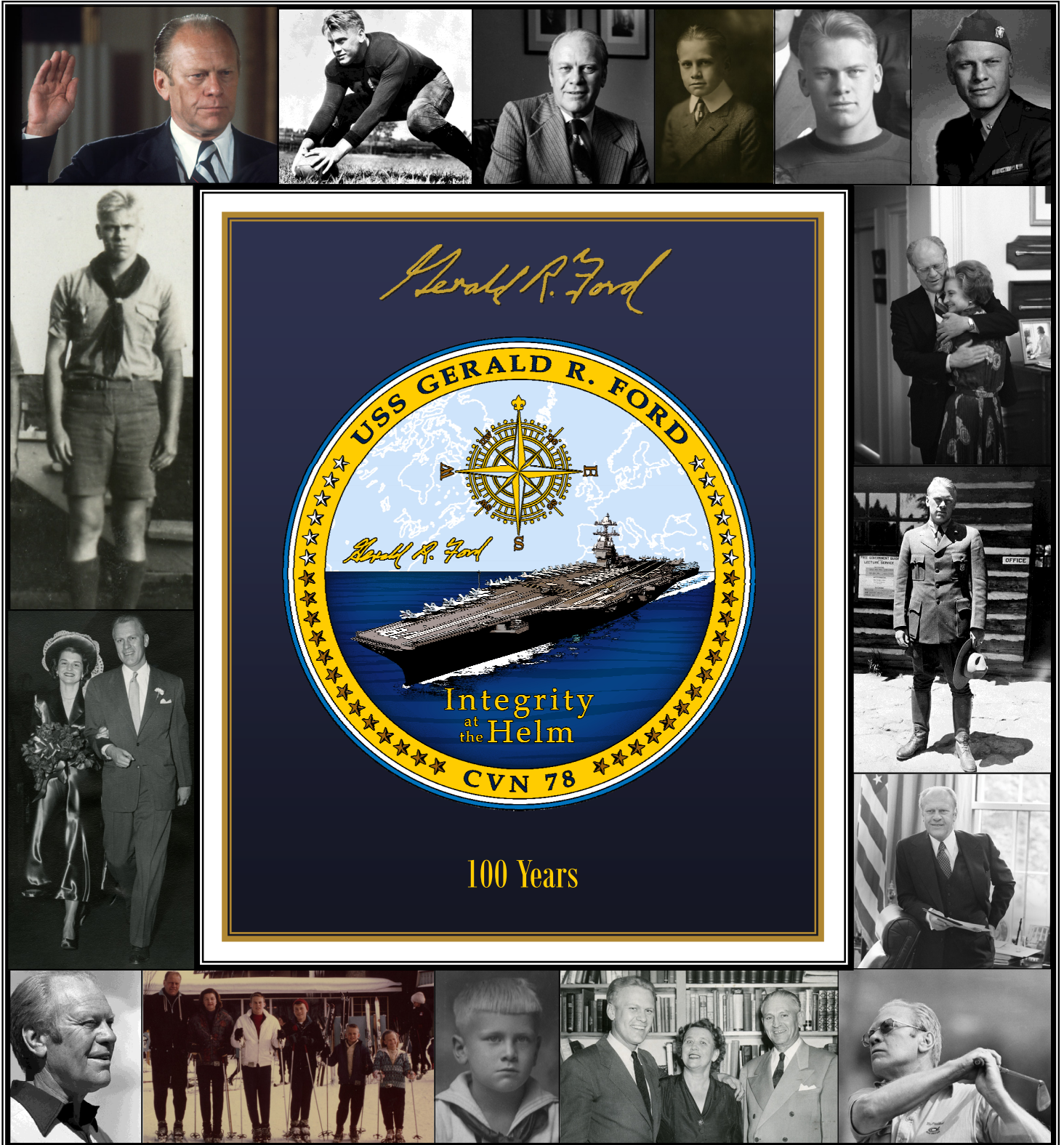


# Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

## President Gerald R. Ford Centennial

Fall 2013, Issues 4 & 5



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



The Marine Corp Legion place a wreath at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford.



Joe Calvaruso (center) and Jim Kratsas, Museum Deputy Director greet former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

President Ford's Centennial Birthday weekend was outstanding. It began Saturday, July 13, with the 2013 William E. Simon Lecture in Public Affairs delivered by renowned presidential historian Jon Meacham. Jon's wonderful remarks and tributes to President Ford are included in the newsletter.

Following the lecture, a dinner was held with Captain John Meier, Susan Ford Bales, the ship's Sponsor, the crew of *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78), shipbuilders, Foundation Trustees, and friends of President Ford. A video tribute, *President Gerald R. Ford: His Life, His Times, His Legacy*, was shown for the first time. Special thanks go to Everlasting Memories and Service Corporation International and to Bob Boetticher and Chad Wehrle for the production of this spectacular tribute video. Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell performed at the dinner the following day. Thanks go to Sergeant Powell for honoring us with his performance and for his special friendship with President Ford.

Jon Meacham and Captain John Meier, the crew and shipbuilders of *USS Gerald R. Ford* joined Susan Ford Bales and her family at the Centennial Wreath Laying. In addition to President Obama's Presidential Wreath and the Ford Family's Wreath, there were also wreaths presented by Captain Meier and crew and by the

shipbuilders.

Following the Wreath Laying Ceremony, a large crowd gathered in the lobby of the Museum for the unveiling of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* model. Joining Captain Meier, Rear Admiral Thomas J. Moore and Matt Mulherin, President of Newport News Shipbuilding, were the crew members and shipbuilders of CVN 78. Captain Meier was presented with the first set of the Foundation's Oral Histories that were conducted on behalf of the Foundation. The Oral Histories are now publically available on the Foundation's website at <http://geraldrfordfoundation.org/centennial/oralhistory/>.

In June, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton toured the Museum and paid her respects at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford.

The Marine Corps Legion paid tribute to President Ford before the start of their annual National Convention in Grand Rapids. The Marines placed a wreath at President Ford's Tomb. Later that morning, I shared President Ford's legacy at the opening ceremony of the weeklong convention.

Thanks again to everyone who participated and assisted in the wonderful tributes to President Ford!

*Photos Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.*



President Ford and Peter McPherson in the Oval Office on March 14, 1975. William Walker, Director of Presidential Personnel looks on. *Photo Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.*

*Looking Back*

*M. Peter McPherson*

Peter McPherson was a Special Assistant to President Gerald R. Ford. He served as the Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel. After the Ford Administration, he became managing partner of the Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease law firm. He served as general counsel to the Reagan-Bush transition in 1980. President Reagan appointed him as USAID Administrator and Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He also served as President of Michigan State University from 1993 to 2004, and Chairman of Dow Jones. He currently serves as President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and is a Trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

## A Daughter's Tribute



This year we celebrate the centennial birthday of an extraordinary American whose life was straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Americans know him as our nation's 38th chief executive -- President Gerald R. Ford; to me, he was Dad.

Most commentators today remember him for healing the bitter wounds of the Vietnam War and Watergate. But he did more than heal the nation -- much more. As historians are now starting to understand, his presidency was conducted with resolute integrity, irrespective of any adverse political consequences or prevailing partisan winds. As Pulitzer Prize journalist David Broder concluded, "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, he witnessed the hard-working dignity of Midwesterners. At the University of Michigan and Yale Law School, he was instilled with intellectual rigor and a steadfast respect for the rule of law. And it was in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he met his one love and lifelong partner, Betty Ford.

When Pearl Harbor shocked the nation, Dad responded immediately and joined the Navy. During his military service as a lieutenant commander, he petitioned for combat-duty and served in the South Pacific aboard the carrier *USS Monterey*.

Not surprisingly, 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. 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 -- they turned to Dad.

Immediately upon becoming president, he set about to heal the deep divides throughout our country. Dad knew what he stood for, and he didn't need a bevy of Oval Office pollsters or focus groups to find his moral compass. 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 always 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 believed the pardon was the only way to suture permanently the Nation's wounds -- no matter how unpopular or politically damaging the consequences.

The pardon cost him the election in 1976. But it was informed by the same virtues he learned as a boy in Grand Rapids and carried with him for a lifetime -- unwavering integrity and commitment to country before self.

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."

Thus, it is altogether fitting that Dad's centennial year be celebrated with the most appropriate of commemorations -- the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, the first in a new class of aircraft carriers. The *Ford* will be christened in November by Huntington Ingalls Industries and will for decades to come carry forth Dad's legacy of integrity. The state-of-the-art ship will launch aircraft at record speeds and will cost less to maintain than other carriers, saving taxpayers \$4 billion over the ship's 50-year life. As a champion of fiscal discipline, Dad would have had it no other way.

As we observe this centennial birthday, Dad would have been the first to turn the focus from him onto others he deeply admired. Towards the end of his life, Dad reflected on his extraordinary 93 years. He wrote poignantly of his enormous pride in the new generation of American soldiers and sailors -- men and women who embody his same patriotic integrity.

He concluded by noting that among the many wonderful honors he'd received, none meant more to him than the honor and privilege to wear the uniform of a lieutenant commander in the Navy. "Thus, it is a source of indescribable pride and humility to know that an aircraft carrier bearing my name will be permanently associated with the valor and patriotism of the men and women of the United States Navy."

On this, his centennial birthday year, we honor his selfless spirit and that of our brave servicemen and women. As we celebrate his remarkable life, we are forever grateful for the unflinching integrity, the firm and honest leadership, and the decades of steadfast service that was provided by President Gerald R. Ford, the man I'm so proud to call -- Dad.

*Susan Ford Bales, July 14, 2013*



Boys Scouts honor President Ford with flags along the walkway to the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford.

## *2013 Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford*

July 14, 2013

### *Welcome by Susan Ford Bales:*

General Vadnais, Rear Admiral Moore, Captain Meier and Rachel, crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, Matt Mulherin and my fellow Newport News Shipbuilders, Alvy Powell, Jon Meacham, members of Dad's White House Staff, Joe Calvaruso, Trustees and Staff of the Foundation and Museum, Uncle Dick, Ladies and Gentleman,

Good afternoon and welcome! On behalf of all of us in the Ford Family thank you for joining in this very special ceremony.

We first want to extend a heartfelt welcome to Captain John Meier and Rachel, and the crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, and to Matt Mulherin, Rolf Bartschi, and the extraordinary Newport News shipbuilders who are building the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Dad would be bursting with pride that each of you has come to Grand Rapids to honor him in such

a personal way.

I know that many other crew members and shipbuilders wanted to attend. I am thinking of all of them today. I want them to know how much their support and their patriotic commitment to excellence mean to me and would have meant to Dad.

As explained in your programs, shortly after Dad's death in 2006, Mom wrote a personal letter to Greg Willard and my husband Vaden. She asked Greg and Vaden to plan and conduct each July 14 a Wreath Laying Ceremony here at Dad's Tomb. Today's ceremony, on this Dad's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, is extra special. I've asked Greg in a few moments to explain the details of this year's ceremony.

But, first, we will begin with the Presentation of the Colors. Then the *National Anthem* will be sung by Dad and Mom's dear friend, Sergeant



Susan Ford Bales

First Class Alvy Powell. We will then join in the *Pledge of Allegiance*, led by Whitaker Oosterman, followed by the Invocation.

Thank you again for joining us.

*Wreath Laying Photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.*

Welcome by Greg Willard:

Good afternoon.

Today's Wreath Laying Ceremony, along with Major General Gregory Vadnais, Rear Admiral Thomas Moore, Captain John Meier and the crew of the USS Gerald R. Ford, Matt Mulherin, Rolf Bartschi and the shipbuilders of Newport News, Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell, and, of course, Jon [Meacham], your wonderful Simon Lecture yesterday afternoon, are shining examples of exactly what Mrs. Ford expressed so poignantly in her letter to Vaden [Bales] and me about what she wanted these annual July 14 ceremonies to be.

This year's special ceremony and tributes will proceed as follows:

General Vadnais will place at President Ford's Tomb the presidential wreath sent by President Barack Obama;

Next, Susan, Vaden, Uncle Dick, Jack, Juliann, Christian, and Jonathan will present the Ford Family Wreath;

Then, Captain Meier and his fellow USS Gerald R. Ford crew members will place their wreath;

Next, the shipbuilders of Newport News Shipbuilding will present the wreath on behalf of each of themselves and their thousands of other proud

shipbuilders who are building the carrier;

After that fourth wreath is placed, a soldier will go to the front of President Ford's Tomb and will observe a 38-second moment of Silent Tribute to the President.

Following that 38-second Tribute, a Three Volley Salute will be fired by the firing party there on the hillside consisting of seven soldiers who'll render the Three Volley Salute;

After the Salute, "Echo Taps" will be sounded. For our civilian guests it is customary, for those not in uniform, to place their hand over their heart during "Echo Taps";

At the conclusion of Taps, bouquets and tribute roses will be placed at Mrs. Ford's Tomb. The first bouquet and roses will be presented by her grandsons Christian and Jonathan. The second bouquet and roses for Mrs. Ford will be placed by Captain Meier and his wife Rachel;

Then, individual tribute roses to President Ford and Mrs. Ford will be placed by: each of the other crew members of the USS Gerald R. Ford; each of the Newport News shipbuilders; Sergeant Powell, Jon Meacham, President and Mrs. Ford's



Greg Willard

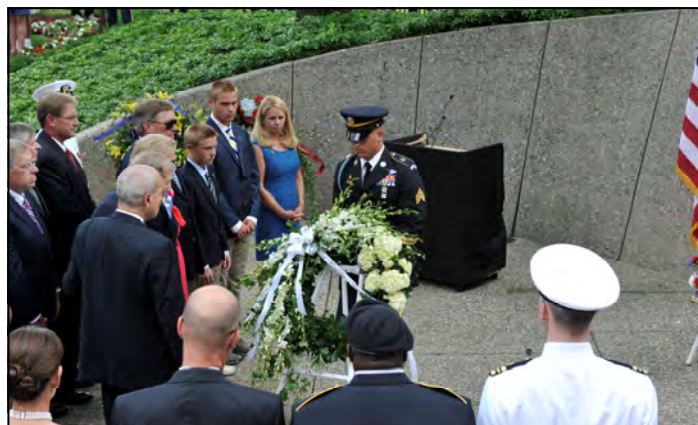
nieces and nephews, several other special guests; members of President Ford's White House Staff who are with us this afternoon; and by representatives of President Ford's Presidential Foundation and Museum.

Following those tributes, Captain Meier and Jon Meacham will share their thoughts about President Ford and his legacy on this, his Centennial Birthday.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise, as we join the President of the United States Barack Obama, in honoring the Thirty-Eighth President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford.



Major General Gregory Vadnais places the Presidential Wreath sent by President Barack Obama.



Family members placing the Ford Family Wreath.



Captain John Meier and USS Gerald R. Ford crew members place their wreath.



Newport News shipbuilders present the wreath from thousands of USS Gerald R. Ford shipbuilders.

Remarks of Captain John Meier:

To Susan Ford Bales, the Ford Family, General Vadnais, Admiral Moore, the Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum, distinguished guests, crewmembers, shipbuilders,

It is a distinct honor to be here today to celebrate President Ford's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thank you for that privilege, Susan. I appreciate the invitation, and I so look forward to our relationship of building the ship together with Newport News Shipbuilding and with us.

Honor, courage, and commitment; these are the Navy's core values - values that President Ford exhibited throughout his life -- long before the Navy thought to codify them. We largely think of courage as courage under fire, whereas Admiral Chester Nimitz said in reference to the battle on Iwo Jima "uncommon valor was a common virtue". President Ford certainly displayed courage under fire in the South Pacific during World War II and quite literally on fire leading the damage control party that saved the *USS Monterey* which was badly damaged and on fire in the middle of a typhoon in the South Pacific. That courage saved that ship that day, but it is not unique in our Nation or in our Nation's history. Gerald R. Ford exhibited a higher level of a courage that I would refer to as moral courage, or professional courage.

As many of you know Gerald Ford was an exceptional athlete, a standout at the University of Michigan football team, winning the national championship. The 1934 season was not so strong of a season. The Michigan Wolverines faced Georgia Tech that year, and Georgia Tech being from the South, and this being 1934, Georgia Tech refused to take the field unless Michigan benched their star half-back Willis Ward. Why, you ask? ...simply because Willis Ward was black. Unconscionable today, but this was 1934, and Georgia Tech was set in their ways. Unfortunately, Michigan acquiesced and



Captain John Meier

benched Ward. I would clearly say that this was not their finest hour. As the Captain of the team, good friend to Willis, and also his roommate, Ford quit the team. And only after a personal appeal from Willis Ward and against his moral compass did he take the field and play that day. Michigan won the game, and the moral courage exhibited by President Ford then has been seen far less frequently throughout our history. I would offer, however, that it stands as an indicator as to how he would respond 40 years later when faced with a similar challenge.

On September 8, 1974, President Ford demonstrated the moral courage necessary to heal the Nation when he pardoned Richard Nixon. Most attribute that decision to President Ford's election loss of 1976. (Now I have to interject here that I did have a conversation with historian and author Jon Meacham about this. And I also had the foresight to speak in front of him because having heard his lecture yesterday, no reasonable person would want to follow him!) But after speaking with Jon, I would argue that President Ford would have made that decision regardless, because it was a morally grounded decision that he felt convinced was the right thing to do -- for human reasons; for moral reasons. If he didn't show mercy, mercy would not be shown to him when he passed.

This moral courage has characterized Gerald

Ford's life, and today we honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. As the Captain of the ship that bears his name, I deeply appreciate his service in both peace and war, and I can think of no finer role model for my crew. I remember the 1975 Bicentennial Celebration well. I was 12 years old. Most of the crew members weren't born then. We had flags everywhere, and it was, quite frankly, a year-long celebration throughout the country. It was a celebration our country badly needed as we finally put the turmoil of the 1960's, Vietnam, and the long nightmare of Watergate behind us.

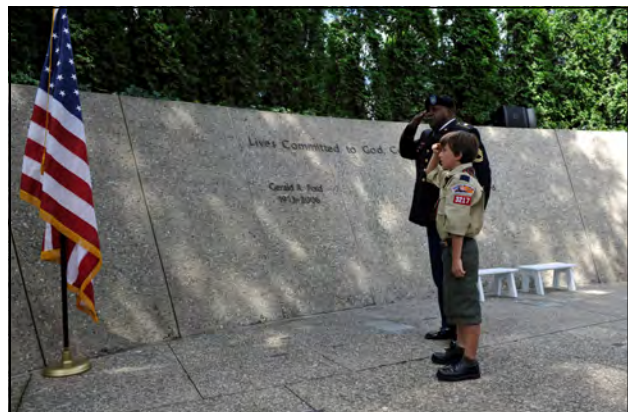
President Ford spoke that day at Valley Forge, and I will always remember the words he spoke: "Freedom is always worth fighting for, and liberty ultimately belongs only to those willing to suffer for it." Those words sum up today's sacrifice and service of both shipbuilders and sailors. It captures the service of the men and women who serve throughout the world preparing for war - all the while praying for peace.

I can think of no finer way to honor this day than to represent with some of our crewmembers dressed in white, their parents, their spouses, and even children, the living legacy of Gerald R. Ford. In times of crisis (and there were many during his presidency) President Ford and the presidents that have followed asked this one question, "Where are the aircraft carriers?" Every day inches us closer to that day when the response from our Navy will be: "Mr. President, *Gerald R. Ford* stands ready awaiting your orders." As her Captain, along with representatives of her crew, I stand here proud to serve this great Nation. And I am honored to command the living legacy of President Gerald R. Ford.

Susan - our friend and fellow shipbuilder - and to the Ford Family, thank you for the opportunity to speak on such an honored occasion. May God bless the *Gerald R. Ford*, those who build her, and those who will ultimately sail her into harm's way -- for she is a fast ship. Thank you.



38-Second Moment of Silent Tribute.



Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell and Boy Scout Whitaker Oosterman during Pledge of Allegiance.



Jon Meacham

### Remarks of Jon Meacham:

Susan Ford Bales, Dick Ford and members of the Ford Family, Admiral Moore, Captain Meier,

I am blessed to write history; the men and women of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* make it and enable me and all of us to be able to do what we do. Our debt to you is incalculable. And I am honored to be with you all.

Aristotle once said that "Courage is the central virtue for it guarantees all the others. Without it everything falls apart." The legacy of Gerald Ford (and I suspect the unfolding legacy of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*) will fulfill and make that ancient truth true again in a new century.

It was five minutes past noon on Friday, August 9, 1974 when Gerald Ford, having repeated the constitutional oath first taken in New York in April of 1789 by George Washington, stood before the Nation as its President for the first time. Our long national nightmare, he assured us, was over.

Then he added in words less remembered but centrally important: "There is a higher power by whatever name we honor Him who ordains not only righteousness but love; not only justice but mercy." With those words in that hour Gerald Ford was showing the world what those who had long known him here, and those who had long loved him, already knew - that here was a man of uncommon sense and uncommon ability.

President Ford was a man who trusted in the essential goodness of the people and who knew the dangers of excessive faction and extremism. No other American president, including Washington himself, has more closely resembled the ideal of the Roman leader Cincinnatus - the man who was summoned from his plow against his will to restore faith in the republican ideal. Like Cincinnatus, Gerald Ford did not seek - but did accept - ultimate responsibility in an hour of maximum danger. We live in a better and brighter country because he answered that call.

He was, to be sure, a political warrior. He lived and fought, however, according to principles that seem all too lost today. Those principles include the fact that we can disagree without demonizing one another; that every opponent is not a mortal enemy; that, as Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln knew, the art of politics was the art of compromise. And that civility is a virtue - not a weakness.

Gerald Ford was not a perfect man. He knew how to throw a punch, and he knew how to make a tackle. But he understood the great truth that we must never allow the perfect to be the enemy

of the good. He was an athlete of grace, a warrior at sea, a devoted husband and father, a lawmaker of note. He did his duty, he kept his word, and he saw us through.

Henry Adams once said that "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." A helm to grasp, a course to steer, and a port to seek; Gerald Ford had all of those. He wanted to take us to a place of healing after years of tumult, and he kept the faith and finished the race.

Let us end where we began in the East Room of the White House on that August Friday four decades ago. The Bible held that day by Mrs. Ford was opened to the Third Chapter of the Book of Proverbs. The verses are engraved in stone, right back here. The verse reads "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

On this centennial of his birth, the centennial of a great and good man, the embodiment of the best of the American tradition, we should all be inspired and instructed by his example to put the Nation he loved back on the path of which he would approve. If we can do that then we will be doing the highest honor to the memory of the man from Michigan who became a man of the world and to whom today we pay our deepest respects.

May light perpetual shine upon President Ford and his beloved Betty now and always, and may God bless the country they protected and led.



Echo Taps.



Grandsons Christian and Jonathan Ford place flowers at the Tomb of their grandmother, First Lady Betty Ford.



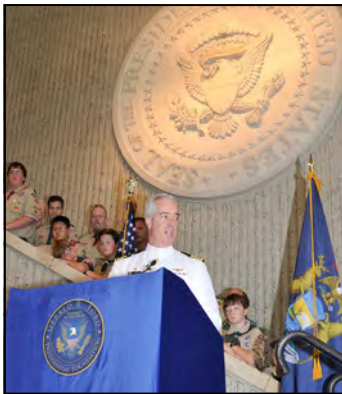
Wreaths at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford.

# USS Gerald R. Ford Model Unveiling

July 14, 2013



## Remarks of Captain John Meier, Commanding Officer of the USS Gerald R. Ford



Captain John Meier

Thank you for the warm introduction. I'm thrilled to be here. I'm frequently asked about how you build a crew for an aircraft carrier. From a shipyard construction point of view, I wouldn't call this straightforward, Matt [Mulherin], but it certainly is more straightforward. As a matter of fact, if you were to walk around the ship today, you would find blueprints in every space; everywhere that construction is going on, nobody's winging it. They've got a plan; it's a

thorough plan, and it's been going on for years now and it will continue for years into the future. It's methodical and well thought out. It's planned and right in front of you.

I am fascinated with the ship building process in and of itself. This is especially true for all the young men and women, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts that are here today. If you are interested in math, science, engineering, or applied science, I'll tell you, that's where it's at. You can read about it in a textbook, but when you are on board that ship under construction, it is engineering at its finest. It is practical math and science put to work to make our Nation's finest and the world's most advanced and capable warship.

There is no blueprint for building a crew. When you start building a crew, it's kind of like eating an elephant; one bite at a time – you start in small steps. Right now, we've got about 240 sailors, that's a little less than 10% of the crew today. But as I come here to Grand Rapids and I visit the Museum and I spend this weekend and I've gone through this process, I know how to build a crew. All you have to do is look at our namesake - what a brilliant story! What a positive role model for our Nation; what a positive role model for the youth of today; and what a positive role model for a husband and father today. I look back on President Ford's life; he was born in Nebraska to an abusive father and a broken marriage; moved to Grand Rapids and quickly got on the right track and found himself in a much happier family and a much happier environment in Grand Rapids. And I now can attest that it's very easy

to see how Grand Rapids can raise such great people.

President Ford excelled in sports; he excelled in school. I talked earlier today at his Tomb about the courage he showed throughout his life. An example of some of his other aspects; when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Gerald R. Ford raised his hand and volunteered to serve his country; much like thousands and thousands of sailors, marines, soldiers, and airmen did after the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>. That speaks to his character. Following his return to Grand Rapids shortly after World War II, he sought election to office and won a highly contested incumbent election. He went on to serve for 28 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a time of national crisis he was selected to be Vice President. Voted on and confirmed by the combined Congress by an incredible margin - a margin that, while not unanimous, I don't know if we have ever seen a margin quite like that. It speaks to the need that the Nation had for a man of integrity. And if you look at the Ford Presidential Foundation's motto - "Integrity at the Helm" - there is no finer way to capture Gerald R. Ford. He was a man of integrity; he was a man of humility.

Little did he know, or even have an inkling, that when he took office as Vice President to replace Spiro Agnew, only ten months later he would raise his hand and take the Oath as President of this Nation. He had the moral courage to make decisions that were right for the Nation, to heal the Nation, and to move forward. That cost him politically. But that's not what really mattered to Gerald R. Ford. He made his decisions - the right decisions - regardless of the political consequences.

We talk about those aspects of Gerald R. Ford, who was also a loving father. We have the great fortune on this ship to have his daughter Susan Ford Bales as our ship's Sponsor. I like to say sponsor and shipbuilder because she has, quite literally, built some of this ship. How fortunate is that!

There is no blueprint for how to build a crew, but there is certainly a blueprint for how you build a crew for the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. All you have to do is look around us here today. This Museum is a tribute to that. This Museum and President Ford's life stand as a tribute for how you build a crew. What a way to live a life; how honored are we to serve on that ship that bears his name! Thank you all very much.

Remarks of Rear Admiral Thomas J. Moore, U.S. Navy Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers

In Navy parlance we always like to start out with – “What a great Navy day!” Susan, it is an honor to be here with you today.

I’m responsible for the design and construction of our Nation’s carriers, and it is certainly an honor and privilege for me to be here. I’ve had a wonderful weekend, and I want to personally thank Susan, the Ford Family, and President Ford’s Foundation for that.

I’ve been asked to talk a little bit about the ship you are about to see, the *Gerald R. Ford*. But before talking about the ship, it’s fitting to talk about how much President Ford was linked to naval aviation throughout his career as we get ready to unveil our Nation’s newest class of aircraft carrier.

Most of you may not know that last year we celebrated the Centennial of Naval Aviation - 100 years of naval aviation. And this year, as we celebrate the Centennial of President Ford’s birth, it’s also the Centennial of the commissioning of a lesser known ship, initially the *USS Jupiter*. You might be saying to yourself – the *USS Jupiter*, what does that have to do with aircraft carriers? Well, the *USS Jupiter*, which was commissioned in 1913 was converted in 1920 to the *USS Langley CV 1*, our very first aircraft carrier. So, the year that President Ford was born was also the year we built what eventually became our first aircraft carrier!

As you also know, President Ford served honorably on the *USS Monterey* during World War II, CVL 26. A lesser known fact about CVL 26 is when this class of ship was originally being built at the Navy yard in New York, it was originally supposed to be a Dayton Class-like cruiser, and CVL 26, *USS Monterey*, was originally supposed to be *USS Dayton* with the hull number 78. So, as we get ready to commission CVN 78, it’s fitting to know that the aircraft carrier that President Ford first served on, CVL 26 *USS Monterey*, originally had the hull number 78!

So, fast forward to 1975, his days as President and the last time we commissioned the first of a new class of aircraft carrier, *USS Nimitz*. The principal speaker that day was President Gerald R. Ford. And that legendary class of ships, the *USS Nimitz* Class, will be around until 2057. In fact, the very last ship of that class, CVN 77 *USS George H. W. Bush*, who also happened to be President Ford’s Ambassador to China

and CIA Director, and they also had a close link. It is fitting, as we talk about CVN 78 today, to see the ties that President Ford had to naval aviation and to aircraft carriers throughout his life. It is so fitting that our next class of aircraft carrier will be named the Ford Class. We are proudly building the CVN 78, Ford Class. And for those of you who are coming on November 9<sup>th</sup>, Susan is going to be there with a bottle of champagne and will whack it across the bow as hard as she can and shatter it to officially christen the *Gerald R. Ford*; it’s going to be a great day!

The *Gerald R. Ford*, when it is commissioned, will be the mightiest warship this country and this world has ever built. It will far surpass the capability of the legendary Nimitz Class we have today. It is an aircraft carrier that will have 25% more combat capability than the Nimitz Class carriers. It will have brand new catapult systems, brand new arresting gear, brand new radar systems; essentially everything on this ship is a technological marvel. The ship is designed with three times the electrical generating capacity of the Nimitz Class which will allow it to handle the weapons of the future. As we’re moving into the future with unmanned aircraft and directed energy weapons - for you Boy Scouts and Star Trek fans, think photon torpedoes. It’s not a stretch to think that as we move into a new era of weapons, the *Gerald R. Ford* is poised today, with the capacity built into that ship, to handle it.

And lastly, just as important in these days of

tight budgets, this ship is designed over its 50-year life cycle to operate at 4 billion dollars less than the cost of the Nimitz Class carrier today; that’s very substantial.

Now, we also like to say in the carrier business that the *Gerald R. Ford*, when it is commissioned, will be around for 50 years until 2056. To just give you a sense of how long we keep these aircraft carriers around, the last commanding officer of the *Gerald R. Ford* hasn’t even been born yet.

As we celebrate the Centennial of President Ford, it is also fitting to note that this class of ship (*Gerald R. Ford* Class) with CVN 78 being the very first ship of the class, will be around for another 100 years. So, as we celebrate the Centennial of this great president, just know that the first ship of this class will be the first ship of the class that will also be around for another 100 years. This is going to be a tremendous ship - a true legacy to a great president!



Rear Admiral Thomas J. Moore



Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell sings the Navy Hymn at the Model Unveiling Ceremony.

USS Gerald R. Ford Model Unveiling *continued*

## Remarks of Matt Mulherin, President of Newport News Shipbuilding



Matt Mulherin

Susan, Members of President Ford's Family, Distinguished Guests, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, CVN 78 Shipbuilders, and Crew;

It is an honor to be here today representing the 22,000 shipbuilders of Newport News and celebrating such an historic occasion with all of you.

We are proud to be building CVN 78, named for a man who embodied integrity, honor, and courage. We are building his ship with the same pride and quality and dedication that we have built ships with for more than a century.

We take great pride in that responsibility and feel a tremendous sense of ownership in the role we play to build upon President Ford's legacy. It is our duty, our honor, and indeed our great privilege, because we know CVN 78 will provide American presence and diplomacy anywhere she is needed. And she will keep President Ford's legacy alive for future generations.

As you have heard from Admiral Tom Moore, the *Ford*, when she is completed, will be the most advanced aircraft carrier in the world. It will be fueled by nuclear power; it will serve as a floating city and home to thousands of sailors, and it will be an airport for the most advanced aircraft in the world. All of that is important. But, as I have said before, and will say again, this ship has a secret weapon -- her name is Susan!

Each ship is said to carry with it the spirit of its Sponsor, and we are extremely fortunate to have Susan Ford Bales as our Sponsor. She is an honorary shipbuilder having helped build sections of the ship. Susan, we are happy you are part of our team. We ran an ad today in the Grand Rapids Press. The ad honors the life of

your father and also introduces the aircraft carrier *Ford* to the State of Michigan. We have a framed copy of it for you. But it is not just an ordinary frame. It was handcrafted by our shipbuilders using steel from your Dad's ship.

Susan - if you, Admiral Moore, and Captain Meier would please join me at the podium.

The inscription reads:

*On the Centennial Celebration of President Gerald R. Ford's Birthday, we are proud to honor the 38<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. We are continuing his legacy as we build the most advanced nuclear powered aircraft carrier in the United States Navy Fleet; Gerald R. Ford, CVN 78. This aircraft carrier will serve as a reminder of President Ford's strength in leadership as it protects our shores and the freedom of America. Presented to Susan Ford Bales and the Gerald R. Ford Historical Legacy Trust from the shipbuilders at Newport News Shipbuilding, and the officers and crew of Gerald R. Ford CVN 78. July 14, 2013.*

Thank you, Susan.



(l-r) Rear Admiral Thomas J. Moore, Susan Ford Bales, Captain John Meier, and Matt Mulherin during a special presentation to Susan by Newport News shipbuilders.



Above: (l-r) Foundation Secretary Greg Willard, Trustee David Frey, Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, Trustee Vaden Bales, Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer, Rear Admiral Thomas Moore, with Captain John Meier and crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. A special thank you to Trustee David Frey for sponsoring the CVN 78 model.

Top Left: President Ford Centennial Coin.

Bottom Left: Susan Ford Bales presents President Ford Centennial Coins to Captain John Meier and crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.

### Remarks of Susan Ford Bales, *USS Gerald R. Ford* Ship's Sponsor

Captain Meier and crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, Matt Mulherin and (I'm so proud to say) my fellow Newport News Shipbuilders, Rear Admiral Moore, Alvy Powell, Jon Meacham, Lieutenant Commander Rupnick, Reverend Holmgren, Joe Calvaruso, Trustees and Staff of Dad's Foundation and Museum, Uncle Dick, Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, let me thank my fellow shipbuilders for this wonderful gift; it is magnificent. Most of all, I want to thank each of you and all of the shipbuilders who are back in Newport News for their kindness, support, and friendship. I have welded steel with you on the carrier. I've punched holes, turned wrenches, and gone up in the shipyard crane. So to be called a shipbuilder, Matt [Mulherin], makes me prouder than you'll ever know. Thank you!!

Captain Meier and the crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, your patriotic commitment has been displayed magnificently this weekend in Dad's hometown. Your integrity is now part of the fabric of Dad's rich legacy. He, as am I, would be so honored, and proud that his name will be permanently associated with you and the thousands of future sailors who will serve aboard the *USS Gerald R. Ford* for decades.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I also want to tell everyone here about a new scholarship. Wings Over America has established "*The USS Gerald R. Ford - CVN 78 Scholarship Fund*". The Fund is to provide scholarships to dependent children and some of the ship's crew. It is, ladies and gentlemen, a tribute worthy of our support. We'd be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

I'd like to ask Captain Meier to come join me here at the podium. For the last three years, Dad's Foundation has been conducting oral history interviews with over 160 of Dad's administration, friends, and family. The Oral History Transcripts are now complete. The rich history of Dad's life and his legacy of integrity are vividly captured in the transcripts. Captain Meier, you and your crew are continuing that legacy of integrity. I have here the first DVD transcripts of the Oral Histories. At this time, it is my honor to present to Captain Meier and the crew of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* the Oral Histories of President Gerald R. Ford. Thank you, Captain!

By 1941, Dad had graduated from Yale Law School and begun a law practice here in Grand Rapids. His professional life was blossoming.

But, then on December 7, it all changed for Dad and for our country. There was one thing and one thing alone Dad wanted to do – and it was NOT to continue his law practice. Dad promptly enlisted in the Navy and he went on to serve as a Lieutenant Commander aboard the carrier *USS Monterey* in the South Pacific.

Now, 70 years later, his name is affixed to the Navy's newest carrier, and its new carrier class - the Ford Class. In many ways, the model of the carrier we're about to unveil vividly captures Dad's personal legacy and his proud Naval service.

So, I share with you my hope. May visitors who look upon this model recall the extraordinary life of Grand Rapids' favorite son. May they marvel at the skill and patriotic commitment to excellence of the shipbuilders of Newport News, may they recall Dad's service to our Nation, and may they ask God's blessing for the brave men and women who will serve aboard the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.

Captain Meier and the crew, and Matt Mulherin and the shipbuilders, please join me to now unveil the model.

Thank you.

2013 William E. Simon Lecture  
by Jon Meacham

“The Centennial Legacy of Gerald R. Ford”

Saturday, July 13, 2013



Jon Meacham

Thank you, Susan [Ford Bales], for that remarkable introduction; it's all downhill from here!

I was looking over my illustrious predecessors at this podium. I was reminded of a story about Senator John Warner of Virginia whom, you all will remember, became later in life one of Elizabeth Taylor's husbands. He was in the Cloakroom one day, and he was nervous. Strom Thurmond - who knew nervous - came over and said, "John, what's the matter?" John said, "Well you know I have my wedding night coming up. I know what to do; I am just not sure how to make it interesting." So, given who's been here before me, I know what to do...let's see if I can make it interesting for you.

Thank you to Susan, Ford family, and the Ford Presidential Foundation. I am an enormous admirer of President Ford. I had the great good fortune of being able to be with him on several occasions through the good offices of David Hume Kennerly, who is the Michelangelo of the mid-1970's — when David was (he actually likes to pretend that he is actually younger than he is) very young then. It's always been an honor to have been around President Ford and to contemplate his legacy. And so, I want to talk about that because I think we need it *"now more than ever"* to quote a predecessor of his.

It was the day before the nightmare was to end on Thursday, August 8, 1974. Gerald Ford had just met with Richard Nixon who had finally bowed to the inevitable and told his Vice President that he would be resigning the presidency, as Nixon was to put it, "effective at noon tomorrow". At a quarter to three on that Thursday, about six hours before Nixon was to announce his decision, Vice President Ford put in a call to the House Democratic Majority Leader, Tip O'Neill. "Now Jerry", O'Neill said, "I've got a statement prepared and I want to read it to you. Here it is - *'While we are close personal friends and I have great respect for his honesty, integrity, and ability our political philosophies are diametrically opposed. I wish him every success in bringing our politically torn country together. He can expect cooperation from Congress and I trust he will cooperate with Congress and the rest of America in the days ahead'*". That was the end of O'Neill's statement. Vice President Ford was pleased and said so. "That's fine Tip", he said, "and I want you to

know that I will be relying on you for your advice and assistance". There was a congenial pause on the phone, and then O'Neill said, "Christ, Jerry, isn't this a wonderful country? Here we can talk like this and you and I can be friends and eighteen months from now, I will be rolling around the country kicking your ass!"

Ford's reaction, as detailed in his memoir *A Time to Heal*, is revealing. "That, I thought", President Ford said, "was one hell of a way to speak to the next President of the United States. But it was vintage O'Neill and it contained a large measure of truth. We were close personal friends, but we were also fierce political enemies. And I knew he'd be doing what he promised to do in less than eighteen months. That, after all, was the essence of democracy".

I have written about a lot of Presidents. But not many of them, on the cusp of ultimate authority, could take such a nuanced and honest view of the work at hand and the realities of the battlefield that Gerald Ford took in that phone call. He could; and therein lay one of the secrets of his effectiveness and ultimately of his greatness. To put the matter bluntly: he understood that cooperation and, if you will, ass-kicking each had a role to play in the political life of the Nation. And he knew in his bones that the tension between the two was, as he put it, the essence of democracy.

As with Thomas Jefferson, Ford grasped and lived out the great truth that it is best to give as well as to take in a system such as ours. That in fact a system such as ours cannot exist without that give and take. And yet, I think if we are all being honest with ourselves at this hour in the second decade of the 21st Century, too many Americans have lost sight of one of the most important lessons from the life of our 38th President. That politics is best practiced with civility and compromise more often than it is with reflexive extremism and absolutism. Now it is very tempting to resort to romanticism and hyperbole on an occasion such as this, the centennial commemoration of the birth of Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Many of you here today knew Gerald Ford; many of you loved him. He was your Congressman, he was your friend, he was your father, and he was all our President in dark and difficult hours. But, praise without proportion, is not praise; it's flattery.

Simon Lecture Photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.

Winston Churchill understood this well. He once said that "to do justice to a great man, discriminating criticism is always necessary. Gush, however quenching, is always insipid". And so it's important to remember, I think, that President Ford was not a perfect man. He was a long-time political warrior who sacrificed much through the decades to take his place and do his best in the political battles of his era. He was human, a practitioner of partisanship but in a time when partisanship was not synonymous with total war. This is crucial to recall for if we go too far in smoothing out the rough edges of the past, then history loses much of its capacity to teach. We learn a lot more from sinners than we do from saints. And we learn a lot more about politics from mortals than we do from gods. And Gerald Ford would be the first to tell you that he was very much a mortal man. The Republican leader who delivered (and this is a technical historical term) a gazillion stump speeches and Lincoln Day addresses, who could throw a punch and make a tackle with the best of them, did not spend his career in some kind of endemic super-partisan age. But he did spend his career helping to create and sustain a political culture in which one could disagree with an opponent without demonizing him. We do just fine with that Tip O'Neill ass-kicking today. What we don't do at all well is that Gerald Ford cooperation. That is what we have lost. That is what we must recover. And, I think, that one way to begin that long journey back from our own hour of strife for strife's sake is to take the measure of the man whose Centennial we commemorate today.

It's no overstatement to note that Gerald Ford was both a maker and a mirror of the American Century. He was a man of uncommon skill and even less common humility who embodied the civic virtues that our Founding Fathers brought to the wilderness of the New World from the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Gerald Ford was a public man in a way that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison would have recognized and appreciated. As a biographer of Jefferson, I do not mention Alexander Hamilton. That is because Tip O'Neill had a point. What I like to point out is that, as a Jeffersonian, the one thing I can say about the Jefferson-Hamilton clash is at least my guy didn't get shot in Jersey. I said that to Chris Christie recently, and he didn't laugh. If things go a certain way in 2016 my accountant is going to be very happy with the audit bills.

President Ford was a man who, like the best of our Founders, including Hamilton I guess, was a man who trusted in the essential goodness of the people and was trained to recognize the dangers of excessive faction and to fight the false certitudes of extremism. Here is something hyperbolic, but true. No other American President, in our long history (and I include 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.

As we've noted though, he was not a perfect man. He was not some kind of perpetually (to use a phrase I think I've heard somewhere recently) post-partisan figure. He was a vote-getter back here in Michigan, and he was a vote-wrangler in Washington. And he was good at both. One had to be good at both to succeed at his level in political life. At the risk of over-statement, I want to say it again -- Gerald Ford was a man of politics.

He could give as well as he could take. He whacked the opposition when he thought they needed whacking, and he knew that they were going to whack him when they thought he needed it. He liked to say that a government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away from you everything you have, hardly an encomium to the Democratic Party.

When he came to Congress in 1949, he went to work on the nuts and bolts of legislation. He started out on the Public Works Committee, was eager to get to Appropriations, where the action was, and he was candid about the motivation. He said, "Appropriations was where the power was." As always, from a boyhood as an Eagle Scout, and an excellent athlete (arguably the best to ever occupy the Oval Office), as a young coach trying to work his way through law school, he was ambitious, if quietly so. He wanted to become Speaker of the House. And one way to do that was to be there for the back-benchers even before they were back-benchers.

A tireless fundraiser and campaigner he could be on the road as many as 200 nights a year, which was, truth be told, a source of anxiety and loneliness for his wonderful wife. Mrs. Ford said, "I was resentful of Jerry's being gone so much. I was feeling terribly neglected. The loneliness, the being left to yourself at night, is what makes marriages crack and liquor more attractive." Out of her pain (and addiction is among the most insidious of human trials and among the most intractable) came a legacy of recovery and new hope that unfolds even now and for which America owes Betty Ford a debt which we cannot ever fully repay.

As a First Lady, she stands with Dolly Madison in the rescue of the White House and with Eleanor Roosevelt in the redefinition of the role of a public spouse as a paragon of public service. On a purely political level, her husband always knew what he was doing out on the road.

In the spring of 1974, when the great unraveling of the Nixon presidency began to move more quickly, Vice President Ford fell back on what had worked for him for all those years. He hit the road. Ford's former House speechwriter and aide Bob Hartmann said in *Newsweek* after Ford died "He deliberately fled Washington, very deliberately. He just told me to accept every invitation he possibly could. His travel itinerary was nearly continuous. He was not being devious; on the other hand, he was nobody's fool." Not being devious yet being nobody's fool is a pretty good definition of a good man in political life. Gerald Ford was that! He was not perfect, but neither was Jefferson, and neither was Lincoln, and neither was FDR. Ford was, rather, a politician in the finest sense of the term - a man who devoted himself to the affairs of the people, and the affairs of the Republic, out of a mixture of motives that were both selfish and unselfish. So did Jefferson, so did Lincoln, so did FDR, so do we all in our own ways in the work of all our days.

If we seek perfection, if we seek philosophical consistency amid the storms of life, then the last place on earth to look is politics. Politics is by nature, like the world itself, fallen and tragic. Reinhold Niebuhr once noted that the sad duty of politics is to establish justice in a sinful world. And it's that large cause which Gerald Ford gave his life. It can be easy to underestimate, or as one of his successors would say, mis-underestimate, Gerald Ford. If you do it - and don't say it - they can't quote you.

2013 William E. Simon Lecture by Jon Meacham continued from page 13:

President Ford became president at the dawn of the rise of satire and irony in our popular culture. He was the victim, as we all know, of weekly roasts on *Saturday Night Live*. Now it's just gotten worse; now it's every day on the *Daily Show*. Early in his White House days Ford confided something revealing to Henry Kissinger. "I get mad as hell," the President told his Secretary of State, "but I don't show it when I don't do as well as I should." "I get mad as hell but I don't show it" -- in this seemingly off-hand remark lies an important lesson for the present. Ford understood the virtue and value of restraint. Now, coming after Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson - two men hardly known for keeping their volcanic tempers in check - it wouldn't have been too difficult to appear a calmer, more steadying force. But give credit where credit is due. President Ford understood that leadership requires a disciplined leader. He did not emote for the cameras; he did not, as my grandmother would say, show out. He did his duty, he kept his oath, and he saw us through.

Henry Adams once said that "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". Our friends in the Navy will understand that well. "A helm to grasp, a course to steer, and a port to seek." Gerald Ford had all of those. He wanted to take us to a place of healing after years of tumult, and he finished the race. In that conversation with Dr. Kissinger, he said something else too. He said, "if you don't strive for the best, you'll never make it".

President Ford had the good fortune to live to see his countrymen come to recognize the virtues of his decision to strive for the best when he decided to write an end to the Watergate saga. This was, in the fullness of time, his finest hour; the moment in which he strove for the finest in himself and in his country. In an interview not too long before he died, I had the chance to ask him about how it felt to be vindicated in the eyes of history. This is what he said: "I was hurt by the lack of understanding of what I did on that September day in 1974. In retrospect, I look back and I understand it. But boy, at the time as you know, I caught unshirted hell. That so many people came to see my reasoning and agree with it makes me feel pretty good." And rightly so; in the space of 30 years he completed a journey from accidental President - to undisputed statesman.

The wonderful thing about that journey is that President Ford never changed, the rest of us did. He bent history to his purposes. That's the ultimate measure of a leader. Other Presidents, too, have experienced similarly redemptive cycles in which the country gradually changed its mind and reversed its once negative opinion of the men who had the guts to make the hard calls and take the consequences. Harry Truman left Washington in 1953 at a low ebb, basically a step ahead of the sheriff, only to see his historical stock rise through the decades. It happened with President Ford, and it's happening even now with George Herbert Walker Bush, whose virtues are being rediscovered in much the same way the country rediscovered Truman's and Ford's.

I believe there are at least three lessons we can profitably carry forward now from the Ford legacy. They have something crucial in common: humility, in the best sense; pragmatism, in the finest sense; and patriotism, in its ultimate sense.

The first: **Embrace the world.** A veteran of World War II, Gerald Ford was an internationalist understanding that America would always pay a high price for isolation rather than engagement. He, in fact, made his



(l-r) Jon Meacham, Susan Ford Bales, and USS Gerald R. Ford Captain John Meier.

political name here for taking a stand for globalism. The first time his name appeared in *Time* magazine was in the Monday, September 27, 1948 issue. Kennerly had shot the cover! Matthew Brady had been busy so they called David; David's shots of Antietam were just...you gotta see them, I used to be his boss once long ago; hopefully he'll remember that. (laughter) The Monday, September 27, 1948 issue, *Time* magazine reported an upset in the Republican primary election for Michigan's 5th District. "In Michigan, four-term Congressman Bartel J. Jonkman was defeated in the week's biggest upset. A bitter-end GOP isolationist, Jonkman did not bother to do much campaigning. His opponent, Gerald R. Ford, Jr., 35, did. The Grand Rapids lawyer and one-time University of Michigan football star; Ford had hundreds of volunteers pushing doorbells for him. Time and again dared the incumbent to debate his foreign policy stand, the incumbent refused and back-slapping Jerry Ford's margin was nearly two-to-one." That would not be the last time Gerald Ford would be in *Time* magazine. As President, he would take key steps toward embracing Asia, impressing the cause of human rights, and in the ending and fighting of the Cold War.

Because of what I do and because of how Susan so generously described it, I've had the occasion and great good fortune to talk to a number of Presidents, usually when they are out of office, and have lost the power of the IRS, (which encourages a certain candor if you're me). But Presidents tend to be tall, and I tend to be not. And so I have a sort of running list of moments when they have looked even bigger. Gerald Ford (again probably the best athlete who ever occupied the presidency) once rose up before me in a way that I'll never forget when I asked the following question. We were in his study in Rancho Mirage, and I asked the question: "Who won the Cold War?" He rose up, seemed even taller than he was. He didn't rise from his seat, but boy did he seem big, and he said deeply, slowly, and profoundly, and I know with Gerald Ford, that's redundant; deeply, slowly, and profoundly: "No single American (with that big finger coming at me, I'll never forget it)...No single American President won the Cold War. The American people won the Cold War! Then Penny Circle came in with a mop and mopped me up and took me out! He knew that from generation to generation sacrifices of blood and treasure had known no party lines, no class lines.

The Cold War was a time of national purpose, and he believed that it should be remembered not as a partisan or personal struggle but as what President Kennedy had called "a long twilight struggle in which we all played our part." The Ford Legacy teaches us that we ignore the world and its causes and conflicts at our peril.

Second lesson: **Recover politics as an honorable undertaking.** His word was good, which is not something one can say of many politicians who've spent three tumultuous decades in the national arena. In his eulogy for his old chief, the man who served as envoy to China and as Director of Central Intelligence in the Ford Administration, George H. W. Bush, recalled that when Ford, as a House candidate in June, 1948, made plans with a reporter to visit dairy farmers. The day had dawned rainy and stormy. "It was pouring rain that particular day, and neither the journalist he was to meet nor the farmers expected the upstart candidate to keep his appointment. And yet he showed up on time because, as he explained to the journalist, 'they milk cows every day and, besides that, I promised.'" A key element of honor is respect. Respect for one's foes and recognizing that an opponent is not an enemy. President Ford once said, "Some people equate civility with weakness and compromise with surrender. I strongly disagree. I come by my political pragmatism the hard way; for my generation paid a heavy price in resistance to the century we had of some extremists to the dictators and the utopians".

In 2001, accepting the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, he observed, "I have always believed that most people are mostly good most of the time. I have never mistaken moderation for weakness nor civility for surrender. As far as I am concerned there are no enemies in politics, just temporary opponents who might vote with you on the next roll call." And Gerald Ford knew there was always going to be a next roll call.

The third lesson: **Risk it all if you think it's right.** It was four minutes past 11:00 on the morning of Sunday, September 8, 1974 when Gerald Ford entered the Oval Office. He had been to an early service of Holy Communion at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, across from the statue of Andrew Jackson. And he had now come to make the most momentous of announcements - the pardon of Richard Nixon. During his most critical moments in the White House - his assumption of power in the East Room and the pardoning of Nixon - President Ford drew deeply on theological imagery. In his swearing-in address on August 9 he had said, "There is a higher power, by whatever name we honor Him, who ordains not only righteousness but love, not only justice but mercy." There were many reasons for the pardon that came a month later, but Ford framed the decision in religious terms. "The Constitution," he said, "is the supreme law of our land, and it governs our actions as citizens. Only the laws of God, which govern our consciences, are superior to it."

Then in a New Testament allusion, the allusion being, "then Peter opened his mouth and said; of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of

persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him", Ford said in the pardon address: "I believe deeply in equal justice for all Americans. Whatever their station or former station, the law whether human or divine is no respecter of persons but the law is a respecter of reality." The reality, President Ford thought, was that the trial of a former President would most likely be unfair, drawn out, and destructive. And finally he said, "I do believe with all my heart and mind and spirit that I, not as President, but as a humble servant of God, who'll receive justice without mercy if I fail to show mercy".

This is worth pausing over. President Ford was linking his own fate beyond time, to his actions within time. The idea that God punishes or rewards us individually or collectively for what we do on earth, either in our lives or in the life of the Nation, is deeply rooted in the American story. Abigail Adams believed that the dysentery epidemic in Boston might be divine punishment for slavery. Even Thomas Jefferson, whose religious views were, to put it mildly, unorthodox, once took a razor and cut out the parts of the New Testament he found improbable. I know a lot of editors and I know a lot of politicians and I've never known anyone who would do both. Even he believed that there was a connection between the Nation's conduct and the supernatural. Reflecting on slavery he once said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just and his justice cannot sleep forever." Such an understanding, naturally, that Ford, Jefferson and the Adams' shared, has hardly been unanimous; many Americans are reasonably uncomfortable with the idea that our leaders think they are either communing with the Divine, or carrying out God's mission.

The founding era politician John Dickinson once said "that religion and government are certainly very different things instituted for different ends". Time and again in the American experience, however, the culture has been more in line with Gerald Ford's views on the question of religious expression and thought in the public sphere than it has been with strict separationists. Guarding against excessive religious influence in our public affairs is an unending task. The virtues of justice and mercy are universal -- or should be. But at the hour of maximum peril for his political career - what he had given 30 years of his life to - President Ford believed that he was acting not only in political time, but for all time and that justice and mercy were in fact the light post which should guide him forward. We could do worse, and we often have.

I'd like to end where we began with Tip O'Neill, minus some of the profanity. A quotation from O'Neill is inscribed on the granite base of the Gerald Ford statue both in the United States Rotunda, as well as the statue outside this museum. "God has been good to America, especially in difficult times," O'Neill said. "At the time of the Civil War He gave us Abraham Lincoln and at the time of Watergate He gave us Gerald Ford, the right man at the right time who was able to put our Nation back together again".

Now, for all of us, its passed time that we begin to be inspired and instructed by the example of President Ford. We should put the nation he loved back on a path of which he would approve. If we - you and I - can do that; if we can embrace the world responsibly; if we can see politics as an honorable pursuit, not a blood sport; if we can see ourselves as humble servants, then we'll go a long way toward saving the country that Gerald Ford saved for us once before. If we do that we will be doing the highest honor to the memory of the man of Michigan, who became a man of the world, and to whom, today, we pay our deepest respects. Thank you.



Jon Meacham and Trustee Jim Hackett

## 2013 William E. Simon Lecture Dinner and Reception



Rear Admiral Tom Moore, Bryan Moore, Jennifer Dunn, and Trustee Vaden Bales.



A "Toast" to President Gerald R. Ford.



Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell.



Susan Ford Bales with crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.



Jon Meacham and Trustee Vaden Bales.



Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer.



Susan Ford Bales presents "Extraordinary Circumstances" to little Harlee Finkler. Harlee's father is a crew member on the *USS Gerald R. Ford*.



(l-r) Bob Boetticher, Sergeant First Class Alvy Powell, and Jarka Boetticher.



Susan Ford Bales with shipbuilders from Newport News Shipbuilding.



Members of President Ford's White House Staff Trustee David Kennerly and Annie Willard.



Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, Captain John Meier and Rachel Meier.

## 26th Annual Gerald R. Ford Prize for Reporting

June 3, 2013



Chairman Steve Ford presents the 2012 Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency to John Dickerson.



David Gergen, *CNN* Senior Political Analyst.



Chairman Steve Ford presents the 2012 Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense to Hal Bernton.



Reporting on the Presidency Judges David Beckwith, Ron Nessen, and John McConnell with Congressman Fred Upton (left) and Steve Ford (right).



Reporting on National Defense Judges Rob Holzer, Debbie van Opstal, Paula Trimble, Michael Champness, Trustee Karen Scowcroft, Mark Troutman with Congressman Fred Upton (left) and Steve Ford (right).

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is honored to announce the recipients of the 26th annual Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting in 2012. John Dickerson, chief political correspondent for *Slate* and political director of *CBS News*, won the Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency and Hal Bernton, military affairs reporter for *The Seattle Times*, won the Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. The \$5,000 award recognizes journalists whose high standards for accuracy and substance help foster a better public understanding of the Presidency and National Defense.

This year, the awards were presented by Steve Ford, son of the late President Gerald R. Ford and Chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, at the *National Press Club* luncheon on June 3. Following the presentation of the award, David Gergen, senior political analyst for *CNN* who has served as an adviser to four U.S. presidents, addressed the luncheon gathering. Also, as a part of President Ford's Centennial celebration, Michigan's 6th District Congressman Fred Upton, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, gave remarks on the President's 100th Birthday.

When announcing their decision to award John Dickerson the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on Presidency in 2012, the judges issued the following statement:

*"The judging committee has selected John Dickerson of "Slate" as the winner of the 26th annual Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency. During the 2012 campaign year, John Dickerson produced an exceptionally thoughtful series of articles on the qualities required of a successful president in the postwar era, and the relevance of modern political campaigns in helping voters decide which candidate has those abilities. Using two decades of experience reporting in and around the White House, Dickerson effectively marshaled presidential anecdotes, campaign stories, and political theory to entertain and inform, and to analyze the often-tenuous link between successful politicking and successful governing."*

When announcing their decision to award Hal Bernton the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense in 2012, the judges issued the following statement:

*"The judges were pleased to select Hal Bernton from "The Seattle Times" for the 2012 Gerald R. Ford Award for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. Mr. Bernton's insightful series on the U.S. Army's review of reversed diagnoses of soldiers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) uncovered a multi-faceted, complex issue regarding the many challenges that both medical professionals and soldiers face in dealing with the after-effects of combat. Although there has been a lot written about PTSD over the past few years, this series uncovered a largely hidden issue – the manner in which diagnoses were handled that resulted in real-world effects on military personnel, their families, the organizations designed to serve them and society at large."*

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation sponsors the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency and Distinguished Reporting on National Defense to recognize and encourage thoughtful, insightful, and enterprising work by journalists covering the presidency and national defense.

## Events Honoring President Ford's Centennial

### An Evening with Henry Kissinger and Paul O'Neill Honors President Ford's Centennial



Foundation Trustees Henry Kissinger and Paul O'Neill.

On Friday, June 21, 2013, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy hosted a lively and insightful conversation between eminent statesmen and Ford Administration alumni Dr. Henry Kissinger, 56th Secretary of State, and Paul H. O'Neill, 72nd Secretary of the Treasury, as part of the Citi Foundation Lecture Series in New York City.

Ford School Dean Susan M. Collins introduced the conversation and noted that naming the school for Gerald Ford marked a transformational moment in the school's history. "It raised the stature of the school and linked us to a great man whose decency and commitment to public service inspire our students today." ~ *Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.*

### Time Capsule Placed on *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) to Memorialize President Ford's Lifetime Achievements

Huntington Ingalls Industries' Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) division welded a time capsule on July 11, 2013 inside the flight deck control room of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). The time capsule contains items that were placed under the 555-metric ton island during a ceremonial event in January by Susan Ford Bales, the ship's sponsor and daughter of the late president, as well as shipyard and Navy leadership.

"This Navy tradition is even more special today because it's happening three days before what would have been President Ford's 100th birthday, said Rolf Bartschi, NNS' vice president, CVN 78 carrier construction. "Among the items are those that commemorate President Ford's lifetime achievements. We are proud to honor him, and we feel privileged to provide the ship's force with such an important piece of our Nation's history." ~ *Courtesy of Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc.*



NNS welder Shaun Woroneski (left) welds a time capsule containing commemorative items into the island of the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) while NNS fitter Jerry Womack looks on.

*Events Honoring President Ford's Centennial (continued)*

**Michigan Historical Commission  
"Resolution of Tribute  
to President Gerald R. Ford"**

On May 8, 2013, Jack Dempsey, President of the Michigan Historical Commission signed a Resolution of Tribute to Gerald R. Ford. The Michigan Historical Commission commemorates this year as the Centennial birth year of President Gerald R. Ford, coincident with its own Centennial, and salutes the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum for carrying on President Ford's legacy of teaching and exemplifying the highest ideals of public service and civic devotion.



Dr. Robert M. Humphries.

Susan Ford Bales in President Ford's Foundation office.



Baby being carried off plane by President Gerald R. Ford during Operation Babylift. Photo courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

**Passing the Torch: President Ford Centennial Birthday  
and Operation Babylift Reunion Celebration**

On July 13-14, 2013 Torch 1975 Inc. and VFW Post 9934 had the honor to host the 2013 Reunion of the original flight crew, veterans, and war orphans of Operation Babylift in Dana Point, California. This year's reunion was especially memorable because it was a chance to honor President Ford on his Centennial Birthday. The weekend of events included a Tribute to President Gerald R. Ford, a re-enactment of the events from April 5, 1975; President Ford Centennial Gala, and the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Golf Tournament at San Juan Hills Golf Club.

Operation Babylift (OBL) was the name given to the mass evacuation of orphans from South Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War (April 3–26, 1975). President Gerald R. Ford, in a profound humanitarian act, authorized a \$2 million fund and announced that the U.S. government would begin evacuating otherwise slaughtered Asian American orphans from Saigon on a series of 30 planned flights. This resulted in more than 2,700 children being adopted in the United States and over 1,300 in Canada, England, Europe and Australia.



U.S. Marine Nikki Logan.

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1975, President Ford went the extra mile by flying from Palm Springs airport to San Francisco International airport to welcome the babies. Nikki Logan, one of the babies President Ford carried off the evacuation aircraft; grew up and joined the U.S. Marines to give back and to serve her adopted country. Operation Babylift is one of the greatest humanitarian acts of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with a positive effect on some 4000 babies' lives worldwide.

The OBL community consists of aircrew, caretakers, nurses, medical technicians, adoptive parents and adoptees. These war orphans and living survivors began their annual reunions in 2000. The Founder of Torch 1975 Inc. – Jessica Nguyen, as a child of the Vietnam War, often researched how other children affected by the War were like her, and the story of Operation Babylift in the effort of saving several thousand babies of the Vietnam War, certainly caught her devotion. Being aided by Social Media, she was able to connect to OBL group via Mr. Phil Wise – a C-5A Galaxy crash survivor and a Vietnam Veteran – right on April 4<sup>th</sup> last year; many crash survivors consider April 4<sup>th</sup> 1975 as their second birthday.



Nikki Logan (left) passes the Humanitarian Torch to Jessica Nguyen (center), and Colonel Joe Snyder (right) at the Operation Babylift re-enactment.

Many of the OBL babies have the same original last name – Nguyen, same home town, and almost born the same year like Jessica Nguyen. Jessica Nguyen had opportunities to meet several of them, and there was always a bond of long time friends or cousins greeting one another. Being asked what inspired you to host this Reunion, Jessica Nguyen humbly says: "Where else when mentioned about the project name (Operation Babylift – 1975), you will automatically know the Name of the Organization (Torch 1975 Inc.) and the Founder's age (1975 birth year). Of course I'm proud to know Operation Babylift was born in the same year as mine!" – *Courtesy of Jessica Nguyen and Colonel Joe Snyder of Torch 1975, Inc.*

*Events Honoring President Ford's Centennial (continued)*

**National Archives Celebrates Gerald R. Ford's Centennial**



To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Gerald R. Ford (July 14, 1913), the National Archives debuted a special display, hosted programs, and initiated extensive online teaching activities and social media outreach. These initiatives are part of a year-long commemoration of the centennial of President Ford, with programs and displays in Washington, DC, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum. The "President Ford and the U.S. Space Program" exhibit will be on display at the National Archives in Washington D.C., through January 6, 2014.



On August 9, 1975, the Apollo astronauts Thomas Stafford, Donald Slayton, Vance Brand and Technical Director Glynn Lunney presented President Ford with the Presidential Flag taken with them on the mission after receiving the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. - *Courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.*



The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra opened its 2013 Picnic Pops series on July 12, 2013 with a red, white, and true blue patriotic program that gave special honors to President Gerald R. Ford.

John Phillips Sousa marches, salutes to the armed forces, and a performance of "One of Us, Portrait of a Humble Healer" by David Culross, a work commissioned and recorded by the symphony, were part of the offerings.

The concert concluded with Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," followed by a spectacular fireworks display.



*Courtesy of the Grand Rapids Symphony.*



(l-r) Raaed Haddad, Outreach Manager for Congressman Bill Huizenga, and Brian Ryks, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.



President Gerald R. Ford would have observed his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, July 14, 2013 and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) held a Centennial Celebration in President Ford's honor.

On Friday, July 12, the airport had a "Birthday Party" to honor President Ford. Red, white and blue cupcakes were served and there were giveaways and games.

Hundreds of passengers flying in and out of GFIA participated in the event. Staff members, the public and some that even knew President Ford were also on hand. Larry and Barbara VanGenderen were visiting from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Mrs. VanGenderen worked for President Ford and said he was a kind man that always took the time to stop, say hello and cared for his staff.

"He was affable. Just so kind and so sweet," said Mrs. VanGenderen. "He kept to himself, but was never demanding and made us feel like family."

The airport's tiniest travelers seemed to have the most fun at the party with balloons and cupcakes as a part of the celebration. Needless to say, the blue cupcakes were the most popular and left the best frosting faces!

Meijer donated the cupcakes and cake, and there were many "Happy Birthday" wishes for President Ford! - *Courtesy of Tara M. Hernandez, Gerald R. Ford International Airport.*



## 2013 American Heart Association's Heart Ball



Susan Ford Bales with Foundation Honorary Trustee Rich DeVos.

Susan Ford Bales spoke of her family's shared battle against heart disease on June 4, 2013 at the American Heart Association's 2013 Heart Ball at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Over 250 guests, all of whom gathered with stories of either triumph or defeat against heart disease. "Mother had coronary bypass surgery; Dad had aortic stenosis and died of congestive heart failure. Both Dad and I had pacemakers implanted," said Susan. "Mine was the result of going into full cardiac arrest three years ago while on an elliptical machine,"

Recalling her parents, President Gerald R. Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford, Susan's speech closed with encouragement to those who face the battle as well as those who work towards finding a defeating solution. "Let us go forth tonight and honor their legacies. Let us redouble our efforts to develop cures for heart disease."

Following Susan's speech, Rich DeVos presented Dr. Asghar Khaghani, lead surgeon for the Richard DeVos Heart and Lung Transplant Program through the Frederik Meijer Heart and Vascular Institute, as the recipient of the 2013 Richard M. DeVos Award.

"So we are here to celebrate life," said DeVos. "Celebrate everything you can, any experience you would do for a party. Don't look for one, find one. Create one. Life moves quick."

*Courtesy of the American Heart Association.*



Foundation Chairman Steve Ford delivered the keynote address to participants of the 2013 Great Choices Student Film Festival on Saturday, June 8 at the Celebration Cinema North in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Meijer Great Choices Film Festival is a high school student competition seeking: 30 PSA's (Public Service Announcements) related to Character, Promoting Health, or Celebrating Diversity that will target students in grades K-6 or grades 7-12.

Most exciting, in the Fall of 2013, DVD's of the top winning PSA's in each category will be provided to every school in the State of Michigan to be used as a tool in their Character Education, Diversity, and Wellness programs.

Every school across the State of Michigan works diligently to Build Character, Celebrate Diversity, and Promote Wellness through healthy living.

Meijer, Inc., the Meijer Foundation, The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Chemical Bank, Celebration Cinema, and the Van Singel Fine Arts Center, all support the efforts behind Character, Diversity, and Wellness. These organizations want to support schools and parents across the state to instill great life choices in our youth. They believe Michigan's high school students can create positive messages that will impact their peers, siblings, and youth statewide.



*Courtesy of the Meijer Great Choices Student Film Festival.*



Emily Loeks of Celebration Cinema and Chairman Steve Ford at the Meijer Great Choices Student Film Festival.

## Understanding the Vietnam War

In late June, 21 teachers from six states participated in the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Museum's first Presidential Timeline Summer Teacher Institute, spending three days in Ann Arbor at the Library and one day at the Museum in Grand Rapids. The Institute was organized in collaboration with the University of Texas, Austin, where the Presidential Timeline is based. [www.presidentialtimeline.org](http://www.presidentialtimeline.org)

Subtitled, "Historical Thinking, Digital Archives, and Web-based Tools for the Social Studies Classroom," this diverse group of educators learned from historians, archivists, and each other. Prominent Vietnam War historian and author Dr. George Herring served as historian-in-residence, staff from UT provided instruction in using a variety of web-based applications appropriate for the classroom setting, and Library archivists and the Museum's education specialist led the teachers in primary source research using the Ford archives. In addition, two South Vietnamese refugees shared their dramatic stories of escape, one as one of the boat people, the other by walking out of the country. The workshop concluded with teachers developing web-based lessons to use with students. ~ *Barbara McGregor, Education Specialist, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.*



Library and Museum Director Elaine Didier (bottom right) joins teachers and presenters for a commemorative photograph on the Library steps.



Area educators take a break from their curriculum design work to pose with Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso, Museum Deputy Director Jim Kratsas, and Project Fellow Dr. Cynthia Mader, GVSU retired (far right).

through high school will become increasingly complex as the students' knowledge and abilities increase. Key questions in many of the lessons include, "Would You Take a Stand?" and "What Can I Do?"

Participating teachers will pilot their lessons during the 2013 – 2014 school year, making changes as necessary. They will come back together at the conclusion of the school year to share their experiences and discuss what worked, and what didn't, as well as future direction. ~ *Barbara McGregor, Education Specialist, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.*

## Character-based Curriculum

Educators from Grand Rapids and Jenison, Michigan public schools, Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum came together for a week in August to begin drafting curriculum to be used in conjunction with the Museum's Learning Center addition. They were asked to use the DVDs "Black and Blue" and "Betty Ford: The Real Deal" as starting points for their work.

The group explored methods for incorporating difficult decisions Gerald Ford faced throughout his life, and how he demonstrated good character in making those tough choices, as well as Betty Ford's candor and work for the Equal Rights Amendment into current instructional standards and requirements.

Lessons based on both President and Mrs. Ford were drafted for elementary, middle school, and high school classes. Early elementary students will simply be introduced to President and Mrs. Ford. Character lessons for later elementary

The Gerald R. Ford Energy Lecture Series

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“Business Opportunities in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency”

On the evening of Tuesday, July 30th, guests made their way to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum to attend the Ford Energy Lecture Program: **Business Opportunities in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**. Bruce Goodman of Varnum LLP moderated a panel discussion between representatives from Burke E. Porter Company, Patriot Solar Group LLC, Novi Energy LLC, and Simms Energy LLC. The panel discussion covered business opportunities in alternative energy and energy efficiency. Panelists discussed their “regular” business, how their company became involved in energy issues, their energy products/services, and the “ripple effect” of their energy activities.



(l-r) Scott Bohr - Burke E. Porter Machinery Co., Jim Wolter - Patriot Solar Groups, Matt Simms - Simms Energy, Anand Gangadharan - NOVI energy, and Bruce Goodman, Varnum LLP.



The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library is proud to announce that Amanda Hughett has been chosen as the 2013 winner of the Gerald R. Ford Scholar Award in Honor of Robert M. Teeter. Ms. Hughett is a doctoral student in History at Duke University and is completing her doctoral dissertation: *Beyond the Prison Gates: Grassroots Activism and Criminal Justice Politics in North Carolina, 1968-1994*. Her work examines an interracial and multi-class movement for prison reform that emerged in North Carolina and across the nation beginning in the late 1960's.

This annual award of \$5,000 is given to a doctoral student conducting dissertation research and writing on an aspect of the United States political process during the latter part of the 20th Century. It was established in 2005 to honor the life and work of Robert Teeter. Mr. Teeter spent over thirty years as a leader in public opinion analysis and campaign strategy, including the 1976 campaign of President Gerald R. Ford. The majority of written materials from Mr. Teeter's career are part of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library Collection. This award has been made possible by the generous support of the Teeter family and friends, and his colleagues on the United Parcel Service Board of Directors.



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

*Become a member of “Friends of Ford” and help support the Library & Museum’s many exhibits and programs. Join us as we seek to enhance public understanding of American history, government, and the presidency.*

**Support the Legacy of President Gerald R. Ford Today!**

**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.

303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353

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GERALD R. FORD

2013



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE, LEGACY, AND INTEGRITY

## Gerald R. Ford Oral History Project

From 2008 through 2013, the “President Gerald R. Ford Oral History Project” sought to preserve the enduring legacy of our Nation’s 38th President. Over 160 interviews were conducted by nationally recognized Presidential Historian, Richard Norton Smith, with Ford Family members, friends of President and Mrs. Ford, President Ford’s colleagues in the United States Congress, former Cabinet and White House Staff members of the Ford Administration, and numerous others. These conversations discussed a wide range of topics, including President Ford’s early years in Grand Rapids, his twenty-five years as a Congressman, his appointment as Vice President, his swearing-in as President, Domestic and Foreign Policy, the Nixon Pardon, the 1976 Presidential Election, President and Mrs. Ford’s Post-Presidency years, and President Ford’s State Funeral ceremonies and services.

**Visit [GeraldRFordFoundation.org/centennial/oralhistory/](http://GeraldRFordFoundation.org/centennial/oralhistory/) to learn more about President Ford and to examine first-hand accounts of the extraordinary life and legacy of this remarkable man.**

*Upcoming Events:* Please visit our website for a complete list of upcoming events at the Museum and Library.

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



[www.facebook.com/geraldrford](http://www.facebook.com/geraldrford)



*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.*