Gerald R. Ford Foundation *NEWSLETTER*

Spring 1997

We built it...

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

...and they came!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Director's Letter 2
Foundation Renews Mission 4
From Secretary of State Albright 5
Photo Gallery 6
President Ford's Rededication Speech 10
How the New Museum Came to Be 14
New Education Programs 15
Laying the Foundation 16
New Oral History Program 17
Grants 17
Civil War Exhibit 18
Calendar of Events 19

Richard Norton Smith

A Letter from the Museum/Library Director

Outside the temperature hovered near 40 degrees, and lake effect flurries mingled in the local greeting extended to three Presidents and four First Ladies. But everywhere they went, the distinguished visitors were warmed by shared recollections and unabashed pride. Certainly no one present at Wednesday night's dinner could miss the bonds of friendship uniting the stellar group of onetime White House residents who had assembled in Grand Rapids to honor Gerald Ford. There was George Bush, his voice cracking as he offered a toast "to the President of the United States." Followed by Jimmy Carter, who spoke movingly about his former rival and subsequent close friend. President Ford himself brought a collective catch in the throat by reminiscing about his days as a young Congressmen and his House Office Building neighbor, John F. Kennedy. Speaking directly to the late President's daughter, Caroline, who was seated a few feet away, he called her father "a very great man, of whom you should be very, very proud."

"Certainly no one present at Wednesday night's dinner could miss the bonds of friendship uniting the stellar group of onetime White House residents who had assembled in Grand Rapids to honor Gerald Ford. "

It was that kind of evening—when history was created even as it was commemorated. Contributing to the family feeling was the presence of Mike Ford, Jack and Juliann Ford, Steve Ford, and Susan and Vaden Bales. The marvelous White House Strolling Strings, and the U.S. Army Chorus supplied their own memories, while Ford Cabinet members Henry Kissinger, Bill Simon, Carla Hills, David Matthews, and Bill Usery stood out among the 400 friends and admirers who packed the Ambassador Ballroom of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

"It was that kind of evening—when history was created even as it was commemorated."

Earlier in the day President Ford welcomed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for lunch at the Museum, followed by a tour of the new exhibits and a nationally telecast program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. In introducing Secretary Albright the President did not mince words. Recalling his own wartime conversion to bipartisan internationalist foreign policy in the mold of his hero, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Ford defended free trade and warned against those in both political parties who would build walls around America.

"Earlier in the day President Ford welcomed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for lunch at the Museum, followed by a tour of the new exhibits and a nationally telecast program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan."

In the second part of the program, former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Al Haig, former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and national security advisors Brent Scowcroft and Zbigniew Brzezinski offered their own take, as entertaining as it was personal, on the American Century and the prospects for Marshall-Vandenburg-Ford style foreign policy.

"...former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Al Haig, former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and national security advisors Brent Scowcroft and Zbigniew Brzezinski offered their own take..."

Thursday morning, April 17, began with two decidedly informal breakfasts, one for the former Presidents in President Ford's Museum office, and a second for the First Ladies and Ford family members at their hotel. Like the only slightly less famous Three Tenors, Ford, Carter, and Bush put on a virtuoso performance before a packed gathering of newspaper, television, and other media representatives, followed by an even more spirited "press conference," overseen by former White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen, at which questions were

WE'RE A SMASH!

April 17-May 14
Compared to the same period last year:

Attendance:	Increase of 64%
Sales/Attendance Income:	Increase of 238%

posed by 250 middle and high school students from throughout western Michigan.

"Like the only slightly less famous Three Tenors, Ford, Carter, and Bush put on a virtuoso performance..."

Over 5,000 people braved the elements to join in the outdoor rededication ceremonies. Offsetting a chilly wind were some warm tributes from Governor John Engler and President Ford's colleagues in their exclusive trade union of former chief executives. It may have been the middle of April—and felt like the middle of March—but the Army Chorus, accompanied by the 126th U.S. Army Band, gave the program a Fourth of July flavor. When it came his turn to speak, President Ford more than rose to the occasion with an address combining the distilled wisdom of a lifetime with some visionary observations about the next American Century. (The complete text of his remarks is reproduced on page 10).

"...President Ford more than rose to the occasion with an address combining the distilled wisdom of a lifetime with some visionary observations about the next American Century."

After the formal ribbon cutting, museumgoers by the thousands had a chance to see the $5 million makeover for themselves. Their reaction mirrored that of the Presidents and First Ladies, who expressed something akin to awe as they walked through the 70s disco and the Ford Paint and Varnish Company, experienced the holographic White House and the 1976 Convention Floor, and stood in the Oval Office—an understandable favorite—complete with its new sound and light show depicting a typical day in the life of America's most famous work space.

"...the Presidents and First Ladies...stood in the Oval Office—an understandable favorite—complete with its new sound and light show depicting a typical day in the life of America's most famous work space."

Within a few hours the celebrated visitors had left town, but thousands of others came in their wake, motivated by favorable media coverage, positive word of mouth, and their own curiosity. They continue to come, in ever increasing numbers, to pay tribute to America's 38th President, to rekindle memories or introduce the Ford years to others too young to have experienced them—in the process learning about the American presidency and vindicating all the years of hard work by so many friends and admirers of Gerald Ford.

"They continue to come, in ever increasing numbers, to pay tribute to America's 38th President, to rekindle memories or introduce the Ford years to others too young to have experienced them..."

And the story is not over. Far from it. For April 17 merely ended one chapter in that story. Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Ford Foundation, the new museum represents a new beginning. It is a privilege to be even a small part of such history made, and history in the making. ■

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW FORD MUSEUM

Man and Woman Hours Spent on New Exhibits:	
Museum/Library Staff	32,000
Contractors	74,000
Number of Video Exhibits:	
In Old Museum	4
In New Museum	18
Number Of Interactive Exhibits:	
In Old Museum	0
In New Museum	4
Number of Environmental Recreations:	
In Old Museum	1
In New Museum	6
Number of Museum Employees:	
1981	13
1997	12

Foundation Renews Its Mission

by Martin J. Allen, Chairman

On a beautiful morning in Grand Rapids on September 18, 1981, the Gerald R. Ford Museum was dedicated. The magnificent ceremony was attended by President Reagan, several foreign heads of state and thousands of admirers and associates of President Ford. On that same afternoon, in the quiet of a bank board room, the first organizational meeting of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation was convened. Before adjourning, the organizers adopted the following mission statement:

> *The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation whose programs and exhibits are supported entirely by private contributions and bequests. In honoring President Ford's lifelong commitment to public service, the Foundation's focus is on exhibits, community affairs and educational programs, conferences, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency.*

The trustees of the Foundation then went about creating an endowment to sustain this mission. As a result, the past fifteen years have by any standard been eventful ones. Thanks to Foundation support, and backed by the superb staff of the Ford Library and Museum, we have:

- *underwritten numerous programs and temporary exhibits at both institutions.* Many of these have reached a national audience. The most recent example is last Fall's major Library conference, *The Trouble with Washington*, in which a bipartisan cast of political leaders, journalists, citizen activists, and historians assembled in Ann Arbor to examine why so many Americans feel so alienated from the political process. Simultaneously, the Foundation sponsored *41 Men*, an historic Museum exhibit of 250 artifacts from all of America's presidents that attracted over 81,000 visitors in seven months.

- *provided 202 grants totaling* $237,000, for a variety of scholarly research studies related to the presidency and public policy generally.

- *awarded the Foundation's annual Gerald R. Ford Prizes for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense and the Presidency* at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., providing 20 prizes totaling $100,000 since 1988.

This is just the beginning. Recognizing the changed historical perspective that comes with the passage of time, the Ford Foundation committed to raising over $5 million dollars to renovate the permanent exhibits in Grand Rapids. In the process, we changed the presidential library/museum concept in ways that will benefit students of all ages—and for the ages.

April 17, 1997 was a day of rededication—not just of a museum, but of ourselves. It was a day to renew the vision President Ford set before us on that memorable September afternoon in 1981 when he said, "the finest tribute of all will be to see the Gerald R. Ford Museum living and growing and constructive and useful." This is our goal, our mission, and our mandate. ■

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright joins President Ford in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan—and warning Americans of the danger of resurrgent isolation.

The well-traveled diplomat receives a gift celebrating the world's four great cities...London, Paris, Rome and Grand Rapids.

From Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright's Keynote Address upon the 50th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan...

"Today, as before, we must understand that nations working together as partners in peace and in trade are less likely to fall into the abyss of war...that gaining the commitment of nations to high standards of law and human rights will make the world less brutal and more just. And we must understand and accept the imperative of American leadership."

"Anyone who appreciates the history of Europe in this century will agree that if an organization like NATO did not exist, we would want to create it."

"The only question we would consider is this: Which democratic nations in Europe are willing and able to contribute to our common security? In other words, we would not be blinded by old thinking from the Cold War."

"To align themselves with NATO, Europe's new democracies are ending disputes with their neighbors, reaching out to old adversaries, and making sure soldiers take orders from civilians. They are fixing precisely the problems that could lead to future Bosnias."

"...peace is no excuse for complacency, for peace is itself the product of vigilance."

"...we must appreciate the remarkable distance that Russia has traveled since it rejected communism... we should view Russia's willingness to work with NATO as an opportunity to be seized, not as a reason to hide the silverware."

Whoever said foreign policy is all serious? Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former national security advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright share a light moment.

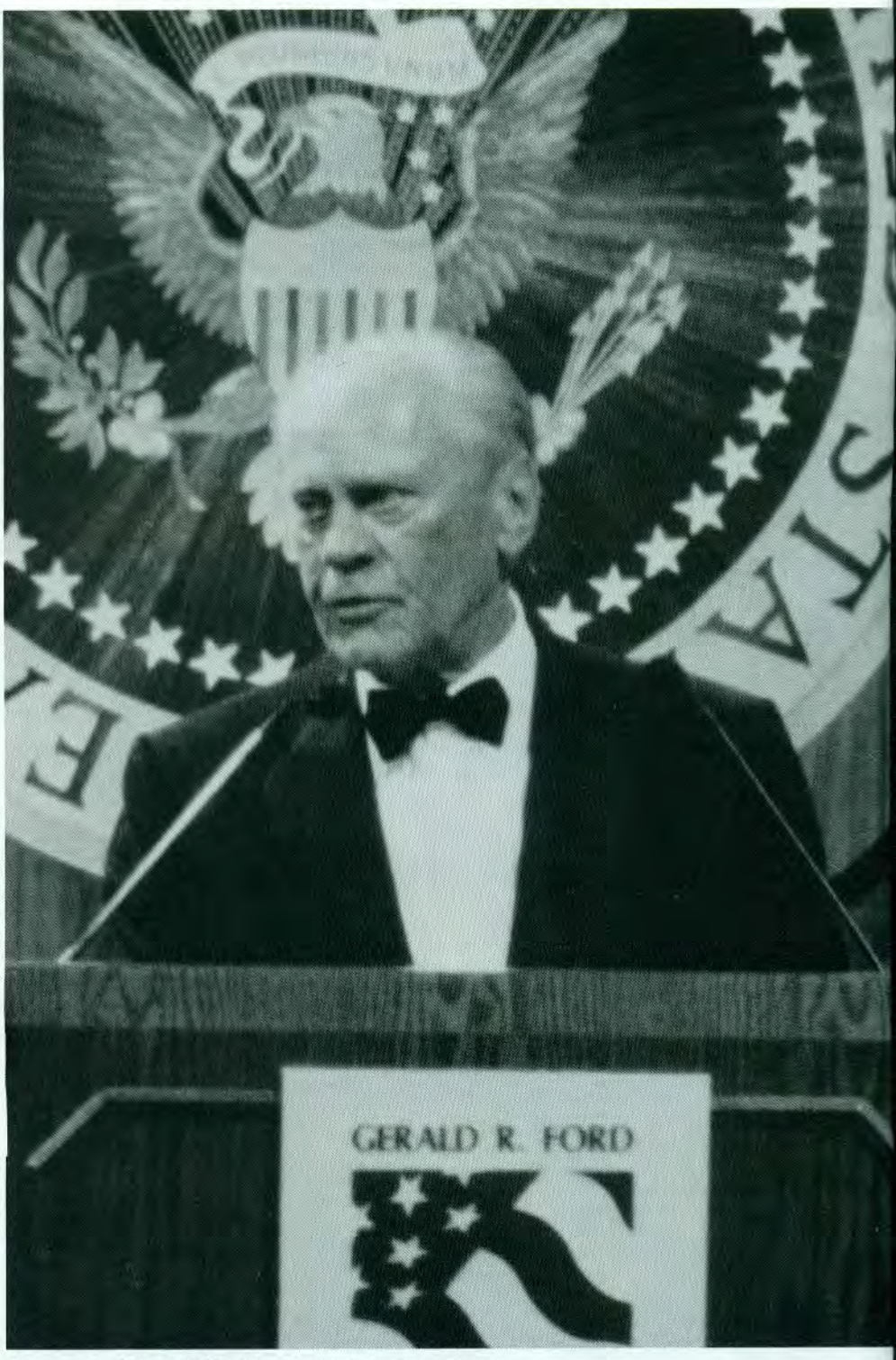
Commemorating half a century of creative U.S. foreign policy. [l-r: former Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, General Brent Scowcroft, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, President Ford, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig]

PHOTO GALLERY

Susan Ford Bales - a proud daughter.

Foundation Chairman Marty Allen welcomes dinner goers.

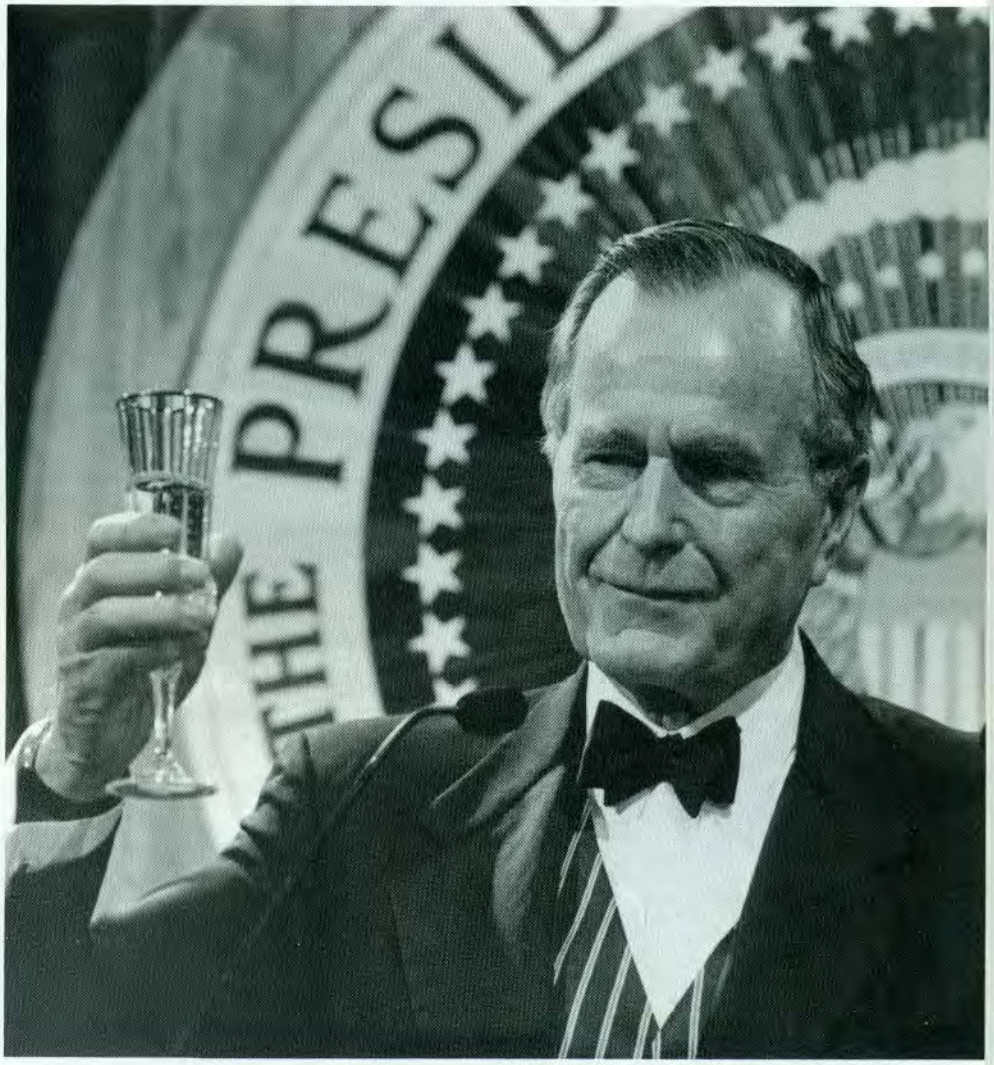
Betty Ford and Caroline Kennedy.



An emotional Gerald Ford thanks his friends and loved ones.

President Carter applauds his predecessor.

Juliann and Jack Ford.



The 41st President raises his glass in salute to the 42nd.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

A star-studded evening: Nancy and Henry Kissinger and former Secretary of the Treasury William Simon were among the distinguished guests who honored President Ford.

President and Mrs. Ford greet Leslie Stahl who was on hand with a "60 Minutes" crew for a Fall profile of Mrs. Ford, to be shown on the popular news magazine.

The Texas Caucus... Lady Bird Johnson in conversation with George Bush.

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

Three Presidents have a working breakfast in President Ford's Museum office.

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

President Ford makes a point before 250 student journalists from across western Michigan.

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

Four First Ladies gather for their own breakfast at the Amway Grand Plaza.

Mike Ford leads the crowd in prayer.

The moment we've been waiting for!
[l-r: Marty Allen, President Bush, Archivist of the United States John Carlin, President Ford, President Carter, Richard Norton Smith]

"Learning from the Past, Living for the Future"

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

Barbara Bush and Betty Ford stroll memory lane (also known as the Ford Paint and Varnish Company).

[Remarks by Gerald R. Ford at the Rededication of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 17, 1997.]

Exactly 40 years ago this summer Harry Truman—the first American President with whom I had the honor of being associated—dedicated his Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. As befitting Mr. Truman's generous nature, he invited his sometime adversary and enduring friend, Herbert Hoover, to assist in the honors. Afterward, a woman in the crowd approached Mr. Hoover and asked him how former Presidents occupied their days. "Madam," said Hoover, "We spend our time taking pills and dedicating Libraries."

Of course, it wasn't true then, and it is even less true today. With his far-flung humanitarian work and his unceasing efforts to avoid conflict around the globe, it sometimes seems as if President Carter lives on airplanes. President Bush, on the other hand, in addition to his many other activities, prefers to jump out of airplanes. He even invited me to go along with him on his recent parachute mission. "Not gonna do it," I told him. "Wouldn't be prudent." Besides, after all those jokes about my golf swing, do you really want to tempt fate by having me jump out of a plane?

"Along with Presidents Carter and Bush, I belong to a rather exclusive trade union..."

Along with Presidents Carter and Bush, I belong to a rather exclusive trade union, one that makes up in diversity what it lacks in numbers. On the surface Jimmy Carter and George Bush appear as different as peanuts and pork rinds. They hail from different backgrounds. They belong to different political parties. But they share a lifelong commitment to public service. They are patriots before they are partisans.

"...the essence of presidential leadership consists of taking risks—not polls."

Moreover, their years in the White House remind us all that the essence of presidential leadership consists of taking risks—not polls. Jimmy Carter, at Camp David, took risks for peace in the Middle East. George Bush took risks in war against Saddam Hussein. History will be grateful to both. The same holds true for Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalyn Carter and Barbara Bush. You have made your own contributions to Amer-

ica. The result is a nation more beautiful, more humane, and more literate.

On this day of reflection and renewal, you will forgive me if I acknowledge some debts of very long standing. In my first remarks as President, delivered at a time of national as well as personal soul searching, I said I was indebted to no man, and only to one woman, my dear wife. In truth, there are no words to fully express how much I owe to Betty. For almost fifty years she has borne with my shortcomings and I have rejoiced in her graces. Scarcely smaller is my debt to four wonderful children and the extended Ford family. Likewise the countless friends who have become family, and who have earned not only my gratitude but the nation's, for their service in and out of government. I especially thank the many Members of my Cabinet who are here. They were magnificent advisors and doers. I congratulate each one for their superb service to America.

Today is the latest, but by no means the last, chapter in a story that began over 80 years ago, when a courageous woman named Dorothy Ford, having escaped a disastrous first marriage, returned home to Grand Rapids to begin a new life with an infant in her arms. All that I am, and whatever I may have achieved in this life, I owe to my mother Dorothy and my stepfather Jerry Ford, Sr.—for the strength of their character and the example of their love.

"...it wasn't enough to preserve America's history—but that it must be disseminated as well."

It is no accident that this museum should be located where it is, or that its front should reflect the city of Grand Rapids. For what is my own life, except a reflection of this city's most deeply held values? Here is where I first gained a sense of place, faith in a moral universe, and the certainty that we are all God's children. Three cardinal rules governed the Ford household: work hard, tell the truth, and come to dinner on time. All this was once part of an unimagined future; after today it belongs to a history that others will judge.

Someone has defined history as an unending dialogue between the present and the past. In this ongoing conversation, many voices clamor for our attention. Almost sixty years ago Franklin D. Roosevelt had the inspired idea that it wasn't enough to preserve America's history—but that it must be disseminated as well. It was FDR who invented the presidential library system to share that history with millions of Americans who might never get to our nation's Capitol, yet whose voices should be part of the democratic dialogue.

COURTESY DAVID HUME KENNERLY

It's all smiles as Rosalyn and Jimmy Carter experience the new museum displays, along with Steve Ford.

President Ford congratulates the exhibit design and installation team on their magnificent achievement.

President Roosevelt knew that Washington, D.C. is not the ultimate source of our strength or wisdom, that it most certainly should not be the final repository of our history. Which is why he began the practice of constructing privately funded presidential libraries and museums, close to the people, instead of locking away our heritage in some marble palace in Washington.

"...it is a classroom of American democracy, a place where school kids as well as scholars will enjoy privileged access to the innermost workings of their government."

Thanks to the generosity of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, FDR's vision takes on new form in a museum designed for the 21st century. Built with private funds—not taxpayer dollars—this is not a monument to any one man or any one presidency. Rather, it is a classroom of American democracy, a place where school kids as well as scholars will enjoy privileged access to the innermost workings of their government. This is hands-on history, the result of a creative partnership between the Ford Museum and Library staffs—past and present—and a remarkable team of designers, craftsman and work crews, led and occasionally goaded by Richard Norton Smith, a true visionary who said it wasn't enough to renovate the Museum—we would reinvent it.

"...we won't just tell you the story—we'll put you inside the story..."

Most gratefully, I thank the generous donors whose financial support made this Museum possible sixteen years ago and the outstanding version today. And so we have. With the added perspective of time and the very latest in technology, we won't just tell you the story—we'll put you inside the story: from a typical day in the Oval Office, to a behind the scenes look at how foreign policy is made. Museum visitors will be given a holographic tour of the White House. They will attend a State Dinner. Stand on the floor of a tumultuous Republican National Convention. They will share in the pride of our Bicentennial and the pain of April, 1975, when I watched a 20-year commitment of American blood and treasure dissolve in a frantic airlift from the roof of American Embassy in Saigon.

"Outwardly, your America will not look the same as ours."

While we learn from the past, we live for the future. This is especially true of the young people in our audience today. You will spend more time in the 21st century than anyone here on stage. Outwardly, your America will not look the same as ours. New technologies, new industries, new forms of communications; these and much more will expand the frontiers of life in the years ahead.

But amidst all these changes, some things must never change . . . things like individual decency and honor and compassion and service to others. Amidst all that is new, we must never lose the old faith in an America that is bolder and better with each passing generation.

In the White House I was called upon to help restore public trust in our government. Twenty years later I fear we have turned the clock back. Politicians today raise more money, and enjoy less respect. Many find it impossible to listen to each other, because they are busy shouting at each other. In some quarters civility is mistaken for weakness and compromise for surrender.

"Politics is a clash of ideas, not a blood sport. It is a contest of principles, not a holy war."

I know better. More importantly, so do the vast majority of the American people. Politics is a clash of ideas, not a blood sport. It is a contest of principles, not a holy war. So instead of blaming the people for their mistrust, maybe politicians in both parties should ask themselves why the public is so turned off to politics. They might begin by banishing the spin doctors who find their convictions in focus groups and who confuse leadership with salesmanship. For in the high stakes game of history, only those who are willing to lose for principle deserve to win at the polls. Anyone can read a poll; only a leader can move the nation.

You don't need to be president to make history. Make your own history by contributing to your own community. Then you will discover the joy of being part of something bigger than yourself—and the realization that, while we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.

"I hope that you see history—not as a catalogue of human folly—but as a source of inspiration that one man or woman, fired by an ideal, can make the world a better place."

A legacy is a gift from one generation to the next. I hope that my legacy to young Americans is a freer, fairer America, where every day is a new beginning, and every life a vessel brimming with possibility. I hope that you see history—not as a catalogue of human folly—but as a source of inspiration that one man or woman, fired by an ideal, can make the world a better place. That's what led me into politics half a century ago. That's what makes me an optimist in the evening of my life.

Sometimes we stumble in the dark, uncertain of the best course for ourselves and the nation we love. But the past holds out its own lantern to guide our steps. More than 170 years ago, an elderly gentleman in Quincy, Massachusetts wrote to his friend atop a Virginia mountain top. John Adams, then in his 80th year, wanted to know whether the 73 year old Thomas Jefferson would be willing to live his life over again. Jefferson replied promptly and positively. He believed the world to be a good place on balance, one where pleasure outweighed pain. "My temperament is sanguine," wrote Jefferson. "I steer my bark with Hope in the head, leaving Fear astern."

"Presidents come and go. But principles endure, to inspire and animate leaders yet unborn. That is the message of this Museum."

I have never heard a better definition of what it means to be American. Like a runner nearing the end of his course, I hand off the baton to those who share my belief in America as a country that has never become, but is always in the act of becoming. Presidents come and go. But principles endure, to inspire and animate leaders yet unborn. That is the message of this Museum. That is the mission of every American patriot. For here the lamp of individual conscience burns bright. By that light, we can all find our way home. ■

How the New Museum Came to Be

by Jim Kratsas

After three and a half years, the new Ford Museum exhibits are a reality, changing the entire institution's look, feel and story. It has been a long road since the 1993 Ford Foundation Meeting, at which Trustees voted to explore preliminary design concepts for exhibits that would take advantage of new technology and the perspective that twenty years affords the Ford presidency. First, a Core Exhibit Redesign Committee consisting of Trustees Marty Allen, Joe Sweeney, Bob Hooker, Jordan Sheperd, Dick Ford, Museum Liaison Committee member David LaClaire, and Library/Museum staff members Frank Mackaman and Jim Kratsas contacted 13 exhibit design firms from across the country for samples of their work. This field was narrowed to three firms, each of which were invited to Grand Rapids to give presentations.

"...Library and Museum staff worked closely with Dennis Van Sickle to develop the story of Gerald Ford..."

The Committee concluded that Van Sickle and Rolleri of Voorhees, New Jersey, was the firm which showed the most versatility and promise. The job—and the challenge—was theirs. Yet it was always a team effort. Over the next year, Ford Library and Museum staff worked closely with Dennis Van Sickle to develop the story of Gerald Ford—his life and presidency—and to incorporate this story within some 15,000 square feet of space. Once the preliminary design was completed, the Core Exhibit Redesign Committee met with President and Mrs. Ford in November, 1994.

"...Team Ford—an all-star cast of fabricators, researchers, video producers, lighting engineers and interactive specialists...joined Library/Museum staffers..."

Van Sickle and Rolleri was then contracted to develop final designs of the exhibits laying out a more in-depth storyline, interactive and video components, and views of finished spaces. At this point, Dennis assembled Team Ford—an all-star cast of fabricators, researchers, video producers, lighting engineers and interactive specialists. They joined Library/Museum staffers, who were already working around the clock, to translate drawing board concepts into visually stunning three dimensional exhibits.

"Extensive searches around the country for documents, artifacts, video footage and photographs preceded final designs."

Team Ford excelled. Their work was rewarded at the 1995 Trustees Annual Meeting when the Ford Foundation appropriated over $4 million to complete the project.

Extensive searches around the country for documents, artifacts, video footage and photographs preceded final designs. In July, 1996, production and fabrication began at Maltbie and Associates, the same firm which installed the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

We promised the Fords a dynamic museum. The creative process turned out to be even more dynamic than anticipated, especially after Richard Norton Smith came aboard early in 1996. One of his earliest, and best, ideas was to recreate the Ford Paint and Varnish Company as a backdrop for President Ford's early life and career, thereby emphasizing the special impact of Grand Rapids upon its favorite son. As the storyline turned into actual copy, it was given Richard's biographer's touch, personalizing Gerald and Betty Ford for the Museum visitor, and placing both within the historical context of their times.

"As the storyline turned into actual copy, it was given Richard's biographer's touch..."

January 6, 1997 marked the end of the old Museum as the staff dismantled exhibits that had been in place since 1981. For three weeks, ably assisted by maintenance supervisors Bill Grice and Mark Jonick, staffers filled five 50-yard dumpsters with old carpet and cast off materials. The Museum donated a third of its old exhibit walls to the Cedar Springs Museum; a large case was shipped off to the Library in Ann Arbor, where it will be used for future exhibits giving visitors a great deal more information about President Ford than is now available to them.

On February 11, the first of four semi-trailers pulled up to the Museum to unload the new exhibits. The next day Maltbie workers began erecting display walls on top of newly installed carpet. By the end of March, graphics and artifacts were going into place, videos were being installed and interactive elements of the new museum were being tweaked.

"On February 11, the first of four semitrailers pulled up to the Museum to unload the new exhibits."

If all good things are worth waiting for, then the last 3 _ years have been well spent, indeed. Thanks to the Ford Foundation, its generous supporters around the country, and a superb complement of museum professionals, we are about to unveil a museum worthy of the man it honors, the woman who has so enriched his life and ours, and the ideals to which both the Fords have devoted themselves. ■

Co-operation and Innovation: Education at the New Gerald R. Ford

by Barbara Packer

The Ford Museum is poised on the brink of an exciting and challenging new era. The new museum exhibits cover the presidency itself, with Gerald Ford's varied and distinguished career providing a unique springboard into topics as diverse as Watergate and the U.S. Constitution, life in the White House, presidential decision-making, America's role in the world (especially the post-Vietnam world), and the campaign trail.

"Our new educational programs, like the exhibits they are based on, will set a new standard within the presidential library system."

Our new educational programs, like the exhibits they are based on, will set a new standard within the presidential library system. They will take students from being observers of a single president's story and accomplishments to being actively involved—*learning about the presidency from within*. They will bring the nation's highest office to life as never before— and nowhere else.

"...an ambitious series of gallery-based activities, President for a Day."

Serving as the centerpiece of the museum's new educational efforts will be an ambitious series of gallery-based activities, *President for a Day*. In its simplest version, for early elementary children, *President for a Day* will focus primarily on the personal side of the presidency and everyday life in the White House. On the other end of the spectrum, high school students will be immersed in the roles and responsibilities of the President and Oval Office decision-making. Program specifics will be developed by area educators, with the guidance and assistance of museum staff. The result will be a multi-faceted approach unprecedented within the presidential library system. *President for a Day* is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1997.

"...a wide range of supplemental programs...from everyday life at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to a White House Halloween (ghosts and all)."

In addition to this ground breaking approach to student programming, the Ford Museum is embarking on a wide range of supplemental programs for students. From scouting to the presidency, from everyday life at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to a White House Halloween (ghosts and all), educational activities will reflect the diverse interests and backgrounds of the museum's student audiences. Camp David will be organized in a day camp fashion, with kids coming to learn in a more informal setting the "inside scoop" about White House life for a president, first lady and first family. Also this fall, the museum will bolster its involvement in National History Day with a presentation at the Great Lakes History Conference, designed to help teachers and students more effectively utilize Library and Museum resources, as well as those of the National Archives, to prepare for the competition.

The museum is already actively involved in several innovative educational projects. Included is a major program and exhibit collaboration with the Grand Rapids' Vietnamese community and the Grand Rapids Historical Commission. Other ambitious area-wide collaborations, including the Grand Renaissance and "Our Stuff" exhibit and programs, link us to the Public Museum of Grand Rapids at the Van Andel Center and other institutions throughout western Michigan. After years of successful work with the Grand Rapids Public Schools, we have now begun discussions to formally incorporate a museum visit, with special program, into the curriculum at a minimum of one grade level, system-wide. And, of course, there are less formal learning activities for families. These include our annual White House Weekend, President Ford's Birthday Bash, our Holiday Open House, and—brand new in 1997—the Haunted White House, a perfect way to get a Halloween history lesson.

"...discussions to formally incorporate a museum visit, with special program, into the curriculum at a minimum of one grade level, system-wide."

Also in the preliminary stage are election-related activities for children and families, expanded scouting programs, and possible inclusion in several innovative education activities involving state-of-the-art technology such as museum curriculum on the Internet and Distance Learning. All in all, ours is a very full plate. Thanks to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation for making such educational initiatives possible at a time of declining federal support. ■

Laying the Foundation

by Richard Holzhausen

It was 12:00 noon on January 20, 1977. A soft cold breeze out of the southwest ruffled the flag that flew above the nation's Capitol. The sun was bright, but there was a winter feel to the air as the thirty-ninth president, Jimmy Carter, thanked the thirty-eight president, Gerald R. Ford, for healing the nation. A few moments before, as Carter took the oath of office, the Ford administration had come to an end. At the same time, seven semi-trucks containing the papers and historic objects of the Ford administration were discharging their cargo into a hastily modified warehouse facility on the athletic campus at the University of Michigan.

A little more than four years later at the dedication of the new Ford Library located on the North Campus of the University of Michigan then Governor William Milliken said of Ford's term of office, "We were an aggregation of individuals, torn, confused and disappointed by the evidence of low conduct in high places, and there was Gerald Ford to provide us with the kind of steady, uncompromising leadership we needed." This was the theme of the day, struck repeatedly by speaker after speaker. The dedication ceremony of the Library was by invitation only, a relatively small affair, but it was attended by dozens of former Cabinet members and White House aides from the Ford administration, and members of the committee who raised the money for the Library and the Museum, which was still under construction in Grand Rapids.

Six months later on September 18, 1981, President Reagan, along with the leaders of Mexico and Canada, Vice President Bush, and scores of nationally known political figures from the U.S. Congress came to Grand Rapids to attend the dedication of the Museum. Jordan Sheperd, chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee, stood before a crowd estimated to be at least 40,000 people and said, "We dedicate this building to Gerald R. Ford and we present it in his name to the people of the United States of America." That, simply put, was what the four year fuss had been about. Now both buildings, constructed with millions of dollars in donations from individuals, foundations, foreign nations and state and local governments were complete. But, in his closing remarks President Ford made it clear that the work was not done. He said, "It is my hope that all our good friends who helped to complete this magnificent structure will not regard this day as an end but rather as a beginning."

Over the years the ambitious educational and exhibit programs of the Library and Museum received substantial financial support from the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, which was organized in 1981. Foundation money has allowed the staffs of the two buildings to focus on conferences, symposia, research, and awards that improve the public understanding of government and, particularly, the Presidency.

The Library, Museum, and Foundation programs reflect President Ford's steadfast belief that private funding should be available to complement the government-financed operation of the facilities. Together, over the years, these three institutions have combined to host a wonderful array of distinguished speakers and programs, addressing current issues of the day. ■

15 YEARS OF LIBRARY & MUSEUM CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND COLLOQUIA

The Presidency, Congress, and Foreign Policy, 1982 * The Public and Public Policy, 1983 * The Press and the Presidency, 1983 * First Ladies: Private Lives and Public Duties, 1984 * New Weapons Technologies & U.S. Soviet Relations, 1984 * Conference on Presidential Primaries, 1985 * Humor and the Presidency, 1986 * The Public and Public Policy, 1986 * The Presidency and the Constitution, 1987 * All Democracies Conference, 1988 * William E. Simon Lecture/William E. Simon, 1988 * William E. Simon Lecture/Henry Kissinger, 1990 * Symposium on International Trade, 1991 * German Reunification, the Atlantic Alliance and American Foreign Policy, 1991 * National Security Requirements for the '90s, 1992 * Women in Politics & Policy, 1993 * William E. Simon Lecture/ Carlos Salinas de Gortari, 1993 * The Role of Federal Spending in Science Research, 1994 * The Bitter End: The 20th Anniversary of the Conclusion of American Involvement in Vietnam, 1995 * William E. Simon Lecture/Alan Greenspan, 1996 * The Trouble with Washington, 1996 * Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan, 1997

What They are Saying about Gerald Ford

By Richard Holzhausen

With a grant from the Foundation two members of the Library staff, David Horrocks and Dick Holzhausen, have been traveling around the country talking with people associated with the Ford administration. The program was launched on January 29, when Dorothy Downton became the first person to take part in the new oral history project. Since then other interviews have taken place with William Saxbe, James Lynn, Rod and Carla Hills, Robert McFarlane, David Broder, Earl Butz, David Mathews, Don Rumsfeld, Roy Ash, William Coleman, Anne Armstrong, Mary Louise Smith, Robert Teeter, Thomas Kleppe, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Elliot Richardson, and Hugh Sidey.

This year's program, now past the half-way point, will include a total of 24 interviews with people who were associated with or part of the Ford administration. There are many rich stories and warm memories relating to the Ford years. Researchers will find that these interviews help fill some of the gaps in the written record. The first round of interviews will be completed around the time of the Foundation meeting in June. Transcription and editing of the conversations will take some time, however, so the interviews won't be available immediately.

This first round of interviews is an important down payment on a program that has generated a lot of enthusiasm. The twenty years since the end of the Ford Presidency has given everyone a new perspective on the Ford administration. A hearty thanks to all those who have shared their thoughts, memories, and time. Thanks also to the Ford Foundation for its generosity and vision in seeing to it that the fullest possible record of Gerald Ford's eventful presidency is preserved for history and for historians. ■

GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to $2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Geir Gundersen, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 or call (313) 741-2218 [Internet: geir.gundersen@fordlib.nara.gov]. Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients for the Spring 1997 awards and their topics are:

John W. Burns
University of Connecticut
Parties and the Politics of Taxes, 1969-1996

Michael J. Churgin
University of Texas School of Law
The Admission of Refugees Prior to the Passage of the Refugee Act of 1980: The Indochinese Experience

Christine de Clercy
University of Western Ontario (Canada)
Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Public Uncertainty

Daniel Green
American University
A Statistical Analysis of Presidential- Congressional Dynamics During the Ford Administration

Robert Holzweiss
Texas A&M University
The Political Economy of Railroading in the Northeast 1968-1976

Valery N. Konyshev
University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
Executive-Legislative Relations on the Military Interventions Under the Ford Administration

Svetlana Paulson
Ohio University
Challenging the System: The Domestic and International Aspects of Soviet Dissent in the Detente and Post-Detente Era

John Prados
Author, Washington, DC
President Ford and United States Intelligence

Michael Spear
City University of New York
Labor, Austerity, and the New York City Fiscal Crisis

Timothy N. Thurber
State University of New York - Oswego
The Politics of Equality: Hubert H. Humphrey and the African-American Freedom Struggle, 1945-1978

Civil War Exhibit Opens

by Don Holloway

Beginning with the April Rededication and running through November 2, the epic of our nation's bloodiest war is retold in *The Blue and the Gray*. This exhibition on the Civil War brings together over two hundred artifacts from more than thirty lenders. Among these are Clara Barton's trunk bed (self-designed for use while traveling from one military outpost to another); Lee's uniform sash taken from the battlefield by a Michigan soldier; paper flowers that adorned Lincoln's coffin; a musket owned by abolitionist leader John Brown; and items used by the crew of the famed ironclad *Monitor*, to cite just a few.

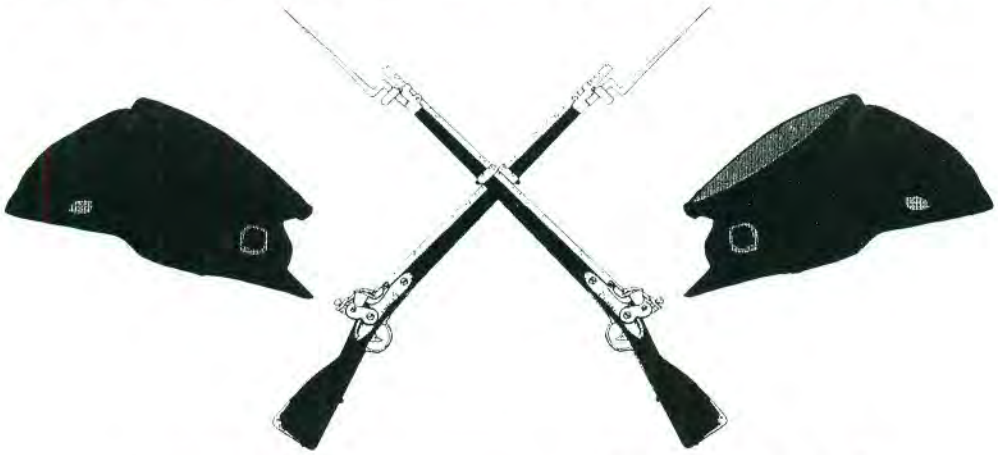
The men in the ranks of both armies are represented by dozens of authentic uniforms, and other accouterments of the soldiers' life. A drum played by a Michigan soldier at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, is displayed near a tambourine used in the prayer meetings of the Massachusetts 54th Infantry of U.S. Colored Troops. Shells fired at Ft. Sumter can be seen alongside a rifle tossed into the river at Bull Run by a fleeing Northern soldier, one of many whose flight gave rise to a new and derisive word —"skedaddle."

An authentic (and the sole surviving) surgeons' tent makes real the war's barbarity. This unique canvas structure houses the surgeon's tools and medicine that could ameliorate pain better than it could save lives. Artificial limbs, all but unknown before the war, speak of the surgeon's grisly work.

In the 18th century, Thomas Jefferson, pondering the morality of slavery in his *Notes on Virginia*, warned that "God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever...." In the 1850s Abraham Lincoln gave voice to Jefferson's vision when he proclaimed, "I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free." To portray the brutality of slavery, the museum has assembled period balls and chains, yokes, and reward posters for runaways. Frederick Douglass' rapier underscores the battle of words that became a holy war for emancipation.

The Blue and the Gray continues in the tradition of last year's hugely successful *41 Men* exhibition of personal memorabilia from each of America's Presidents. As such it complements the new permanent exhibits and strengthens the museum's appeal to school groups and history buffs generally. And it has a special significance for the Ford Museum: On August 5, 1975, President Gerald Ford set right a major oversight caused by the turmoil of Reconstruction. At a ceremony held at General Robert E. Lee's house in Arlington, Virginia, he restored the General's U.S. citizenship more than a century after Lee himself signed an oath of allegiance to the American Government. Lee's original document will be part of *The Blue and the Gray*—reunited with the artifacts of the war that separated him from the nation he had once served and the President who reunited him with that nation. ■

THE BLUE & THE GRAY



APRIL 17 - NOV. 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Blue & The Gray, through November 2. The Museum's Civil War exhibit includes hundreds of items assembled from over 30 lenders around the nation. John Brown's musket joins with Clara Barton's trunk/bed, which traveled with her from battlefield to battlefield. Dozens of authentic uniforms from Confederate and Union soldiers will be displayed along with shells fired at Fort Sumter, letters and diaries, and artifacts from the *Monitor*. General Lee's Oath of Allegiance, signed to regain his U.S. citizenship (which was not granted until the Ford administration) accompanies the paper flowers that once adorned Lincoln's coffin. The sole surviving surgeon's tent from the war is surrounded by tools of the surgeon's trade.

Family Night at the Ford Museum, May 27 through August 26. The Museum will stay open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings through the summer months. Special price admission fee for adults— children under 16 admitted free. A great opportunity to see the new Museum.

Father's Day, June 15. Free admission for all fathers.

White House Weekend, June 27-29. Portrayals of Abigail Adams and Teddy Roosevelt, White House historical lectures, a kite festival and more!

Happy Birthday America! July 4. Extended hours until 9:00 p.m.

President Ford's Birthday, July 14. Cake, games, balloons and more.

The Haunted White House, October 27-31. Celebrate Halloween with a close encounter with some celebrated White House ghosts (skeletons in the closet don't count).

Paisanos and Presidents: Italian Gifts to the United States, November 15-February 1, 1998. A remarkable collection of Head of State gifts, drawn from all the nation's presidential libraries, as well as other presidential collections, and coinciding with the Grand Rapids Art Museum's spectacular Perugino exhibit.

Christmas on the Grand, November 15-January, 1998. Our annual holiday display, showcasing the cultural and historic riches of western Michigan in over 20 fantastic trees.

Holiday Open House, December 7, 1997.

COMING IN 1998!

Grandma Moses, April-June. A once in a lifetime exhibit of this beloved artist's original work.

The Great War, April -November. A major exhibit recalling World War I on the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

President Ford
and Betty Ford
Honorary Co-Chairmen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martin J. Allen, Jr.
Chairman

Steven M. Ford
Vice-Chairman

Robert M. Warner
Secretary

John G. Baab
Treasurer

Susan Ford Bales
Robert E. Barrett
Robert W. Browne
Philip W. Buchen
Richard Cheney
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Harold L. Davidson
Marvin Davis
Richard M. DeVos
Max M. Fisher
John G. Ford
Michael G. Ford
Richard A. Ford
Richard M. Gillett
George Grassmuck
Robert P. Griffin
Robert T. Hartmann
Carla A. Hills
Roderick M. Hills
Robert L. Hooker
G. Richard Katzenbach
Thomas E. Kauper
Henry A. Kissinger
Lawrence B. Lindemer
John O. Marsh, Jr.
F. David Mathews
Frederik G.H. Meijer
Terrence O'Donnell
Paul H. O'Neill
Leon W. Parma
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Brent Scowcroft
Peter F. Secchia
L. William Seidman
Jordan Sheperd
William E. Simon
Wyatt A. Stewart, III
Joseph M. Sweeney
J. Robert Thibaut
Jay Van Andel
Werner Veit
Frank G. Zarb

Ex Officio
Richard Norton Smith

COURTESY H. ANDREW LOREE

The magic number is 38—that's the wind chill on the morning of April 17th...

COURTESY H. ANDREW LOREE

...as the 38th President of the United States is joined by the 39th and 41st (along with Archivist of the United States John Carlin) in rededicating the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by contributions and bequests in an effort to honor Mr. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation Newsletter
Editor: Nancy Mirshah

Gerald R. Ford Foundation
1000 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 25
ANN ARBOR

For information about Library programs:
Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (313) 741-2218
Email:: library@fordlib.nara.gov
Website: http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/ford/

For information about Museum programs:
Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 451-9263

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED