



# America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy

April 14, 2015



Dr. Lynne Cheney and Vice President Dick Cheney at the First Ladies Luncheon.



Trustee Susan Ford Bales introduced the Cheneys at the luncheon.



Liesel Meijer presented remarks at the luncheon.



Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney presented welcoming remarks at the luncheon.



Dr. Judy L. Smith, Chief, Spectrum Health Cancer Center, introduced Spectrum's Tribute Video to First Lady Betty Ford.



Rev. Gloria D. Kroeze, Pediatric Chaplain, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, gave lunch Invocation.

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



We remember our dear friend and Trustee, Dick Ford. Dick was the youngest of President Ford's three brothers. Dick will be remembered for his ever-present smile and kind words, and most of all his special friendship. He will be greatly missed by all of us that knew and admired him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ellen and the entire Ford Family. We are furthered saddened with the loss of Trustee Bob Griffin who passed away in April. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob's family and friends.

In February, we paid tribute to Black History Month with two programs. On a snowy February night, we had a fantastic turnout for "King: A Reflection on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." This event, sponsored by Hank and Liesel Meijer, was a moving tribute to the life of Dr. King. The second program, "The Presidency, Politics and Public Service" was presented by Fred McClure and sponsored by Mercantile Bank. Fred is the Chief Executive Officer of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. It was an honor to be a part of these events.

In March, the Foundation partnered with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. Former U.S. Ambassador to Brazil, Melvyn Levitsky, who serves on the Foundation Grant and Awards Committee, discussed the recent turmoil in Brazil and his views on the future. Also in March, we collaborated with Varnum Law Firm to host Sam Gomberg of the Union of Concerned Scientists for "A Discussion on Michigan's Energy Future – Beyond Coal."

We would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Lynne Cheney and Trustee Dick Cheney for their remarkable, personal tribute to Mrs. Ford at "America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy". This luncheon was in honor of First Lady Betty Ford's 97th Birthday.

The Foundation and Museum staff have been working on the development of a Grand Rapids tour map of President Ford's life. "Map N Tour" will provide



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

(l-r) Bob Worthington, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Mercantile Bank, the event's sponsor; Tracey Brame, WMU-Cooley Assistant Dean and faculty adviser of the Black Law Students Association; Fred McClure, CEO of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation; WMU-Cooley students Gwyne Thomas and Demar Sheffey; and Joe Calvaruso, Executive Director, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

pictures and information along with local locations that were important to President Ford. "Map N Tour" is available as a free app on your smartphone or visit:

<http://www.mapntour.com/view/grford>

Also, please visit the Foundation's updated website:

[www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org)

You can find current event information as well as many other Foundation projects.

Later this year, we will announce the timelines for the construction of the Museum redesign and the new Learning Center. In the next couple of months, the plans will be finalized.

Finally, and most importantly, I especially want to recognize the generous time put forth by so many volunteers and our Trustees that serve the Foundation committees. Our ability to champion President Ford's extraordinary legacy would not be possible without their tireless support. It is truly an honor to work with each of them and the Foundation's countless other supporters. Thank you!

*Joe*



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

President Gerald R. Ford and Special Assistant to the President, Roger B. Porter. Photo taken in Oval Office on December 10, 1976.

*Looking Back  
Roger B. Porter*

Roger Porter was a White House Fellow and served as Special Assistant to President Gerald R. Ford, as well as Executive Secretary of the President's Economic Policy Board. He also served as Executive Secretary of the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs and as Director of White House Office of Policy Development under President Reagan and as Assistant to the President for Economic and Domestic Policy under President George H.W. Bush. He currently serves as Trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

## In Memoriam

### *Trustee Richard A. Ford 1924-2015*

Richard Addison Ford, Gerald R. Ford's brother, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2015, at the age of 90. Uncle Dick, as he was fondly called, was born and raised in Grand Rapids with his brothers Gerald, Thomas and James. Dick served as a Foundation Trustee since its inception and regularly attended the various events that promoted his brother's legacy. He was a pallbearer during the State Funeral of his brother in January 2007 and more recently attended the Christening Ceremony of the *USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)* aircraft carrier.

Dick was born on June 3, 1924 in Grand Rapids, the son of Gerald R. Ford, Sr. and Dorothy Gardner Ford. A devoted family man, he is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Ellen Ford; their three children, Linda Ford-Burba (Ted), Laurie Ford-Cassidy (Gary), and Richard P. Ford (Julie); he was so very proud of his two grandsons, Scott Burba (Meridith) of Marietta, GA and Steven Burba (Rosana) of Orlando, FL; his four great-grand children who he dearly enjoyed and loved, Elisa and Eva Burba, Jake Burba and Ali Kamel; his nieces and nephews and so many wonderful friends.



Dick Ford

Dick will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his family and his many long-time friends and business associates. He graduated from East Grand Rapids High School during which time he received his Eagle Scout Award. He also graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. When his country called, Dick served faithfully in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a Second Lieutenant during World War II. Dick was the former owner and C.E.O. of The Ford Paint and Varnish Company of Grand Rapids, and was also Sales Manager of the Chemical Coating Division of Guardian Chemicals.

He was very active in Grand Rapids community associations as former Director of Grand Rapids Builders and Traders, also as former member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Rapids Urban League, and Past President of the Grand Rapids Art Museum. He was a member of the Gerald R. Ford Commemorative Committee and a member of the Executive Committee for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. More than just an avid golfer, he was Past Governor of the Golf Association of Michigan, Past Vice President of the West Michigan Officials Association, Past United States Golf Association for Western Michigan and Rules Official for three U.S. Open Tournaments, Past President and member of Quail Run Golf Club, Naples, FL. Locally he was Past President and member of Kent Country Club.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is deeply saddened by the passing of "Uncle Dick" and our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

### *Honorary Trustee Robert P. Griffin*



Robert P. Griffin

Our sincere condolences to the family of former U.S. Senator, Robert P. Griffin who passed away Thursday, April 16, 2015. Senator Griffin was first elected to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Board of Trustees in September 1981 and served as Honorary Trustee since July 2013. He served as Board Chairman from 1981-85.

Senator Griffin was a 1947 graduate of Central Michigan University. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1956 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. He served until May 10, 1966 when he resigned to accept the appointment to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Patrick V. McNamara. Senator Griffin served as Minority Whip of the United States Senate from 1969-77, and was a key Congressional leader during the Ford presidency. After leaving elected office, Griffin returned to his private law practice. In 1986, he was elected to an eight-year term as Associate Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

## *America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy* *Dr. Lynne Cheney with former Vice President Dick Cheney*

April 14, 2015



Dr. Lynne Cheney and Vice President Dick Cheney on stage during the First Ladies luncheon.

*"What a pleasure it is to be here today and to honor Betty Ford. She once said 'Anybody can be First Lady, anybody can do these things. Look it's happened, I'm anybody and I am here doing it' She wasn't just anybody...she was a woman of so much character and integrity and I feel very lucky to have had her be a model for me and for so many others".*

*Dr. Lynne Cheney*

*"It is very special for us to be here today to honor what would have been Betty's 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday".*

*Vice President Dick Cheney*

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation once again honored First Lady Betty Ford at its annual luncheon held at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 14, 2015. Coinciding with Mrs. Ford's birthday, *"America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy"* highlights the lasting impact and enduring legacy of one of America's most beloved First Ladies. This year's special guests were Dr. Lynne Cheney with former Vice President and Foundation Trustee Dick Cheney. Red Cavaney, Chairman of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation provided opening remarks and showcased the growing tradition of the luncheon dedicated to honoring Mrs. Betty Ford. This year's event marked what would have been Mrs. Ford's 97th birthday.

Dr. Judy L. Smith, Chief of Spectrum Health Cancer Center, touched on the enduring legacy of First Lady Betty Ford. Dr. Smith noted that together with her daughter, Susan Ford Bales, Mrs. Ford contributed much to the awareness of early detection of breast cancer. In its continued mission to honor Mrs. Ford's work, Spectrum Health's Betty Ford Breast Care Services provided over 70,000 mammograms in 2014. Dr. Smith's presentation also featured a video dedicated to Mrs. Ford's impact as First Lady.

Following lunch, Liesel Meijer introduced Susan Ford Bales and also highlighted Mrs. Ford's legacy of "being ahead of her time" with her fashion sense as well as her outspokenness as First Lady. Susan Ford Bales touched on the close relations between her parents and the Cheney's throughout the years that began during the Ford White House. Susan stated how much 'Mom and Dad' cared for Dick and Lynne, and how much she especially appreciated them throughout the funerals of her parents.

Dr. Lynne Cheney and former Vice President Dick Cheney began their conversation retelling stories of President and Mrs. Ford. Lynne discussed her favorite memories of First Lady Betty Ford which involved Mrs. Ford dancing in China and at the 1976 Republican National Convention. Vice President Cheney spoke about how Don Rumsfeld asked him to join him as Deputy White House Chief of Staff and was introduced to President Ford for the first time. He also humorously touched on Mrs. Ford's strong support and commitment for the Equal Rights Amendment and how that played in President Ford's 1976 campaign. When Dick Cheney asked President Ford to speak with Mrs. Ford about toning down her advocacy on the issue as it may not be well received in all parts of the campaign, President Ford said

that if someone was going to speak to the First Lady about it, then it was going to have to be Dick himself which needless to say, never happened.

The Ford's introduced Lynne and Dick to skiing and the Cheneys valued their entire friendship with them. Lynne felt that Mrs. Ford's impact included how she turned breast cancer and early detection from taboo and brought it into everyday conversations to help save thousands of women across the world.

Lynne Cheney discussed the background to a new biography she wrote called "James Madison: A Life Reconsidered". The book also brings to life his wife Dolley Madison and how her impact as First Lady changed the course for later First Ladies. The book highlights James Madison's many accomplishments which included drafting the Constitution, writing George Washington's Inaugural Address, helping push the Bill of Rights through Congress, founding the first political party with Thomas Jefferson, and he was the first President to take the Nation to War under the Constitution. In addition James Madison helped formulate how the Vice President was originally selected to serve office.

A video of the event can be watched at:  
[www.geraldronfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldronfordfoundation.org)



(l-r) Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney, Lynne Cheney, Trustees Dick Cheney and Susan Ford Bales prior to the luncheon.

(l-r) Lynne Cheney; Angela Ditmar, Senior Director, Spectrum Health Oncology Program; Tina Freese-Decker, President, Spectrum Health Hospital Group; Trustees Dick Cheney and Susan Ford Bales; and Judy L. Smith, M.D., Chief, Spectrum Health Regional Cancer Center.



Lynne Cheney autographed copies of her book following the luncheon.



(l-r) Trustee Doug DeVos, Lynne Cheney, Trustees Dick Cheney and Susan Ford Bales, and Maria DeVos.



(l-r) John Zimmerman, Lynne Cheney, Tracey Hornbeck, Laurie Welch, Trustees Dick Cheney and Susan Ford Bales, and Tom Welch from Fifth Third Bank.



Lynne Cheney (center) meets with students and faculty from Hillsdale College following the luncheon.



(l-r) Lynne Cheney, Mary Ann Keeler, Trustees Dick Cheney and Susan Ford Bales.



(l-r) Trustee Peter Secchia, Lynne Cheney, Joan Secchia and Trustee Dick Cheney.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.

## King: A Reflection on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

February 13, 2015

"King: A Reflection on the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," a combination of spirituals and writings commemorating the life of Dr. King, warmed up the auditorium on a cold February night in Grand Rapids. The piano, played by Stanley Waldon was a stunning accompaniment to the verbose voices of tenor Wally Tett, bass-baritone Daniel Washington and tenor George Shirley. Narration by playwright/librettist Sandra Seaton was interspersed with Shirley's performance. The program brought the audience through a musical journey of Dr. King's life. This program was underwritten by Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer and Liesel Meijer.



Hank and Liesel Meijer with Playwright/Librettist Sandra Seaton after the performance at the Museum.



(l-r) Pianist Stanley H. Waldon, Tenor George Shirley, and Playwright/Librettist Sandra Seaton.



(l-r) Wally Tett, Daniel Washington, Stanley H. Waldon, George Shirley, and Sandra Seaton.



Vice Admiral David Architzel (Ret.)

**Vice Admiral David Architzel (Ret.)  
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command  
"The Ford Class - The Next Generation; The  
Evolution of the U.S. Aircraft Carrier"  
Thursday, January 15, 2015**

Vice Admiral David Architzel (Ret.) spoke to a rapt and sold out audience at the Ford Museum on January 15. Admiral Architzel traced the long history of the aircraft carrier in American history from the *USS Langley* (CV 1) to the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) and the technological, weapons and propulsion advances that have made the carrier the most sophisticated weapon in America's arsenal. Admiral Architzel's appearance was in conjunction with the Ford Museum's current feature exhibit, *Taking the Seas: The Rise of the American Aircraft Carrier*, on display until July 19. The exhibit contains over 100 artifacts from around the country including the Congressional Medal of Honor given to Jimmy Doolittle and the bottle used by Susan Ford Bales to christen the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Please visit: [www.USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org](http://www.USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org).

## Fred McClure, Chief Executive Officer George Bush Presidential Library Foundation Wednesday, February 4, 2015

On February 4 in celebration of **Black History Month**, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum hosted **Fred McClure**, Chief Executive Officer for the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. Mr. McClure spoke on his experiences in public service while serving in numerous presidential administrations including his assisting on Supreme Court nominations for both President Reagan and George H.W. Bush and his experiences as a White House intern during President Ford's administration. The program provided the audience with a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the West Wing as well as McClure's perspectives on the presidential library system. Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso moderated the discussion and the program was sponsored by Mercantile Bank. Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center Security Color Guard students were honored to present colors and lead the *Pledge of Allegiance* as the prelude to Mr. McClure's presentation.

In addition to Mr. McClure's presentation at the Museum, he took the opportunity to visit with the students at the West Michigan Aviation Academy and the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center. During his visit to the Job Corps Center, Mr. McClure spoke of the importance of using time wisely to accomplish goals before that time is lost forever. He encouraged students to make the most of opportunities provided to them through the Job Corps program and beyond. During the question and answer session, when Mr. McClure was asked what he felt was one of the most important traits a successful person needed, McClure's quick response was "integrity".



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



West Michigan Aviation Academy



Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center

**Top:** Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso (left) moderates the discussion with Fred McClure, Chief Executive Officer for the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation at the Museum.  
**Above:** Fred McClure talks to the students from the West Michigan Aviation Academy.  
**Right:** Fred McClure talks to the students at the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Center.

## GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH THE GRAND RAPIDS DRIVE

On Thursday, February 19, 2015 the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation partnered with the Grand Rapids Drive basketball team for a night of fun and educational programs honoring President Ford's legacy of courage, leadership and integrity. The Foundation invited local organizations bearing his name including the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps, President Ford Council of Boy Scouts, Gerald R. Ford Fraternal Order of Police and the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center to attend the game and participate in the program.

Special programming for the evening kicked off with the Grand Rapids Community and students from the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center welcoming the players to the court (**photo top right**). The students got to stand with the players as Gerald R. Ford Job Corps Security Students presented the colors and the Job Corps Choir performed the National Anthem (**photo bottom right**). Gerald R. Ford Fraternal Order of Police members also joined the students on stage for the opening program. The Foundation's special halftime show was a youth basketball game with the Ford Academic Center's rising basketball stars. Throughout the game, audience members had a chance to test their Gerald R. Ford knowledge with trivia questions and enjoyed free Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation T-shirt giveaways. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation was honored to be the beneficiary of the evening's successful 50/50 Raffle.

With graphics of President Ford, including one of him playing basketball aboard the *USS Monterey*, on all the screens, the Grand Rapids Drive cheerleaders decked out in special Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation attire and Ford Foundation T-shirts filling the crowd, the game successfully promoted the mission of the Ford Foundation and President Ford's Legacy and was a spectacular tribute to Gerald R. Ford in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Presidency.



Grand Rapids Drive photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.

*We wish to thank all of those who have contributed so generously to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Your dedication and continued support honor the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his life and allow the Foundation to continue sponsoring exhibits, programs, research grants and awards at the Gerald R Ford Presidential Library and Museum.*

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We apologize for any errors or omissions.  
 Please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or  
 klecceadone@38foundation.org with any corrections.

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

With planning for the renovation of the core exhibits and design of the new Learning Center going at full steam, this has been a very busy period for Library and Museum staff. Textual and audiovisual archival staff and Museum collections staff are working closely with the exhibit design team to identify specific documents, media and artifacts for inclusion in the new exhibits. At the same time, Jim Kratsas, Mark Jonick and I are working very closely with Joe Calvaruso to guide the design and select furnishings for the new Learning Center. Meetings are frequent and productive.

With generous support provided by the Ford Presidential Foundation for digitization, the Library digitized nearly 23,000 pages this past quarter from several collections and Digitization on Demand requests. Included in the newly digitized holdings are materials on a wide range of domestic policy issues, the 1976 presidential campaign, and the U.S. evacuation from Saigon. Since 2009, the Ford Library has digitized 353,000 pages of textual material and 13,000 White House Photographic Office contact sheets, which are now available on the Library's website. Archivist Stacy Davis is overseeing the work of two Foundation-funded contractors, Rebecca McNitt and Amy Stilgenbauer.

The parallel artifact imaging project at the Museum, also supported by the Ford Presiden-

tial Foundation, topped 8,000 items recently, approaching the half-way mark toward our collection of more than 19,000 items. Many of the new photos have been utilized for core exhibit renovation planning, social media artifact highlights, online exhibitions, publications, and many reference requests. There is a strong demand for digitized content and our artifact photography is helping us meet it. Museum Registrar Jamie Draper is working with Jen Vos to carry out this project.

The Library processed 423 cubic feet of textual material in the first two quarters of FY 2015 and expects to complete processing of another 231 cubic feet by the end of April. Included in the newly processed holdings are the files of Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney, 1974-77. These cover domestic and First Family trips and administrative files. The size of this collection is considerable: 61.8 linear feet, or 119,200 pages. These processing efforts keep the Library on track to meet its annual processing goal of 1,133 cubic feet. Archivist Jeremy Schmidt oversees our textual processing, and has developed excellent orientation materials to train new volunteers and interns who are assisting with this effort.

Last month the Library hosted the Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. I gave an illustrated talk on the work and



Library and Museum Director Elaine Didier and Fred McClure, CEO of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on February 4, 2015.

holdings of the Library and Museum, Stacy Davis discussed the Library's website and Digital Library, and Supervisory Archivist Geir Gundersen provided an in-depth tour. This was in addition to my other presentations to groups off-site, and University of Michigan class visits which involved presentations and research assistance by multiple members of our archival staff.

In all, it's a pleasure to report that Library and Museum staff are fully engaged in preserving the legacy of President Ford and increasing access to our rich resources for researchers, students and the general public. All of us continue to be very grateful for the wonderful support from the Ford Presidential Foundation.

## From the Museum's Artifact Collection Project

**Right:** A wooden presentation box containing materials from Betty Ford's christening of the USS *Dace* (SSN 607) nuclear submarine. The ceremony commenced on August 18, 1962, at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi. As the ship's sponsor, Mrs. Ford broke a bottle of champagne over the bow. The presentation box includes the remnants of the bottle, her white gloves, ribbons, and a paper booklet on the USS *Dace*.

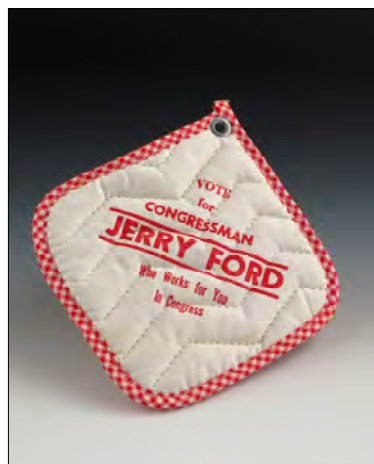
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Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

**Left:** This white potholder with a red and white checkered border and text that reads "Vote for Congressman Jerry Ford Who Works for You in Congress" is one of many to grace the Museum's artifact collections. Ford gave them to constituents during his later congressional campaigns. Someone noted in 1973, during his Vice Presidency, "if Jerry Ford gets to be President, it (the potholder) will be a snappy item for the national archives." The same newspaper article that printed the comment also pointed out that Congressman Ford "would help a boy who wanted to go to West Point, and do what he could when a voter was in trouble, he also helped get casseroles in the oven."

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Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Betty Ford christens USS *Dace* (SSN 607) nuclear submarine, August 18, 1962. (U.S. Navy photo)

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On Thursday, March 19, 2015 Sam Gomberg, Lead Energy Analyst for Union of Concerned Scientists, joined Bruce Goodman of Varnum Law at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Bruce Goodman, organizer of the Gerald R. Ford Energy Lecture Series has a long practice in Energy and Environmental Law and authors the "Watt's New" newsletter.

Mr. Gomberg is actively engaged in monitoring the developments in Lansing regarding Michigan's energy future and advocating for responsible electric generation and electric use policies.

The Gerald R. Ford Energy Lecture Series is co-sponsored by Varnum LLP and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum. Additional sponsors include MiBiz, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, and The Right Place.



Sam Gomberg

Varnum LLP



David Holmes

**David Holmes**  
**"Faith of the Presidents"**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

**Ann Arbor:** Religious historian David Holmes spoke to a rapt audience on "Religion and Watergate: The Religious Faith and Practice of Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford." Professor Holmes recounted the events of Watergate that led to the resignation of President Nixon and the rise of Gerald Ford to the presidency, and discussed Nixon's childhood immersion in the Quaker religion and Ford's strong and lifelong participation in the Episcopal church. David Holmes, the winner of numerous teaching awards, is Mason Professor of Religion Emeritus at the College of William & Mary. He is the author of *The Faiths of the Postwar Presidents: From Truman to Obama* (2012), and *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers* (2006).

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



**World Affairs Council**  
*of Western Michigan*

**Great Decisions Global Discussion Series**

**Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky**  
**"Brazil: Always on the Edge of Greatness...but will it get there?"**  
**Monday, March 16, 2015**

After almost 40 years of military rule and economic trouble, a more modern, democratic Brazil has risen to new global prominence. It's drawing in more investment, expanding it's exports, working on global issues, and hosting sports on a World stage. But some of Brazil's trickiest problems - a flawed political system, governmental corruption scandals, income inequality, and weak civic institutions - have held it back. Ambassador Levitsky discussed the historical background, recent developments and current political, economic and social challenges facing Brazil. "Brazil has steadily worked toward putting a lot of social and economic programs in place and if they can tackle the corrupt political system and get it reformed, get the number of political parties down and make it harder to jump from one to another and really go after corrupt practices which add to what is called the Brazil Cost (the cost of getting things to market, then I think Brazil will make it. I have a great deal of faith in the ingenuity of the Brazilian people so I am optimistic about their future". The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum are proud sponsors of the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan's Great Decisions Global Discussion Series and we are very pleased that Ambassador Levitsky serves on the Foundation's Travel Grant Screening Committee.



Ambassador Melvyn Levitsky

World Affairs Council



The Amazing Adventures of Lewis and Clark performers.

### Face to Face Productions February 18-20, 2015

Partnering again with Circle Theatre's Circle Presents the Ford Museum and Foundation brought Face to Face Productions in for back-to-back performances of their hit musicals *The Amazing Adventures of Lewis and Clark* and the *George Washington Follies*. Elementary aged children from across West Michigan came to the Museum to experience these musicals over a three day stretch. The program is a wonderful way to introduce children to the magic of theater.

### Howard P. Willens "History Will Prove Us Right" Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Author and former Warren Commission Staff member **Howard Willens** spoke at the Museum on February 10. His book, published last September, gives an insider's account of the workings of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. Before a fascinated audience, Willens shared stories and his critique of the effective way the Commission gathered evidence from witnesses and local, state, and federal agencies in the months following Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, in November 1963. Willens paid special attention to the Commission's efforts to investigate plausible conspiracies, especially Lee Harvey Oswald's activity in Mexico City and his interaction with the Cuban and Soviet embassies there.



Howard Willens



Glenn Thrush

### Glenn Thrush "The Hermit Presidency" Thursday, February 5, 2015

Glenn Thrush, Senior Staff Writer for *POLITICO Magazine*, is the 2014 winner of the Ford Journalism prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency. He spoke at the Ford Presidential Library on a very cold night, and drew an eclectic audience of many new faces, including a number of high school and University of Michigan students. President Ford would have been very pleased!

In his talk, Thrush provided a behind-the-scenes view and personal perspective on the evolving nature of the presidency and the White House, and the increasing barriers, both physical and technological, distancing the president from the press and the American people. He noted that as we have tightened the security barriers around the president, we have all lost access to the president. He said "covering the president and working in the White House feels like being on a ship in the ocean. We inter our presidents in a gilded, guarded mausoleum! The president has become a prisoner of the office and we wonder why they are disconnected from us."

Thrush also noted that the presidency is receding from our view because of politics. Over the past 20 years, there has been a revolution in the way presidential campaigns are run – the new goal is to move inward, not outward as before, and to target your core voters and not the center, fringes or undecided. As a result, presidents speak more and more to those holding the same views, despite their initial intentions to be more open and take a middle ground. He stated that the president increasingly becomes a prisoner of the White House as the senior staff "screen out the noise" and he receives less and less input and fewer diverse points of view.

Looking ahead to the 2016 election, Thrush feels candidates would do better to give fewer speeches and listen more. And he asked, how can anyone say they want to represent working people if they don't know any working people! Thrush also sees a need for a serious study of how to re-design the presidency to suit the 21<sup>st</sup> century, rather than using the old 19<sup>th</sup> century models for the way the president and the White House function. He asked why there are not studies of presidential management, since there are studies of everything else! In all, it was a wide-ranging and insightful presentation, and the breadth of the speaker's knowledge kept attendees asking him questions long after the formal presentation concluded.

**Hannah Brookhart, Ford Presidential Library staff member, receives a Presidential Libraries Achievement Award from the National Archives Office of Presidential Libraries**

Hannah Brookhart developed a computer program that allowed the Ford Library to migrate with ease its file unit descriptive data from the Library's collection description database system (PRESNET) to DAS. The PRESNET system uses a thesaurus for subject terms that is different from the one used by the National Archives Catalog. It also combines all subject terms (topical, geographic, and organization) into one field, while the National Archives Catalog has separate fields for each. The computer program uses a decoder to convert the subject terms and assigns them to the appropriate National Archives Catalog field. This program is critically important in making the Library's file unit data available in the National Archives Catalog, and thereby greatly increases access to our holdings. The computer program developed (using Python) is well beyond what we would expect of any staff member. It is normally something we would have to contract-out for. Without this program the staff would have had to spend countless hours manually entering data in the DAS system. What a great example of creativity and innovation!



Hannah Brookhart

Congratulations and thank you to Hannah!



(l-r) Elaine Didier, Library and Museum Director; Hanane Haichami; and Jeremy Schmidt, Archivist.

In March the Ford Library welcomed the second Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation research travel grant recipient from an African university, and the first from North Africa. Hanane Haichami is a doctoral student at Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco. Her research focuses on the history of American aid to Morocco, 1956-84. In appreciation for the grant and service by the Ford Library staff, Ms. Haichami presented a Moroccan arched henna mirror with doors to the Library. To date, the Foundation has awarded 606 grants to students, faculty, and independent scholars from around the world.



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*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.*

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- ★ Free admission to other Presidential Libraries and Museums
- ★ Membership card
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*For further information, please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or email [klecceadone@38foundation.org](mailto:klecceadone@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**  
**616-254-0396**



# Schedule of Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Date	Location	Time	Event
05/20/2015	Ann Arbor Library	7:30 PM	AI From presents "The New Democrats and The Return to Power"
05/21/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	AI From presents "The New Democrats and The Return to Power"
07/13/2015	Grand Rapids Museum Plaza	7:00 PM	U.S. Air Force of Mid-America Starlifter Band Community Concert on the Museum Plaza in honor of President Ford's Birthday.
07/14/2015	Grand Rapids Museum	TBD	Annual Wreath Laying at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford
07/14/2015	Grand Rapids JW Marriott	12:00 PM	2015 William E Simon Lecture in Public Affairs and Luncheon: Keynote Speaker: Honorable Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of the Treasury



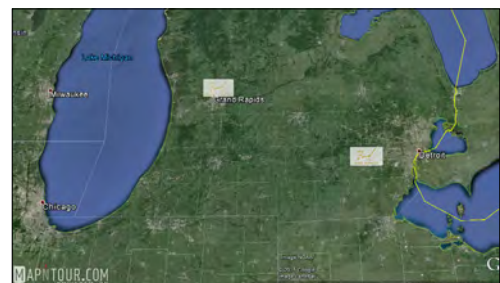
## PLANS FOR THE 2016 COMMISSIONING OF THE USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

Planning is underway for the 2016 Commissioning of America's newest aircraft carrier and carrier class – the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). You can be a part of this historic event and America's extraordinary tribute to our 38<sup>th</sup> President. To learn more about the Commissioning and how you can support the ship and her crew, please visit the Commissioning Committee's website:

**[USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org](http://USSGeraldRFordCommissioning.org)**

### Check Out "Map N Tour" of President Gerald R. Ford's Life

"Map N Tour" is an interactive tour that gives you a personal look into Gerald R. Ford's life. There is a website option <http://www.mapntour.com/view/grford> and also an app on Iphone and Android (search Map N Tour). Highlights include his childhood homes and Grace Episcopal Church, where he and Betty were married. Using this tour, you can quickly find direct links to the information you are seeking. The phone app could be used as a driving tour to see highlights first hand.



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