



January 2010

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter Special Edition

Keel Laying Ceremony Conducted for the First Ship in the Next Generation of Aircraft Carriers, the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)

Excerpt from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Press Release on November 14, 2009:

Northrop Grumman Corporation's Shipbuilding sector hosted a keel laying ceremony today for the next generation aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), in Newport News, Va.

Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President Gerald R. Ford, served as the ship's sponsor and keel authenticator for the ceremony. Bales authenticated the keel by chalking her initials onto a metal plate. Her initials were then welded onto the plate, which will be permanently affixed to the ship.

"The shipbuilders of Northrop Grumman shipyard, many of whom are second- and third-generation shipbuilders -- everyday they bring a level of patriotism, skill, and commitment to excellence -- that is, quite simply, without equal," said Bales. "When a new carrier sets to sea, her shipbuilders quietly and proudly leave the construction site

often to become a faint memory in the history of the carrier. Let us resolve, today that this will not be the case when the USS Gerald R. Ford sets to sea."

Other ceremony participants included principal speaker U.S. Senator Carl Levin, (D-Mich); Corporate Vice President and President of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Mike Petters; U.S. Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott (D-Va.); U.S. Rep. Glenn Nye (D-Va.); Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus; and Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, Adm. Kirkland Donald.

Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President Gerald R. Ford, served as the ship's sponsor and keel authenticator for the ceremony. Bales authenticated the keel by chalking her initials onto a metal plate. (Left to right) Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus; U.S. Senator Carl Levin, (D-Mich); Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, Adm. Kirkland Donald; Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales; and Corporate Vice President and President of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Mike Petters.



(Left to right) U.S. Senator Carl Levin, (D-Mich); Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales; Corporate Vice President and President of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Mike Petters; and Shipbuilder Robert Bowker, originally from Jackson, MI. Bowker welded Bales' initials onto a plate, which will be permanently affixed to the ship.



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Foundation News



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

This special edition of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation newsletter is dedicated to the legacy of President Ford. Since the last newsletter in early November, the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Keel Laying Ceremony took place on November 14, 2009 at the Northrop Grumman Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. This was a very historic day as it was the first Keel Laying for a new class of aircraft carrier since the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in 1968. It was truly a celebration of the ship's namesake.

On November 23rd and 24th, Vladivostok, Russia and the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok paid tribute to the 35th anniversary of the Ford-Brezhnev summit. The respect and interest shown for President Ford

was widespread as the anniversary was covered widely by the Russian media. This summit was viewed as one of the most important events in Vladivostok history.

On November 12, 2009 a city park was named after President Ford in Alexandria, Virginia. Also during the month, President Ford posthumously received the Spirit of Thanksgiving Award given by the Thanks-Giving Foundation of Dallas, Texas. President Ford served as the first Honorary President of the Thanks-Giving Commission and Thanks-Giving Square. President George H. W. Bush is currently serving in that capacity.

We were saddened earlier this year with the passing of Foundation Trustee Bill Seidman and recently with the passing of his wife Sally

Seidman. The Seidmans' friends and our country will miss Bill and Sally for their warmth, friendship and patriotism.

I would like to thank the many "Friends of Ford" who donate time, services and funds to make activities that sustain President Ford's legacy possible. We wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Joe



Joseph S. Calvaruso



*"It's very fitting that our next carrier, a ship that will calm the unknown crisis of the future by its very presence offshore, will be named for President Gerald Ford. Throughout his life, President Ford - as a naval officer, a Congressman, as President - projected a calm confidence, reassuring all those around him that all would be well. His example will live on in the USS Gerald R. Ford to inspire generations of young Americans who will serve on that ship."
~ Secretary of The Navy, Ray Mabus.*



"I know that all who serve aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford will take inspiration from the unique personality of the man for whom she is named. May that courage, that commitment, and that steadiness in crisis carry her safely through the roughest of seas and the most dangerous of battles." ~ Senator Carl Levin

Complete text of Senator Levin's speech on page 10.

Kelly Laying Ceremony Photos Courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Remarks of Susan Ford Bales at Keel Laying Ceremony for USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)

Senator Levin, Congressman Scott, Congressman Nye, Secretary Mabus, Admiral Donald, Mike Petters, Hank Meijer and our friends from Grand Rapids, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for joining in this extraordinary tribute to Dad and this milestone in the life of the Navy's newest carrier, and its newest carrier class—the Ford Class.

Those of you who knew Dad will recall how thrilled he was to learn that CVN-78 would bear his name. He would have felt similarly about this morning's ceremony. Secretary Mabus, I had a wonderful visit yesterday with the officers and crew of the USS George H. W. Bush. Each of them is a shining example of the best of the Navy and is a tribute to their carrier's remarkable namesake. Secretary Winter, thank you for being with us today and, most of all, for your decision to name CVN-78 for Dad.

And a special thank you goes to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives who are with us. Dad often referred to himself as "a man of the House". So, your presence at this ceremony would have brought a big smile to Dad's face and boundless pride to his heart. Senator Levin, the entire Ford family is extremely grateful to you. You embody in word and deed why Dad was so proud of his years on Capitol Hill in service, like you, to the people of Michigan. We recall fondly the leadership you and Senator Warner provided in sponsoring the resolution to name CVN-78 after Dad. And most of all, Senator Levin, you honor us all with your tireless efforts and unwavering support of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Thank you, sir.

Much has been written about Dad and his integrity. He became President, quite literally, overnight. But Dad never believed that he was suddenly wiser or infallible just because he was now drinking his morning coffee from a cup with the Presidential seal. Dad never needed a focus group or political pundits to guide him. For him, the question was always straightforward - what was best for the American people - period.

As the history books have begun to explain, Americans came to admire his integrity and his complete disdain of political expediency.

Columnist David Broder later observed, "In an odd, inexplicable way, the truth has begun to dawn on the American people that Gerald Ford was the kind of President Americans always wanted, and didn't know they had." Dad met the staggering challenges of restoring trust in the Presidency and healing the Nation's wounds after Watergate in the only way he knew how - with complete honesty and integrity. And that is the legacy we remember this morning.

Navy tradition provides that both the Sponsor and the Namesake's spirit become a permanent part of the ship. But the spirit of the USS Gerald R. Ford will be different; the spirit of this carrier will be deeper - much deeper.

With us today is a group of individuals who are contributing to the spirit of this carrier as much as her Namesake and Sponsor. They are the shipbuilders of the Northrop Grumman shipyard, many of whom are second and third-generation shipbuilders. Every day they bring a level of patriotism, skill, and commitment to excellence that is, quite simply, without equal.

These shipbuilders and Dad share a unique bond that spans nearly eighty years - to the athletic fields in Ann Arbor. It was said of Dad that "football was a metaphor for his life in politics and thereafter. He was the center for the University of Michigan's championship football team. He



played in the middle of the line in a position that seldom receives praise. But he had his hands on the ball for every play; and no play could start without him." When the game was over and others received the accolades, Dad quietly walked off the field with a smile and pride for a job very well done.

And, likewise, so it is with the shipbuilders of Northrop Grumman. When a new carrier sets to sea, her shipbuilders quietly and proudly leave the construction site often to become a faint memory in the history of the carrier. Let us resolve today that this will not be the case when the USS Gerald R. Ford sets to sea. At this time, I'd like to ask the shipbuilders and your families to please stand.

A few moments ago, I declared that the keel is "truly and fairly laid." If Dad were with us this morning, he would proudly join me in the following additional declaration:

Ladies and gentlemen, as the ship's Sponsor and on behalf of President Gerald R. Ford, I hereby declare that the shipbuilders of CVN-78 and their patriotic commitment to excellence are, and shall forever be, truly and fairly part of the spirit of the USS Gerald R. Ford.

May God bless each of you and the USS Gerald R. Ford. May He watch over and keep safe the men and women of the United States Navy.

And may God Bless America.

Thank you all very much.



Vladivostok, Russia and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Mark the 35th Anniversary of Ford-Brezhnev Summit

On November 21-25, 2009, Joseph Calvaruso, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and his spouse Donna Calvaruso visited Vladivostok to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Ford-Brezhnev summit in Vladivostok. The visit that the U.S. Consulate organized in cooperation with the Vladivostok city administration included a series of meetings with academics, political science experts, administration representatives, students, and the general public. One of the highlights of the visit was meeting persons involved in the 1974 visit of President Ford. Photographers, security personnel, reporters, cooks, and others shared their personal memories and impressions of the time, and agreed that the historic "Vladivostok meeting" played an important role - not only as a crucial step in slowing down the arms race and developing U.S.-Russian relations, but also as a turning point in the history of Vladivostok. Regional media widely quoted Consul General Tom Armbruster as saying the "1974 summit demonstrated that the Pacific Ocean does not separate, but unites, the American and Russian people".



The Mayor's office welcomes Joe & Donna Calvaruso and U.S. Consul General Tom Armbruster



Russian citizens who had a role in the 1974 President Ford and Secretary General Brezhnev talks gather for a group photo with the Calvarusos and U.S. Consul General Tom Armbruster at the Library. A number of attendees shared their personal stories from the summit. The gentleman standing second from the right in the back row was Secretary General Brezhnev's photographer for the visit. When he received the assignment the government bought him a new suit and camera. It was the first suit he'd ever owned and the cost was equivalent to two months wages. He spoke of his memories and shared his photos of the event.



Original Camera used during the Ford-Brezhnev Summit

Photos courtesy of U.S. Consulate, Vladivostok, Russia



The chocolate maker from *Primorsky Konditer* who originally prepared specialty chocolates for President Ford presented Joe Calvaruso with a similar box. She told the story of being asked to prepare something special for the visit. They worked long hours on perfecting the chocolates that were shaped as bottles with a liquor center. The chocolates continue to be sold in Vladivostok today.





Photographer: David Hume Kennerly

President Ford, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other United States representatives meet with General Secretary Brezhnev, Foreign Secretary Gromyko, Ambassador Dobrynin, and others aboard a Russian train headed for Vladivostok.



Executive Director Joe Calvaruso discusses photos of the summit with students from Far Eastern National University, Vladivostok (FENU).

Photographer: David Hume Kennerly



President Ford received a wolf-skin fur coat from his friend, Jack Kim, an Alaskan furrier, when Air Force One stopped in Anchorage to refuel. It was mid November 1974, and Ford was headed to Japan to meet Emperor Hirohito and then to the Siberian town of Vladivostok to meet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. The coat would keep the president warm in snowy eastern Russia.

During the trip, President Ford had noticed Brezhnev "eyeing enviously" his fur coat. Just before boarding Air Force One, President Ford took the coat off, and gave it to Brezhnev. President Ford wondered what he would tell "my old friend Jack Kim about his Alaskan wolf coat?" The jacket in the museum's collection is a replacement jacket given to President Ford by Kim.



Vladivostok Vice-Mayor Zubritskiy and Joe Calvaruso speak about the significance of the presidential visit in 1974 with a local newspaper at the U.S. Consulate. There was great public interest in the visit and it was covered by Russian newspapers, television and radio stations.

Keel Laying Ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)



Joe Calvaruso, Michael Ford, Marty Allen, David Frey and John Baab.



Rick Albin, Wood TV 8, Grand Rapids and Susan Ford Bales.



Susan Ford Bales and Mike Petters, President of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding.



Susan Ford Bales autographs program following the Keel Laying Ceremony.

Susan Ford Bales adds her signature to the Shipbuilders Banner joining over 20,000 people involved in the building of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78).



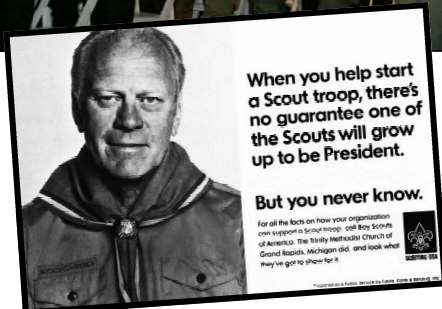
Susan Ford Bales, Heather Vance, the Maid of Honor for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), and Senator and Mrs. Carl Levin.



Greg Willard, Personal Representative of President Ford for USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), Sam Vreeland, Construction Director for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) and Susan Ford Bales.



The Ford Family was honored to have the Boy Scouts post the colors at the Keel Laying Ceremony. The Boy Scout organization was an integral part of President Ford's life. The Boy Scouts of America will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2010.



Vaden Bales, Hannah, Gayle and Michael Ford at the Keel Laying Ceremony.





Greg Willard, Mike Petters, Heather Vance, Susan Ford Bales, Vaden Bales, Diane VanAllsburg, Marty Allen, John Baab, Dick Becker, Hank Meijer, Gayle Ford, Michael Ford, Hannah Ford, Mitch Padnos, David Frey and Jack Ford at the dry dock for USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) in Northrop Grumman's Shipyard.

**Susan Ford Bales tours
the USS George H.W. Bush
(CVN-77)**



Captain Chip Miller, Commanding Officer, USS George H.W. Bush (CVN -77), Susan Ford Bales, and Dru Branche, Construction Director for CVN-77 tour the bridge.



Susan Ford Bales, Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus and Heather Vance.



Former Secretary of Labor Bill Usery and Susan Ford Bales.



Susan Ford Bales presents a photo gift to Captain Chip Miller in the Captain's Quarters of the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77).



Hank Meijer; Gayle, Hannah and Michael Ford.

**Breakfast Reception
prior to Keel Laying Ceremony**



James Travis, Randy Bumgardner, Manager of Blair House, Susan Ford Bales and Braeden Travis.



Susan Ford Bales greets shipbuilders the day prior to the Keel Laying Ceremony while touring the facility.

Visit www.geraldrfordfoundation.org to view video and additional photos of the Keel Laying Ceremony.

President Gerald R. Ford Park Dedication

Alexandria, Virginia

It is difficult to imagine a time in recent history when a sitting President picks up the newspaper in the driveway of his own residence, and the press room is set up in a neighbor's garage. Well, for ten days in the mid 70's, it happened in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Gerald R. Ford and his family moved into a new house in Alexandria in 1955. The Fords lived in Alexandria for 23 years through Mr. Ford's twelfth term in Congress and his subsequent appointment by President Richard Nixon as Vice President on December 6, 1973, after the resignation of Spiro Agnew. Nine months later, on August 9, 1974, Mr. Ford became President of the United States following the resignation of Richard Nixon. The Fords lived in Alexandria for the first ten days of his presidency.

President Ford died on December 26, 2006, at the age of 93. In honor of his years in Alexandria, the funeral motorcade passed



through the City en route to the U.S. Capitol, while hundreds of Alexandrians lined Washington Street to say farewell to one of their most famous residents. Following the death of President Ford, the City established the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Committee, to recommend ways in which the City could memorialize President Gerald R. Ford. As a result of President Ford's deep Alexandria roots the City of Alexandria dedicated the President Gerald R. Ford Park on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

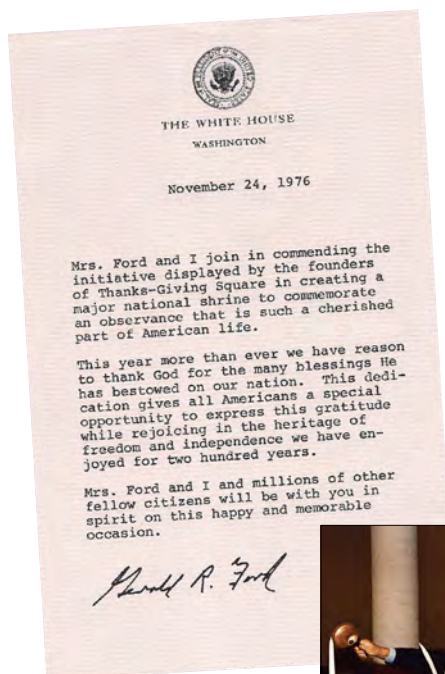
The beautiful park is located on Janney's Lane just over the hill from the Ford family home in a field that the Ford children played in as kids. The park solidifies President Ford's important legacy in Alexandria, and is a place where the community can honor President Ford and his family for years to come. The City of Alexandria is proud to be the home of the President Gerald R. Ford Park.



Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille, Jack Ford, and members of the Alexandria City Council dedicate the President Gerald R. Ford Park.

Photos courtesy of the City of Alexandria, Virginia

Susan Ford Bales Accepts 2009 Spirit of Thanks-Giving Award in Honor of President Gerald R. Ford



President Ford celebrates Thanksgiving Proclamation at Thanks-Giving Square, 1976



The Legacy of Commitment to National Gratitude of President Gerald R. Ford

Recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Thanks-Giving Award

By rededicating America to the great tradition of gratitude instituted by George Washington and restored during the darkest hours of the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln, President Gerald R. Ford brought healing and unity to our Nation out of the pain and divisiveness of the sixties and early seventies.

President Ford's commitment to national gratitude, in close collaboration with Thanks-Giving Square, was evidenced by his annual emphasis on the Presidential Proclamation of Thanksgiving and his declaration of the Chapel at Thanks-Giving Square as a "Major National Shrine."

Following his Presidency, he served with enthusiasm, grace and dignity as the first Honorary President of the National Thanksgiving Commission at Thanks-Giving Square.



Courtesy of the Thanks-Giving Foundation

James Kitfield spoke at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. Kitfield is the 2009 winner of the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. Mr. Kitfield's speech, *A World of Woes: America's Crossroads*, examined an America beset by a nearly unprecedented set of national security challenges. He is the national security and foreign affairs correspondent for the *National Journal* newsweekly. He has written on defense, national security, and foreign policy issues from Washington, D.C. for more than two decades.



Holidays at the Museum

In keeping with our long-established tradition, the Museum celebrated the holidays with two spectacular events. Kicking off the season the Thursday night prior to Thanksgiving was the traditional *Christmas on the Grand Tree Lighting Ceremony*, with special partners, the Salvation Army and NBC affiliate WOOD TV 8. News anchors Suzanne Geha and Brian Sterling emceed the event and announced the winning community trees. Major Ralph Bukiewicz from the Salvation Army also participated as did the Salvation Army Band and local choir, The Caroling Company.

The first Sunday afternoon in December featured our other holiday spectacular, the Holiday Open House. This is a special event for families, especially those with younger children. The festivities include free admission, Santa and Mrs. Claus, a visit from two of Santa's reindeer, three area choirs, storytelling, arts and crafts, and to top it off, punch and cookies. In the words of one happy visitor, "Everyone had smiles on their faces and seemed to be enjoying themselves so much. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays. We are so glad we spent the afternoon at the Ford Museum."



Holiday photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Senator Carl Levin, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee

Remarks at the Keel Laying Ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)

Mr. Secretary, friends, ladies and gentlemen, I am a proud Michigander every day. But I am especially proud today. We gather here to mark the formal beginning of a great project, one that will combine our nation's financial might, our manufacturing strength, our technological prowess, and our military power into a great ship of the sea, a ship that will carry the name of one of Michigan's own.

We gather for the ceremonial laying of the keel for the USS Gerald R. Ford. This ceremony signifies the formal beginning of a ship's construction, when, in an earlier era, shipbuilders laid down the beam that held together its hull and upon which everything else depended.

Not so long ago, Gerald R. Ford was the sturdy beam that held our nation together, the beam on which so much else depended. This ship will bear the name of a man who assumed our nation's highest office at a time of great anguish and confusion, a time of great distress and doubt. The storm that brought President Ford to office battered our nation, threatening to undermine the strength and stability that had given shape to our government since its founding. At a time of great danger, Jerry Ford took the helm. At a time of instability, Jerry Ford kept our country on an even keel.

For those familiar with President Ford's life before politics, that accomplishment was no great surprise. For in his previous service to our nation, as an officer in the United States Navy, he demonstrated the same kind of firm, steady leadership he would later bring to the White House.

In May of 1941, a young University of Michigan and Yale Law graduate opened his legal practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor seven months later, bringing our nation into the Second World War, Jerry Ford, like millions of young Americans, put his life on hold and put on his nation's uniform, receiving his Navy commission in April of 1942. For a year, he served as a land-based instructor, teaching basic seamanship and other skills to incoming officers. But he sought the chance to serve at sea, and so, in May of 1943, he joined the crew of a ship still under construction, the aircraft carrier USS Monterey.

The Monterey and its crew served in many of the crucial battles in the Pacific theater, in-

cluding campaigns to capture footholds in the Gilbert, Marshall and Marianas island chains, and the Battle of the Philippine Sea, in which Japan's naval air power was finally crushed. As an antiaircraft battery officer, Ford and his crew faced the danger of Japanese air raids, and the terror of kamikaze attacks.

But the sea herself would present the Monterey, and Jerry Ford, with their greatest challenge. In late December of 1944, a typhoon struck the Third Fleet. Three destroyers were sunk by the power of the storm, and nearly 800 sailors lost their lives. After standing a midnight watch through harrowing hours tossed by towering waves, Ford returned to strap himself into his bunk – only to be jolted by the call to general quarters. The rough seas had torn aircraft on the Monterey's hangar deck loose from their moorings, and the aircraft soon caught fire. Ford raced to make his way to the bridge – and was nearly tossed overboard as he reached the flight deck, skidding across the heaving deck and barely catching hold of a catwalk at its edge, narrowly escaping a plunge into the sea.

The crew was caught between a raging fire and the raging seas. If they could not douse the flames, they would have to abandon ship. In seas tossed by waves 70 feet high, that would mean likely death.

As the officer of the deck when the Monterey was at general quarters, Ford played a crucial role in the crisis. The captain ordered Lieutenant Ford to the hangar deck, where he faced the flames to assess the situation, and clambered back to the bridge, providing vital observations and advice at that time of grave danger. The Monterey's crew was somehow able to save their ship, a demonstration of courage, know-how and determination as great as many feats of combat.

Ford himself saw the parallel between the fire aboard the Monterey and the flames that engulfed our political system as he assumed the presidency in 1974. Recalling the storm and fire, Ford said, "I considered it a marvelous metaphor for the ship of state."

After 13 terms as a popular and respected member of the House of Representatives, he came to the presidency amid the greatest political crisis in generations. A man of lesser courage and character, a man not up to the moment, might have exacerbated the crisis, casting even greater doubt on the durability

of our system of government. What the nation needed was a healer, a unifying force. And just as he had in the storm-tossed Pacific 30 years before, Gerald Ford helped beat back the flames. He set an example of fairness and integrity that will continue to shine through the generations.

An aircraft carrier embodies much of the greatness of our nation. More than just a demonstration of our strength and skill, it represents our commitment to send our sons and daughters over the seas, carrying with them the ideals that make our nation a beacon of freedom and hope.

This is the lead ship of a new class, the most advanced of its type in existence. Thirty-four years ago, President Ford attended the commissioning of another ship, also the first of its class, the most advanced of its day, the USS Nimitz. And he spoke with the reverence of a man who knew and loved the carrier fleet. President Ford said:

"As each of us looks upon this great ship, a single thought must seize our minds: Only the United States of America can make a machine like this. There is nothing like her in the world today. We have witnessed the magic moment when an intricate mass of steel and cable and sophisticated marvels of engineering suddenly become a living thing with a unique personality."

I know that all who serve aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford will take inspiration from the unique personality of the man for whom she is named. May that courage, that commitment, and that steadiness in crisis carry her safely through the roughest of seas and the most dangerous of battles.

I wish safety and good luck to the men and women who will build her. To Susan Ford Bales and the entire Ford family, I know this proud ship will serve as a welcome reminder of a treasured loved one, and as a tribute not only to his leadership, but to his partnership with his beloved wife Betty, who served so bravely and well as First Lady. To the men and women of the Navy, especially those who will serve aboard this great ship, I give my thanks for your service, my wishes for fair winds and following seas, and my hope that the example of Gerald Ford will guide your efforts as you defend the nation that he loved, and we love, so much.

Courtesy of Senator Carl Levin



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.

"I am profoundly grateful for the kind words that have been said about me, but the finest tribute of all will be to see the Gerald R. Ford Museum living and growing and constructive and useful."



Gerald R. Ford
Museum Dedication
September 18, 1981

Members of Friends of Ford receive many valuable benefits:

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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.

To join the Friends of Ford, please mail the completed application form to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the address below or visit our website at www.geraldrfordfoundation.org. For further information, please contact Diane VanAllsburg at 616.254.0396 or email diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov.

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The mission of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is to support the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum by sponsoring historical exhibits, educational programs, conferences, research grants and awards. In fulfilling its mission, the Foundation honors the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his public service career. The Foundation also aims to educate Americans about the unique history and significant events of the Ford presidency. Finally, the Foundation seeks to enhance public understanding of American history and government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Joe Calvaruso, Executive Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353.

On Exhibit:

Grand Rapids:

America and the Cold War (January 22 through June 13, 2010)

The landscape of the twentieth century was marred by the struggle between liberty and tyranny. President Wilson sent his army to France to make the world safe for democracy, and FDR commanded a military that faced down Nazism and Fascism. Presidents from Harry Truman to George H. W. Bush, however, would rally America to the century's longest chapter of that struggle. We called it the Cold War, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum will open a feature exhibit on that topic, funded by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, and organized and designed by the museum's staff, on January 22.

Titled *America and the Cold War*, the exhibit tells the sweep of that conflict's history. Focusing on America's part in the saga, the exhibit features: its origins, from our "Polar Bear" troops sent to Russia at the end of World War I to the dropping of the atom bombs that ended World War II; its Cold Warriors, including treaties negotiated with the Soviets by presidents Kennedy and Nixon; the conflict's proxy wars, Third World weapons and Hot Line messages between the superpowers; the race for space, including cosmonaut and astronaut suits and a desk model of the Soviet satellite, Sputnik; the secret frontlines, featuring spy gear and Gary Powers' flight suit; America's cold war culture, with Civil Defense equipment and movie clips; to the war's end, from the collapse of the Berlin Wall to the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

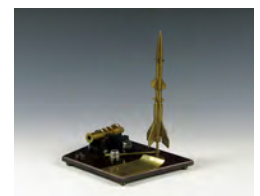
In his closing days, President Truman remarked how he felt "dominated by this all-embracing struggle." Each of the nine Cold War presidents felt that bear hug, and as each maneuvered to manage the conflict, America itself was transformed by the nearly half-century struggle. Ultimately, in a battle defined by a clash of ideas, liberty defeated tyranny. But with the war's ending, America was reminded, as President Ford said, "the struggle is never truly won," that "liberty ultimately belongs to those willing to suffer for it."

~ Don Holloway, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Curator



Bogdan Gromm sculpted this piece, entitled "Diplomatic Panda," in 1973 on the first anniversary of President Nixon's historic trip to Communist China (Courtesy of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum).

Desk plaque awarded to the crew members of the Soviet SA-2 missile battalion that shot down Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane in 1960 (Courtesy of Francis Gary Powers, Jr., and The Cold War Museum).



The Electronic Test Officer aboard the Enola Gay replaced three green safety plugs with three red arming plugs to activate Little Boy, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. This original safety plug is accompanied with a spare red plug taken on the mission (Courtesy of the Clay Perkins Collection).