.

*For further information, please call 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.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

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*To The Shipbuilders and Crew  
of the  
USS Gerald R. Ford:  
Congratulations and  
Thank You!*

Please visit our website: [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org)



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*The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation fosters increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of America's 38th President. It does so through activities designed to promote the high ideals of integrity, honesty, and candor that defined President Ford's extraordinary career of public service. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to public service and historical legacy of President Gerald R. Ford and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity wherever it exists in the public arena. It supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy; conferences; educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular, including at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.*