



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

January 2015



The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, The Economic Club of Grand Rapids and the National Constitution Center hosted "Our Constitution Works: President Ford's Date With Destiny" on October 20, 2014 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Luncheon panelists from left to right: Dean Ken Gormley, Justice John Paul Stevens, National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeff Rosen and Trustee Paul O'Neill.



Left to Right: Amway Vice President Kelly Savage, Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso, Trustee Greg Willard, Rachel Meier, Captain John Meier, Ship Sponsor and Trustee Susan Ford Bales, Sheri Cavaney, Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney and Trustee Doug DeVos at the Amway Executive Leadership Forum on November 17, 2014.

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



Justice John Paul Stevens (left) and Foundation Executive Director, Joe Calvaruso, prior to the National Constitution Center luncheon at the J.W. Marriott in Grand Rapids.

As we begin 2015, I first want to remember our dear friend and Trustee Rod Hills. Rod was a patriot and a gentleman. His good humor and friendship will be missed by all of us associated with President Ford and his Foundation. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Carla and the entire Hills Family.

As part of the Foundation's tributes to the 40th Anniversary of President Ford's presidency, the Foundation held a symposium in October focusing on the unique constitutional circumstances that America faced in August, 1974. Outstanding panel discussions were conducted during the symposium's morning sessions. Those discussions were followed by a wonderful luncheon and roundtable program with Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Trustee Paul O'Neill, and Ken Gormley, Dean of the Duquesne Law School. Their discussions were lively and provided thoughtful insights and tributes to President Ford's extraordinary initial days in the Oval Office. Thanks to everyone who helped make this symposium such a success.

In November, the Foundation hosted several tributes to President Ford in conjunction with the visit to Michigan of Captain John Meier, Commanding Officer of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). Captain Meier was accompanied by several crew members of the *Ford* who are originally from Michigan. Grand Rapids rolled out the red carpet (and a record November snowfall!) for the several days of Captain Meier's visit. He spoke to numerous civic and school groups in Grand Rapids, and subsequently in Ann Arbor. He also participated in a special breakfast with community leaders and local members of the Commissioning Committee of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* regarding

ongoing plans for the March, 2016 commissioning of the *Ford*. Also accompanying Captain Meier and his wife Rachel during their visit were the *Ford's* Ship Sponsor, Susan Ford Bales, and the Co-Chairmen of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* Commissioning Committee, fellow Trustees Red Cavaney, Greg Willard, and Doug DeVos. A heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making Captain Meier's visit to Michigan so memorable.

Work continued in 2014 on our plans for the complete redesign of the Museum's permanent exhibit and for construction of the Foundation's new Student Learning Center that will be adjacent to the Museum. I'll be providing updates on these exciting projects throughout 2015 as they move closer to becoming reality.

The Foundation has been recognized by the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center in Grand Rapids with the 2014 Job Corps HERO Award. This was in recognition of our efforts to support the Center's students through ongoing initiatives and interactions. We are thrilled to receive this award as the Foundation continues to support the Center's young adults.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

I especially want to recognize the boundless time and effort put forth by our Foundation Trustees and by our many volunteers, sponsors, and partners. The Foundation's ability to champion President Ford's extraordinary legacy and lifetime of integrity would not be possible without their remarkable support.

It is truly an honor to work with each of you and our Foundation partners. Donna and I wish you and your family a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2015!

Joe



Rimington Trophy Announced 2014 Gerald R. Ford Award Recipient

COURTNEY HALL



The Rimington Trophy Committee was pleased to announce **Courtney Hall** as the 2014 Gerald R. Ford Award recipient. Drafted by the San Diego Chargers, where he played from 1989 until 1997, Hall is a four-time Pro Bowl alternate and was a Captain during the Chargers 1995 Super Bowl appearance. He received the Ed Block Courage Award in 1996 and was a finalist for the 50th Anniversary All-Team Chargers team. He is the co-founder of Hillcrest Venture Partners and resides in New York City. "We are excited to honor a former center who has shown such excellence not only on the football field, but also in his academic and business careers and in the non-profit community." says Dave Rimington, namesake of the Rimington Trophy.

About the Gerald R. Ford Award: In the

summer of 2005 The Rimington Trophy and the office of President Gerald R. Ford announced the creation of the Gerald R. Ford Legends Award. President Ford was the first recipient of the annual award that bears his name for future winners.

The award is presented to former collegiate or professional centers who, in addition to standout football careers, have also made significant contributions to the football and/or business communities, or through philanthropic endeavors.

"I look back on my days as a center at the University of Michigan as one of the best times of my life. The leadership lessons I learned on the football field served me well in my political and public service career. I am honored to be the recipient of this award and I truly appreciate

the hard work that Dave Rimington and everyone associated with the Rimington Trophy have done to promote the significance of the center position in college football," said President Gerald R. Ford.

About the Rimington Trophy: The Rimington Trophy is presented annually to the Most Outstanding Center in NCAA Division 1-A College Football. Since its inception, the Rimington Trophy has raised over \$2.5 million for the cystic fibrosis community. The fifteen-year old award is overseen by the Boomer Esiason Foundation, which is committed to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis (CF) and has raised over \$100 million for CF Research. *Courtesy of Rimington Trophy.*

In Memoriam

Roderick M. Hills

March 9, 1931 - October 29, 2014

Trustee Roderick M. Hills passed away October 29, 2014 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Rod was founder and chairman of the Hills Program on Governance. In the Ford administration, he served as counsel to the President and was appointed Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission by President Ford in 1975.

Roderick Maltman Hills was born in Seattle on March 9, 1931, and grew up in Whittier, CA, where he played high school football under the same coach as former President Richard M. Nixon. A janitor's son, he was the first in his family to attend college. As a history major at Stanford, he financed his education by working as a construction laborer, bartender, steelworker and teamster. He stayed on at Stanford to earn a law degree and then clerked for Justice Stanley Reed of the Supreme Court of the United States. He worked for a private law firm before leaving to help start the firm of Munger, Tolles, Hills & Rickershauser in 1962. Carla Hills, a Yale-trained lawyer whom Mr. Hills married in 1958, joined the Los Angeles firm shortly after its founding. Both Rod and Carla Hills joined the Ford administration in 1975.

Rod is survived by his beloved wife Carla A. Hills; children Laura H. Hills, Roderick M. Hills, Jr., Megan E. Hills, and Alison M. Hills; grandchildren Philip Hills Bunnell, Daniel Hills Bunnell, Emma Montoya Hills, Sarah Montoya Hills, and Owen Hills-Klaus.

Our sincere condolences to the Hills family.



Photo taken during the Swearing-In Ceremony for SEC Chairman Roderick M. Hills outside the White House on October 28, 1975. (l-r) Children of Roderick and Carla Hills; Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed, the Honorable Carla Hills, SEC Chairman Roderick M. Hills and President Gerald R. Ford. Mr. Hills served as law clerk to Justice Reed from 1955 to 1957.



Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Captain John Meier

“Creating a Culture of Excellence” by Captain John Meier

November 16-20, 2014

Meier used his speaking and media engagements to update Michigan residents on the progress of the ship and its crew. More importantly, he emphasized the relevance of President Gerald R. Ford’s home-

grown Michigan values of integrity, loyalty and service. Leading a team with roots in all 50 states and at least 18 countries, Captain Meier said building the crew is his top priority.

“It’s kind of a running joke in the command. When you go to meet with the CO, you’re going to be there awhile,” Chief Electronics Technician Jeff Simmons from Battle Creek, Michigan, told a crowd at the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. You’re going to get to know him a, and he’s going to get to know you.”

As Captain Meier expanded on his leadership style, he explained that he relied on the support, or “buy-in” of his department heads, Chiefs Mess and junior Sailors to create a command where every Sailor on board *Gerald R. Ford* would want to serve.

“His commitment to the people he’s working with and to the mission of the ship is very evident,” said Andrew Earhart, a 21-year-old naval architecture student at the University of Michigan who heard Captain Meier speak at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor. “He is very aware of his role as a conduit to Gerald R. Ford’s Michigan values and very committed to his vision.”

“I think we’re very fortunate to have that kind of leadership and that kind of style shown to us on board *Gerald R. Ford*,” said Simmons.

Courtesy of U.S. Navy ENS Cassandra Thompson

“Every night I heard gun shots. My mother was in jail for drugs. I never knew my father. I was raised by relatives, and went from home to home as one by one they got tired of caring for me. I knew I had to make a change, or I was going to end up a single mother, a criminal, or a corpse.”

Captain John Meier, commanding officer (CO) of Pre-commissioning Unit Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), explained to audiences ranging from Job Corps students to World War II veterans that he was retelling a story from one of his Sailors. During her check-in brief, Captain Meier explained that he had learned about her past and about how grateful she was for the opportunity to be in the Navy serving on board the world’s most technologically advanced warship.

Captain Meier and two Michigan-born crew members visited their namesake’s home state November 16-20, participating in several community outreach events and meeting with local veterans and community groups. Captain

Meier said building the crew is his top priority.

“We came from all walks of life,” he said, speaking to the Economic Club of Grand Rapids.

“We are an unbelievably diverse organization. So it’s very, very important that I get them inculcated into our culture of excellence and create an environment on board where people are judged by the content of their character and the quality of their work.”

Captain Meier said he has about a two-hour conversation with every Sailor who checks on board *Gerald R. Ford*; he gets to know them and their reasons for joining the Navy and their goals.

“The more you know about your people, the better you’ll be able to be their Commanding Officer,” Captain Meier said. He also uses this time to set the standard for their tour and emphasize his guiding principles of safety,



Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Ship Sponsor and Foundation Trustee Susan Ford Bales introduced Captain John Meier at the joint Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and The Economic Club of Grand Rapids luncheon on November 17, 2014.



Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Captain John Meier and Trustees Peter Secchia and Doug DeVos at luncheon.



USS Gerald R. Ford Captain John Meier (center) Chief Electronics Technician Jeff Simmons from Battle Creek, MI; and Airman Apprentice Franklen Garrett (right), from Allegan MI speak to WXMI Fox 17 Grand Rapids News Anchors Mike Avery and Deanna Falzone (left) about their visit to the president's home city.



Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney and Trustee Susan Ford Bales enjoying Captain John Meier's presentation at the Economic Club luncheon.



Captain John Meier talks to a group at the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center in Grand Rapids on November 17, 2014.



Captain John Meier talks to a group visiting the Museum's exhibit "Taking the Seas: The Rise of the American Aircraft Carrier."



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

Above: Captain John Meier and Airman Apprentice Franklen Garrett take a photo from the University of Michigan football field and transmit the photo to their shipmates, November 19, 2014.

Left: Rachel Meier and Captain John Meier visit the locker room at the University of Michigan during their trip to Ann Arbor.

The Rule of Law: President Gerald R. Ford & The Constitution

On October 20-21, the Ford Presidential Foundation and Ford Library and Museum partnered with the National Constitution Center (NCC) to organize a symposium titled *The Rule of Law: President Gerald R. Ford & The Constitution*. The symposium consisted of two morning panel sessions held at the Museum, followed by a luncheon at the J.W. Marriott, and included a total of ten speakers. The following day, at the Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Ken Gormley, Dean of the Duquesne University School of Law, presented a second program regarding the pardon, *President Ford's Pardon of Richard M. Nixon: A 40-Year Retrospective*.

Both panels were introduced by Hank Meijer, Vice-Chairman of the Ford Presidential Foundation and Trustee of the National Constitution Center. The first panel, *President Ford and the Rule of Law*, featured Mark Wolfe, Senior U.S. District Judge, and Mike Gerhardt, Director of the Center on Law and Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and was moderated by Jeff Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center.

The panelists discussed President Ford's choice for Attorney General, Edward Levy, and their mutual respect for the core tenets of the Constitution. This was in sharp contrast with the political orientation of some prior and subsequent attorneys general.

The second panel, *President Ford and the Pardon of Richard Nixon*, included opening remarks by Steve Ford, former chair of the Ford Presidential Foundation and panelists John Logie, former Counsel to President Ford, and Jill Wine-Banks, former Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor, and was moderated by Ken Gormley, Dean of the Duquesne University School of Law. The panel was originally planned to include Benton Becker, former Special Counsel to President Ford, who negotiated the pardon with Richard Nixon, but he was unable to participate due to illness. The panelists shared their respective insights on the process of both the Watergate investigation and the pardon, providing a fascinating and informative session.

The luncheon session, presented jointly with the Grand Rapids Economic Club, focused on

Our Constitution Works: President Ford's Date with Destiny. The session was introduced by Doug DeVos, Trustee of the Ford Presidential Foundation and the National Constitution Center. The post-lunch conversation featured opening remarks by Steve Ford, former chair of the Ford Presidential Foundation. These were followed by a discussion with retired Justice John Paul Stevens, who was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ford; Paul O'Neill, former U.S. Treasury Secretary, and Kenneth Gormley filling in for Benton Becker. Jeff Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center moderated the session.

This symposium was the first in a series the National Constitution center hopes to offer in collaboration with other presidential libraries across the country. It came about through the efforts of Foundation Trustees Doug DeVos and Hank Meijer, who also serve as Trustees of the NCC. It was an honor for the Ford Library, Museum and Foundation to be invited to partner with the NCC on this significant event. - Elaine Didier, Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.



Left: First panel discussion at the Museum symposium included panelists Mark Wolfe, Senior U.S. District Judge (left); Mike Gerhardt, Director of the Center on Law and Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (right); and was moderated by Jeff Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center (center).



Symposium opening remarks were presented by Trustee Steve Ford.



(l-r) Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, Trustees Bob Hooker and Paul O'Neill.



Second panel discussion at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum included panelists John Logie, former Counsel to President Ford; Jill Wine-Banks (right), former Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor; and was moderated by Ken Gormley (center), Dean of the Duquesne University School of Law.



Foundation Vice Chairman and Trustee of the National Constitution Center, Hank Meijer, introduced both panel discussions at the Museum.



Foundation and National Constitution Center Trustee Doug DeVos welcomes guests to the Economic Club luncheon.



Back Row (l-r): Foundation Treasurer David Hoogendoorn, Sue Allen; Foundation Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, Trustee John Baab. Front Row (l-r): Justice John Paul Stevens, Trustees Paul O'Neill and Steve Ford.



Capacity crowd at the joint Luncheon between the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and The Economic Club of Grand Rapids.



Ken Gormley, Dean of the Duquesne University School of Law, presented *President Ford's Pardon of Richard M. Nixon: A 40-Year Retrospective* at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library on October 21, 2014.



Justice John Paul Stevens.

All NCC event photos by Jim Hill except where noted.

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

The Library and Museum have enjoyed high numbers of visitors at several outstanding public programs last fall, as well as great attendance at the annual tree Lighting Ceremony, Holiday Open House, and the special visit by the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree as it traveled to Washington. Our attendees are intrepid despite the weather!

In addition to this issue's coverage of Captain Meier's visit to Grand Rapids in November, he also addressed a packed audience at the Ann Arbor Rotary Club and an evening program at the Library. Both programs drew audiences comprised of many veterans. The evening program was also attended by 20 students from the University of Michigan Naval Architecture program, and they peppered him with questions long after the program ended. Prior to the program at the Library, he also met with the current members of the UM Naval ROTC program. We also provided a personal tour of the president's office and the archival research collections, including an overview of the Library's Foundation-funded digitization program.

With the assistance of Foundation Trustee/UM Interim Athletic Director Jim Hackett's executive assistant, Annette Howe, we were also able to arrange a personal tour of the UM stadium for Captain Meier and his wife, Rachel, and the crew members traveling with them. In spite of their tight schedule, they expressed great enthusiasm for this additional activity and enjoyed it immensely despite the snowflakes falling upon them. Many selfies were taken and immediately transmitted back to their shipmates!

Other recent activities included a meeting with representatives from the University of South Africa, who are planning to build South Africa's first presidential library in honor of former president Thabo Mbeki, who served as president from 1999 – 2008, following Nelson Mandela. We discussed ways the new library could capitalize on

and build long-term relationships and partnerships with other university departments, in order to ensure the strength of the library in future years when the current leadership of the university and in government are no longer present. The Ford Library was the last of their visits in the U.S. – they had previously visited the Reagan and Carter Libraries. Unfortunately, time did not permit them to visit the Museum on this trip.

Another unusual visit this fall was by Marisa Futernik, an American artist now based in the UK. She received the prestigious Deutsche Bank Award for Creative Enterprises, and used this to support visits to all of the presidential libraries on a cross-country road trip in October and November. She plans to create a set of 13 small artist's books, one for each of the libraries, incorporating original visual material and writing inspired by her visit to each site. We look forward to seeing the results of this unique project. To see her progress to date, check out her "Sound Postcards from the American Road" at <http://www.marisafuternick.com>.

Collaboration with the University of Michigan included a meeting Geir Gundersen and I had with UM Musicology Professor Mark Clage and UM Library staff member Jamie Lausch Vander Broek regarding the special exhibit they curated marking the 200th anniversary of *The Star Spangled Banner* in 2014. We are meeting with them again early in January to consider how we can display the exhibit at one or both of our sites, and also provide advice regarding ways the UM could make this exhibit available to other presidential libraries and public libraries and museums in Michigan and beyond.

In addition, we met with Terry McDonald, new director of the Bentley Library, regarding ideas for joint programming related to state and local political leaders. Recent additions to their collection include the papers of Congressman John Dingell and Senator Carl Levin. Library staff also worked closely with Professor Francis Blouin, former



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

Supervisory Archivist Geir Gundersen (left) and Library and Museum Director Elaine Didier (right) provided a personal tour of the president's office and the archival research collections at the Library to Captain John Meier.

director of the Bentley Library, to support his Department of History course. Students were introduced to working with archival materials by reviewing material on international relations during the Ford Administration. Both of these new partnerships will bring attendees to public programs and future classes to the Library on a regular basis.

On a sad note, I must share news of the passing of artist Patricia Hill Burnett on December 29 at age 94. Patricia was an amazing woman of diverse talents who painted a wonderful portrait of Mrs. Ford which now graces the lobby of the Library. We are very grateful that we were able to host Patricia and her family and friends for the dedication and unveiling of the portrait last July. Her spirit and grace will be greatly missed.

Finally, I will close with warm thanks to the Ford Foundation for its annual support of the holiday parties for staff at both sites. Thanks also to Trustee Benton and Joanne Becker for their annual gift of fabulous Florida grapefruit delivered to the Library and Museum over the holidays. We are very grateful to Benton and Joanne for their recognition of the staff.

Best wishes for the New Year!

Christmas On The Grand

Festive trees decorated by area Scouts, students, and community organizations adorned the Museum lobby again this holiday season. The Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 17, 2014 where **Christmas On The Grand** officially begins, was moved inside the Museum for the first time due to inclement weather. In spite of the snowstorm, over 300 people came out to join in the celebration. Jim Kratsas, Susan Ford Bales, Captain John Meier, Red Cavaney and Joe Calvaruso were joined by Major Norman Grainer of the Salvation Army for welcoming remarks. Entertainment was provided by The Caroling Company, Salvation Army and Girl Scout Troop 4246.

This year's winning decorated tree entries selected by the judges were: **Girl Scout Troop 4183** for Best of Show, **Big Sid's Sanctuary** for Best Theme and **Girl Scout Troop 4055** for the Kreative Kids category.

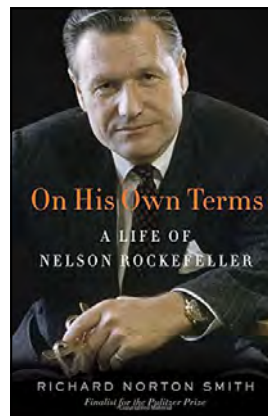
8 Thanks to all who braved the weather to join in this year's celebration.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Richard Norton Smith



**“On His Own Terms:
A Life of Nelson Rockefeller**
by Richard Norton Smith
November 12-13, 2014

The Ford Foundation, Library and Museum welcomed back Richard Norton Smith, who was on a whirlwind book tour for his biography On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller released in October. Calling it “the book I was born to write.” Smith began the daunting task of researching and writing about

one of our country's most fascinating political figures fourteen years ago. Using previously untouched primary sources as well as interviewing scores of people who knew or worked with “Rocky,” Richard wove the complex story of a remarkable man who Gerald Ford tapped to be his Vice President in 1974.

Smith enthralled capacity audiences at both the Museum (November 12) and the Library (November 13) with the story of this scion of one of America's richest families. From his birth, Rockefeller was shaped not only by the powerful family name but also by his mother (according to Richard “the only woman he truly loved”) who imposed on him her love of modern art as well as the ambition to be President of the United States.

Smith talked of Rocky's political rise, his bid for the presidency in 1960, 1964 and 1968 as well as his tenure as governor of New York, a known springboard to the Oval Office. In the end, Rockefeller's timing for our land's highest office ran into the rise of the conservatives among the Republican party who wanted nothing more than to distance themselves from the progressives. Despite all of his immense accomplishments over a long and storied career, Rockefeller, near his death, told a friend that he thought his life was a failure because he never became President.

Smith also discussed the removal of Rockefeller by President Ford on the 1976 ticket. While he was never happy as Vice President (and most are not), his being asked to stand down was a bitter pill to swallow.

On His Own Terms has received praise from prominent publications and historians. One called it “one of the greatest cradle-to-grave biographies written in the last fifty years.” High accolades for a great biography sure to be classified as the definitive work of this enigmatic figure in American history. ~ Jim Kratsas, Deputy Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

H.W. Brands:
“The Prez - Machiavelli Visits the White House”
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Noted historian and Grand Rapids favorite, **H. W. Brands**, spoke on December 10 at the Eberhard Center of Grand Valley State University. Brands' lecture was both lively and entertaining as he played the role of Machiavelli to American presidents. It was an insightful perspective as Brands counseled presidents to avoid second terms, writing memoirs, and telling the American people the truth when it was negative. The event was cosponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, and the Ford Presidential Museum.

H.W. Brands



The Hauenstein Center



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

The Amazing Clark

The Amazing Clark lived up to his name, bringing a lively and entertaining message about the importance of good character to West Michigan students on November 10 in a Museum and Foundation collaboration. Using puppets, magic, and audience participation the audience learned about the six pillars of good character and how they can practice them in their lives. Area Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and home school families were treated to 45 minutes of non-stop action and lessons in this special after school program. The event also included time to explore Gerald Ford's early life in the Museum's exhibit followed by apple cider and donuts.

The Amazing Clark, aka Eugene Clark, is a puppeteer and magician from Southeastern Michigan. He entertains and educates students and adults in programs throughout Michigan and beyond. Time Magazine has called him, "Mesmerizing!"

Holiday Open House

The Museum swung open its doors the afternoon of December 7 for their annual Holiday Open House. Nearly 800 visitors were able to pet Santa's reindeer, listen to holiday music by area choirs, enjoy the Christmas on the Grand trees and Museum exhibits, and nibble on Christmas cookies, while young ones visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We hear from many families each year that the Open House and visit with St. Nick have become an annual tradition for them.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso (left) and Museum Deputy Director Jim Kratsas (right) extend a warm welcome to *Smokey the Bear* at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids.

Dear D.C., Love G.R.

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum hosted the 2014 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree's 50th Anniversary Tour in the Museum's parking lot November 13 as the tree made its way from Minnesota to Washington, D.C. The tree made several stops along the route, allowing local communities to join the fun and send holiday wishes to Washington. Community groups were on hand with activities and music for visitors and the Museum offered free admission and ornament-making for students. Over a dozen area organizations partnered on this unique event.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Ye-Ling Wang, the Deputy Program Manager for the Future Aircraft Carriers Program, visited the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on November 30, 2014, while attending a family holiday gathering in Michigan. Museum Registrar Jamie Draper provided her a behind-the-scenes facility tour. Ms. Wang enjoyed her visit and was thoroughly impressed with the Museum's temporary exhibit, **Taking The Seas: Rise of the American Aircraft Carrier**. She commended Museum staff for capturing and presenting the remarkable evolution of carrier technology.

On October 25, 2014, in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County families were able to tour the Ford Presidential Museum and learn about a part of our history. Many families had not been to the museum and appreciated this opportunity to experience it. Afterward they were able to spend some community time sharing a celebration cake and talking about what they observed and learned as part of their visit. ~ *Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Kent County.*



Yes, I want to be a member of "Friends of Ford"

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



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.

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
- ★ 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 contact Katie Maguire at 616.254.0396 or email kmaguire@38foundation.org. Attached is an application envelope for your convenience. Memberships are tax deductible to the limits allowed by the IRS. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation
303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
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Schedule of Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Date	Location	Time	Event
02/04/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	Fred McClure "The Presidency, Politics, and Public Service"
02/05/2015	Ann Arbor Library	7:30 PM	Glenn Thrush, POLITICO, Gerald R. Ford Journalism Award Winner
02/10/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	Howard Willens Lecture and Book Signing - "History Will Prove Us Right: Inside the Warren Commission Report on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy"
02/13/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	King: A Reflection on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
03/16/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	John Rogers "Union of Concerned Scientists Lecture" Senior Analyst in the Climate and Energy Program at UCS.
03/17/2015	Ann Arbor Library	7:30 PM	David Holmes Lecture and Book Signing - "The Faiths of the Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama"
03/19/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Captain John Meier "Creating a Culture of Excellence"
04/14/2015	Grand Rapids J.W. Marriott	12:00 PM	"America's First Ladies Luncheon: An Enduring Legacy" - Keynote Speaker Dr. Lynne Cheney accompanied by her husband former Vice President Dick Cheney
05/06/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	Ken Walsh Lecture and Book Signing "Celebrity in Chief: A History of the Presidents and the Culture of Stardom"
05/07/2015	Ann Arbor Library	7:30 PM	Ken Walsh Lecture and Book Signing "Celebrity in Chief: A History of the Presidents and the Culture of Stardom"

For Additional Event Information Please Visit Our Website or Call 616-254-0396.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Museum Exhibit: *Taking the Seas: The Rise of the American Aircraft Carrier*

GRAND RAPIDS -- For one hundred years, aircraft carriers have launched their planes over the seas assuring the fleet and soldiers ashore air superiority and support in the far-flung corners of the map, where leaders determine our interests are at risk. They are the largest, most powerful warships ever to plow the waves, monuments to our nation's strength, ready to respond to crises abroad. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum offers *Taking the Seas: The Rise of the American Aircraft Carrier*, an exhibit that explores the development of this unique ship and the role it plays in projecting our nation's influence abroad.

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