



Special Tributes to President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford



On April 13, 2016, a capacity crowd gathered to celebrate First Lady Betty Ford's 98th birthday at the 4th Annual *America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy* luncheon. This year Cokie Roberts, National Public Radio and ABC News Political Commentator, delighted the audience with stories of her friendship with the Ford family. Previous year's speakers include First Lady Barbara Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Dr. Lynne Cheney and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Statue of Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford

The World War II era statue of Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford was unveiled to crew members and shipbuilders of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford in the carrier's hangar bay at Newport News Shipbuilding on April 7, 2016.

The LCDR Ford statue is a gift of the Ship Sponsor and the Commissioning Committee and will be placed on the Ceremonial Quarterdeck. It depicts LCDR Ford during his World War II service aboard the USS Monterey. The bronze statue is approximately 7 feet tall, and approximately 9 feet tall with its base.

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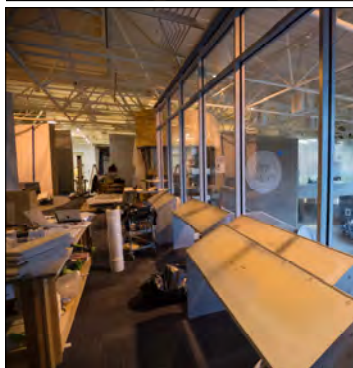
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*Letter from the Executive Director,
Joseph S. Calvaruso*



TOP: Joe Calvaruso (left) goes over exhibit plans with Justin McClenahan from Gallagher & Associates design firm.
Middle & Lower: Interior photos of the Museum under renovation. Photos by Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

As was reported in our last newsletter, the Museum was closed in October for major renovations and the building of the DeVos Learning Center. The work has been extensive, as we removed everything down to the outside walls and cement floors of the exhibit area. The exhibit space is being transformed into a vibrant new Museum with many interactive displays, film clips, and objects never seen before along with the temporary exhibits.

The public is invited to attend the June 7, 2016 Grand Opening Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on the Museum plaza and parking area. Following the program, the Museum and DeVos Learning Center will be open to visitors. Many fun activities are scheduled for young adults in Ah-Nab-Awen Park next to the Museum following the ceremony. All activities are free to attend, and we hope to see many of you in attendance to help us celebrate this grand opening!

I am pleased to announce Clare Shubert has joined the Foundation staff as the Director of Engagement and Programming. She has many years of educational experiences in the greater Grand Rapids area. She will lead the efforts, along with the Museum educational staff, to bring the vision of the DeVos Learning Center to life. The additional education programs will focus

on the characteristics of President and Mrs. Ford with an emphasis on character, integrity and public service. Welcome aboard Clare!

Recently we lost several of our valued friends. Long-time Foundation Trustee and friend of President Ford, Colonel Ralph Hauenstein, passed away at the age of 103 on January 10, 2016. Ralph was a role model for all, World War II hero, and friend who will be missed greatly in our community. We also lost John Sampson on November 4, 2015. John was always willing to volunteer with a smile and lots of energy, fueled by his love of history. Josephine Sobeski Zuidersma passed away quietly on March 7, 2016. She left a legacy for future generations by establishing the DeVos Learning Center Curriculum in honor of the Sobeski Family. We wish to offer our condolences to friends and family of each of these remarkable individuals. They will all be missed, and we take comfort in knowing their legacies will live on at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

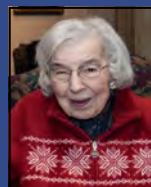
I want to take this opportunity to thank the donors, sponsors and volunteers that support the many activities of the Foundation. It is an honor to continue the legacy of President and Mrs. Ford.

Joe

In Memoriam



Colonel Ralph W. Hauenstein
1912 - 2016



Josephine Sobeski Zuidersma
1923 - 2016



Dr. John W. Sampson
1942 - 2015



We Invite You to be Our Guest at the
Grand Openings of the *New* DeVos Learning Center &
the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Grand Opening Ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI

Ceremony will be held outside on the Museum Plaza.
No charge to attend. Family-friendly activities.
The Museum and Learning Center will be open following the Ceremony.
For more information please visit our website
www.geraldrfordfoundation.org or call 616-254-0396.

Cokie Roberts *America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy*

April 13, 2016



Top Left: Susan Ford Bales welcomes Cokie Roberts to the podium. **Top Center:** Dr. Judy Smith, Chief of Spectrum Health Cancer Center discussed Betty Ford's impact on breast cancer. Spectrum Health was a sponsor of the luncheon along with Amway, Fifth Third Bank, and Meijer. **Top Right:** Liesel Meijer welcomed the audience to the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. **Left:** Cokie Roberts presents remarks at the luncheon.

On April 13, a capacity crowd gathered at the Frederik Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids to welcome Cokie Roberts, New York Times bestselling author and political commentator for ABC News and National Public Radio. Ms. Roberts was the keynote speaker for the annual Foundation luncheon series entitled *America's First Ladies: An Enduring Legacy* in honor of First Lady Betty Ford's 98th birthday.

Ms. Roberts had the crowd spellbound as they listened to stories that spanned 40+ years and talked of the enduring friendship between her family and the Fords. Republican House Minority Leader Gerald Ford established a lasting friendship with Democrat Majority Leader Hale

Boggs (Cokie's father). Their families came to be close as well. Cokie told how helpful Betty Ford was when Hale Boggs was suddenly lost in an Alaskan plane crash in 1972.

"My mother [Lindy Boggs] and Betty Ford were really quite close. You don't see that in Washington today. It's important to talk about. Betty Ford was an extraordinary human being who, I would say, has affected hundreds of thousands of lives if not millions. And to be able to honor her here today is really a special thing to me," Roberts said. "After she was out of office -- that's the way first ladies say it, 'after I was out of office' -- Betty stood on another podium with Susan's [Ford Bales] great help as a crusader for those who are plagued by alcohol and drug dependence. I couldn't get over how detailed her information was on all that. She was right up to date on everything until she died. Now Susan carries on that work just brilliantly".

Ms. Roberts feels that the most important reason people like her parents and President and Mrs. Ford were able to maintain friendships despite being "strong partisans" was that the women who came to Washington with their husbands understood that they were "engaged in it together". That spirit was important to President Ford. Roberts said, "The last time I interviewed him, he said 'Cokie, what is wrong with Washington today?' And what would happen if he saw it today?"

Roberts also focused on the long tradition of First Ladies espousing causes and using their influence to advocate for change. She is the author of several bestselling books that include "Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised our Nation", "Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation", "Capital Dames" and "We Are Our Mother's Daughters" among others.

A video of the luncheon presentation is available on the Foundation's website www.geraldrfordfoundation.org.



(l-r) Liesel Meijer, Cokie Roberts and Cameron O'Keefe.



(l-r) Gwen Sandefur, COO Spectrum Health Grand Rapids; Dr. Judy Smith, Chief Spectrum Health Cancer Center; Cokie Roberts; Susan Ford Bales; Angela Ditmar, VP Spectrum Health Cancer Center and Lindsay Syswerda, Cancer Center Event Coordinator at the reception prior to the First Ladies luncheon.



(l-r) Cokie Roberts, John Zimmerman and Susan Ford Bales.



Trustee Doug DeVos shared a surprise announcement about Susan Ford Bales at the luncheon.



Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer enjoyed the luncheon with his mother, Lena Meijer.



Trustees Peter Secchia and Danny Gaydou.

USS Gerald R. Ford Commissioning Tribute at the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo, Michigan



Top: "Taking the Seas" traveling exhibit is featured next to the Lockheed SR-71B Blackbird spy plane on display at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. **Left:** (l-r) Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Congressman Fred Upton; Trustees Susan Ford Bales and Dick Cheney. **Center:** (l-r) Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso; Meredith Gremel, SpartanNash; Trustees Susan Ford Bales and Dick Cheney; Jeff Noel, Whirlpool Corporation; Ed Brunot and Kathy Mahoney, SpartanNash. SpartanNash presented Honor and Remember Flags to Susan Ford Bales and Dick Cheney prior to the Commissioning Tribute. **Right:** Trustee Susan Ford Bales (center) is joined by Robert and Susan Brown.

On March 24, 2016 a tribute was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Museum in support of the anticipated 2016 commissioning of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Special guests included former Vice President Dick Cheney, Ship's Sponsor Susan Ford Bales, Michigan 6th Congressional District Congressman Fred Upton and Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, as well as several members of the official Commissioning Committee. The tribute coincided with the traveling exhibit "Taking The Seas" currently on loan to the Air Zoo until its final placement in the new Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in June 2016.

Funds raised at the event will directly enhance the onboard lives of the ship's crew, including accessions to the ship's library, the Learning Resource Center/Training Classrooms, and the Chapel, and will provide support to the ceremonies and events surrounding Commissioning Weekend. Accessions to the carrier from these funds will also include the *President Gerald R. Ford Tribute Room*, the ship's ceremonial quarterdeck, and the Commanding Officer's inport cabin. These rooms capture the history and life of the ship's namesake, and the rich history and tradition of the United States Navy. The funds will also provide support for crew education through the USS Gerald R. Ford Scholarship Fund.



Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley.



Susan Ford Bales Remarks at the Unveiling of Lcdr Gerald R. Ford Statue:

What a wonderful day in the life of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. And what a wonderful day in the legacy of the man I am so proud to call Dad.

As many of you know, Brett Grill also created the statue of Dad that is in the United States Capitol Rotunda. Brett, I never thought it possible, but your statue for the ship is even more magnificent. You have created a tribute to Dad and to this mighty ship that is singularly unique. Thank you and congratulations, Brett.

This statue is the result of years and years of planning, research, and discussion. My heartfelt thanks goes to MaryPat Woodard; Greg and Annie Willard; Leon and Barbara Parma; Geoff and Chris Mason; Randy Bumgardner; and my husband Vaden [Bales] for their guidance and very generous support to make this statue possible. And a special thanks to Captain John Meier for his suggestions, his perspectives, and, yes, his patience. To each of you, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this statue a reality.

The *USS Gerald R. Ford* is the largest and most meaningful tribute Dad will ever receive. And, as you just heard, it's the tribute about which Dad was grateful beyond words. Crew members of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, thank you for making Dad the proudest namesake ever! And thank you for the honor you give to Dad every day with the uniform patch of your namesake carrier.

Captain Meier, with your permission, I'd like to ask your indulgence for a personal moment. I'd like to speak directly to the Newport News

Shipbuilders.

My fellow shipbuilders..... Let me say that again because I'm so proud to say it --

My Fellow Shipbuilders, Today is a day filled with happiness. But it's also a day with some sadness; sadness because this is the last time I'll speak publicly to you here in the shipyard. Soon, CVN 78 will leave the shipyard to join the Fleet.

I began this journey with you in December, 2006. Navy Secretary Winter asked me to be the Ship Sponsor. I have to admit I didn't have a clue what I was supposed to do! Fortunately, I've had fantastic teachers these past ten years. The first place I looked for guidance was to you shipbuilders. What did you think about your ship and your work on the ship day in and day out? How could I help make that experience even better?

The pride that Newport News Shipbuilders have for their work is like none other. Every single worker in this shipyard understands the importance of their work and the need for quality in everything they do. Patriotic commitment to excellence is not a slogan to the shipbuilders; it's part of their very being. Whatever the challenges this new class of carrier presented -- and goodness knows, we've dealt with many challenges -- every single one you solved. Your goal was always firm -- to provide this crew and the American people with the mightiest warship ever built. And, ladies and gentlemen, that is exactly what the shipbuilders of Newport News have done.

Along the way, I've turned wrenches with you, punched holes, pulled cable, strung telephone wires, worked up in the big blue crane, tested weapons elevators, launched EMALS sleds, calibrated dual band radar, turned on the pumps to flood the dry dock, and tested the giant hangar bay doors. And, yes, I've probably seen a few things that were not exactly on the regular tours. Don't worry, Sammy [Vreeland] and Geoff Hummel, your special tour secrets are safe with me! Now don't think I was always working during my many visits. We had lots of laughs along the way. I'll never forget the look on Lucas Hicks's face when I gave the signal to launch the first EMALS sled. The response to my signals was -- well -- how do I say this -- a complete silence from the sled; the darn thing didn't launch! Lucas was horrified! Of course, Lucas and his team calmly and quickly corrected the problem. And we proceeded to launch sleds perfectly all afternoon in the heat.

Or how about the time we started to flood the dry dock? Gary Bunting had to sign the official certificate to start the pumps. I suddenly handed Gary a special pen to use. But it wasn't just any pen. The pen was the personal fountain pen of the 38th President of the United States -- yes, I handed Dad's pen to Gary. There was, shall we say, a moment of noticeable shakiness with Gary. But he finally settled down, signed the certificate with Dad's pen, and we flooded the dry dock.

At the Keel-Laying Ceremony, I issued an official Sponsor's Declaration. I declared that the spirit of the Newport News shipbuilders is -- and will always be -- truly and fairly a part of the spirit of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. Today, my declaration becomes a permanent part of the ship. At my personal request, a small inscription in honor of the shipbuilders has been placed on the Lieutenant Commander Ford statue. On the statue's scupper rail are the words that are the core of this shipyard. The words -- "Newport News Shipyard -- Always Good Ships" will forever be part of this ship and Dad's legacy.

Congratulations shipbuilders and thank you!



(l-r) Randell Bumgardner; MaryPat Woodard; Brett Grill; Susan Ford Bales; Matt Mulherin, President Newport News Shipbuilding; Rolf Bartschi, Captain Richard McCormack; Captain John Meier.

Captain Meier, members of the crew of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* and my fellow shipbuilders, thank you for all you've done to make my journey as your Ship Sponsor so extraordinary. I am, without question, the happiest Ship Sponsor in the history of the United States Navy.

May God bless and watch over the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, those who build her, and the brave men and women who serve aboard her.

May God bless America. Thank you very much.



Susan Ford Bales Remarks at the Change Of Command Ceremony USS Gerald R. Ford April 8, 2016



Captain John Meier transfers command of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) to Captain Richard McCormack.

Today, we honor the Navy tradition of a Change Of Command ceremony. We do so on board the mightiest and most advanced ship in history. The world has never seen such a ship. And there's a reason that's so: this magnificent vessel has been built by the greatest shipbuilders in the world – my fellow Newport News Shipbuilders. (Applause)

Captain McCormack, congratulations and welcome. I couldn't be more excited that you have been chosen to be the second Commanding Officer of Dad's namesake ship. Red Dog, you are a worthy successor to Oscar! You assume this responsibility because of a simple fact – the United States Navy and the American people have complete confidence that you have what it takes to command their newest carrier and the flagship of this new carrier class.

I'm also pleased to welcome Captain McCormack's family. Peg, would you and the other members of the McCormack family please stand. (Applause).

Captain McCormack, there is no doubt that Dad would feel the same about you. He would be thrilled to have a Commanding Officer of your courage, your leadership, and, most of all, your integrity. And Dad would be particularly happy with the date on which you assume command - April 8 - Mom's birthday. So, Dad and Mom would share a special smile with you today!

You are now entrusted with the legacy of President Gerald R. Ford; but, more importantly, you are entrusted with the most valuable treasure of the American people – their brave sons and daughters. And a greater responsibility of the Commanding Officer of CVN 78 there will never be. In a few months, you will take her to sea for the first time. And then you will lead us in the commissioning later this year. What a glorious day that will be! Welcome, Captain McCormack, and thank you! (Applause)

I want to publicly thank Admiral Haley and many others for the hard work that's already being done in Norfolk to make Pier 12 available for the Commissioning. I'm hopeful with everyone's hard work that Pier 12 can be used. Thank you, Admiral Haley, for all you're doing.

That brings me to the question of the date for the Commissioning. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm not certain who has the final say on the date; but I do know this – nobody is more anxious than me. The American people are looking forward to a date, and the crew is eagerly awaiting a date. So, hopefully, we can all celebrate very soon with the announcement of the Commissioning Date.

And now I must face the inevitable. I have to say goodbye to Captain John Meier. I knew this day would come. I knew some day he would have to transfer command of Dad's namesake carrier; I just never wanted that day to arrive.

I've struggled to find the words to describe how much Captain Meier means to me; how much he would have meant to Dad; and why he has become a cornerstone in Dad's extraordinary legacy. Ladies and gentlemen, my struggle for the right words has come up short. So, please permit me to share with you some thoughts about this remarkable man.

From the moment John Meier assumed command, his focus was like a laser beam. He set about to build a command climate grounded on dignity and respect. His crew has been judged not by their rank, but by the content of their character and the quality of their work. Above all was his commitment to the motto of this ship that was present in each and every crew member – *Integrity At The Helm*. He would accept nothing less than impeccable integrity.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is the command climate Captain John Meier has established. And in so doing, he has set a standard of excellence like no other. It is a standard of initiative, of moral courage, and of passion. It is a standard more powerful than the nuclear reactors on this ship. And it is a standard that will be a shining beacon for Ford Class carriers well into the next century.

A philosopher once wrote, "The best impression one gets of a leader and his character is by looking at those closest around him." Captain Meier, if your character is judged by those closest around you - the men and women of the USS Gerald R. Ford who embody the standard you have set - then a finer tribute to Captain John Francis Meier there could never be.

Captain Meier's integrity and leadership didn't just suddenly happen when he arrived at this command – far from it! They are grounded in every aspect of his life. And each of those aspects is connected. You can trace a straight line from every one of them – a very straight line – to a single place that made him the leader, husband, father, and friend he is today. That place is the home of Joe and Mary Ellen Meier in Export, Pennsylvania. Today, I know that Joe Meier shares the pride of all of us gathered here. And I also have no doubt that Mary Ellen Meier is looking down from above with a great big smile at the accomplishments of her dear son. Joe Meier is here with us. Would you please stand, sir? (Applause)

Captain Meier is known by many titles. But there is one that means more to me than all the others combined. It is a source of constant joy. At this time, would Captain Meier and Rachel, Michael and Matthew please stand. I'd like to share these words from the song "For Good". They express well my feelings towards Captain Meier:

*It well may be
That we will never meet again;*

*So let me say, before we part:
So much of me is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart.*

*And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine by being my friend...*

*Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea;*

*Like a seed dropped by a sky bird in a distant wood:
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?*

But because I knew you...

Because I knew you,

I have been changed -- For good.

Farewell, my friend; farewell.

May God bless and watch over Captain John Meier, Captain Richard McCormack, and their families.

And may God bless and keep safe the crew of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* and the nation they so proudly serve.

Thank you all very much.

USS Gerald R. Ford Change of Command and LCDR Gerald R. Ford Statue Unveiled



Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales is joined in the Inport Cabin by Captain John Meier (left), the First Commanding Officer of the USS Gerald R. Ford, and the new Commanding Officer Captain Richard McCormack.



A bronze statue honoring Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford (c. 1944) is unveiled aboard the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. From left, Commissioning Committee members Randell Bumgardner and MaryPat Woodard, Commissioning Co-Chairman Greg Willard, Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales, Captain John Meier, Sculptor Brett Grill, Shipbuilders Rolf Bartschi and Charles Lewis, and Command Master Chief Donnie Novak. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Matthew Fairchild/Released).



Peggy McCormack, Captain Richard McCormack's wife, moves his command-at-sea device from the left side of his jacket to the right signifying he has assumed command of the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Catherine Mae O. Campbell/Released).



In 1949, the United States Navy established one of its highest honors – Honorary Naval Aviator. It is an honor that can only be given by the Chief Of Naval Operations. In the last seventy years, only 30 Americans have been given this honor. During the *USS Gerald R. Ford*'s Change Of Command Ceremony, Admiral J.R. Haley and Captain John Meier made a surprise announcement and read an official proclamation from Chief Of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson.

In recognition of Susan Ford Bales setting an unprecedented standard of commitment and excellence as Ship Sponsor of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, and, in recognition of her deep devotion and inspiration to the *Ford*'s crew, their families, and the U.S. Navy, Admiral Richardson bestowed on Susan the title of Honorary Naval Aviator. Susan becomes the first woman in history to receive this extraordinary honor. There was also a very personal part of the honor - it was awarded on April 8, Betty Ford's birthday.

Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford Statue



U.S. Navy / Released

Gerald R. Ford served in the U.S. Navy in World War II attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He served in combat in the South Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Monterey* (CVL 26). LCDR Ford was a navigator on the *Monterey*. The bronze statue is approximately 7 feet tall, and approximately 9 feet tall with its base. It depicts LCDR Ford standing on the deck of the *Monterey* holding his navigational sextant. He's looking into the distance in symbolic representation of America's future. His left foot rests on the ship's scupper. It was the scupper on the *USS Monterey* that saved his life when he was nearly swept overboard during Typhoon Cobra. The statue will remain on the *USS Gerald R. Ford* for the entirety of her anticipated 50 – 60 years of service. It will be a ceremonial and historical centerpiece for the carrier and her crew and for distinguished visitors and guests to the ship.

The statue was a gift from the Ship Sponsor Susan Ford Bales and the USS Gerald R. Ford Commissioning Committee. Foundation Chairman Red Cavaney and Trustees Doug DeVos and Greg Willard are Co-Chairmen of the Committee. There are a series of inscriptions on the base of the statue that were personally selected by Susan:

"In my life, I've received countless honors. But none was greater than to wear the uniform of Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. On an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during World War II, I learned to respect, and to rely on, my comrades as if my life depended on them – because it often did. As a World War II veteran, I yield to no one in my admiration for the heroes of Omaha Beach and Iwo Jima. At the same time, I take enormous inspiration from their grandsons and granddaughters who are writing new chapters of heroism around the globe. Thus, it is a source of indescribable pride and humility to know that an aircraft carrier bearing my name will be permanently associated with the valor and patriotism of the men and women of the United States Navy." **President Gerald R. Ford, November 8, 2006**



"According to an ancient tradition, God preserved humanity despite its many transgressions because at any one time there exist ten just individuals who, without being aware of their role, redeem mankind. Gerald Ford was such a man. Propelled into the presidency by a sequence of unpredictable events, he had an impact so profound as rightly to be considered providential." **Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, January 2, 2007**



"Henry Adams once said: "A president, like the commander of a ship at sea, must have a helm to grasp, a course to steer, and a port to seek." Gerald Ford had all of those. I can think of no finer way to honor him and his extraordinary integrity than to represent with our crew members, their parents, spouses, and children the living legacy of President Gerald R. Ford." **Captain John Meier, First Commanding Officer, USS Gerald R. Ford, 2013**

"Wherever a United States [aircraft carrier] shows her flag, she will be a solid symbol of United States strength and United States resolve – made in America and manned by Americans. She is a movable part and parcel of our country, a self-contained city at sea plying the international waters of the world in defense of our national interests. Whether her mission is one of defense, diplomacy, or humanity, she will command awe and admiration from some, caution and circumspection from others, and respect from all." **President Gerald R. Ford, May 3, 1975; Commissioning of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz**

"God has been good to America, especially during difficult times. At the time of the Civil War, He gave us Abraham Lincoln. And at the time of Watergate, He gave us Gerald Ford – the right man at the right time who was able to heal the Nation." **Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, 1977**

"Unlike any other American president, including George Washington himself, Gerald Ford embodied the ideal of the Roman leader Cincinnatus – the man summoned from his plow by his fellow citizens to restore faith in their government. Like Cincinnatus, he did not seek – but did accept – ultimate responsibility in an hour of maximum danger for America. We live in a better and brighter country because Gerald Ford answered the summons to the nation's highest office and served with courage and with unbending integrity." **Historian Jon Meacham, 2013**

On the statue's scupper rail: "N.N.S. [Newport News Shipbuilding] – Always Good Ships."

On the inner ring of the statue: "May God bless and watch over the USS Gerald R. Ford and the brave men and women who will sail her into harm's way. Susan Ford Bales, Ship Sponsor, & Vaden Bales"

USS Gerald R. Ford Inport Cabin Treasures



Left: 1930's era Football and Helmet were donated to the USS Gerald R. Ford by Chris Hornung of Antique Football. Above: A replica of President Ford's football jersey was donated to the USS Gerald R. Ford by the University of Michigan's M Den. Photos Courtesy of the United States Navy / Released and Antique Football.

University of Michigan Retires President Ford's Jersey



Left Photo: President Gerald Ford's #48 jersey was officially retired, again, on November 28, 2015 during the Michigan vs. Ohio game in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Members of the Ford Family were on hand for the recognition. The jersey was brought out of retirement as part of the "Legends" program which has been discontinued. Right Photo: (l-r) Jack Ford, Juliann Ford, Vaden Bales, Susan Ford Bales, Matt Bales, Christian Ford and Jonathan Ford near the retired jersey plaque at the Big House. Photos Courtesy of University of Michigan Athletics.



2015 Remington Trophy "Gerald R. Ford Legends Award" Presented to Jeff Saturday, January 16, 2016

In the summer of 2005, The Remington 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 would bear 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.

Jeff Saturday has traveled a unique road to Pro-Bowl/All-Pro success in the National Football League. His combination of leadership and teamwork has built a winning framework for the Indianapolis Colts and Green Bay Packers resulting in a Super Bowl win and many personal awards. Jeff ended his NFL career with a one-day contract to retire as an Indianapolis Colt. Upon retirement, he joined ESPN as an NFL analyst. Congratulations to Jeff Saturday and his family! Courtesy of Remington Trophy.

Hard Hat Tour of Progress at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Museum Deputy Director Jim Kratsas (far right) leads a group through the construction and new exhibit installation at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

story of President Ford isn't changing, the new exhibits allow for his story to be told more in-depth and enhanced by these technological advances. "We are now able to have the core exhibits tell the complete life story of President and Mrs. Ford," said Elaine Didier, Director of the Museum.

There will be a special Celebration Gala on the evening of June 6 for trustees and other ranking officials. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is set to re-open on June 7, 2016 following the Grand Opening Ceremonies, which are free and open to the public. For more information visit our website www.geraldrfordfoundation.org or call 616-254-0396.

On January 27, 2016, donors and members of the media were given a special behind-the-scenes hard hat tour of progress of the Museum's DeVos Learning Center and the renovation of the core exhibits. Ford Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso and Ford Museum Deputy Director Jim Kratsas welcomed the group while representatives from Pioneer Construction (construction); Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (architect); and Xibitz (design/layout) explained the various roles each business played in the process thus far. The invitees were given a tour of the construction and exhibit installation following lunch.

The DeVos Learning Center will consist of nearly 8,000 square feet and include two floors of conference space and classrooms where new educational programs by both the Ford Foundation and Museum staff will be conducted. The Learning Center is being built to LEED-Silver standards, which includes design elements that enhance energy efficiency, improve air quality, and provides for on-site storm water control measures.

The permanent exhibits will incorporate more interactive displays and an increased footprint over the previous exhibits. While the



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Hard Hat Tour attendees gather for lunch prior to the construction and exhibit installation tour.



A Special Evening with the Grand Rapids Drive!

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum joined with Mercantile Bank to sponsor a Grand Rapids Drive game on February 10. The Grand Rapids Drive is an American professional basketball team of the NBA Development League, based in Grand Rapids. They are an affiliate of the Detroit Pistons.

President Gerald R. Ford was represented throughout the entire game. Boy Scout Troop 334 (of the President Ford Council) out of Cascade Christian Church welcomed the team on the floor (bottom center). The Gerald R. Ford Job Corps presented the colors and sang the National Anthem (bottom right). The Drive wore tribute jerseys bearing President Ford's signature (left). The half-time show highlighted the 3rd/4th/5th grade basketball team from the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center (GRPS) (bottom left). The night concluded with the raffling off of players' game jerseys. This was the second year the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum partnered with the Grand Rapids Drive.

Grand Rapids Drive photos courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.



HAUENSTEIN CENTER



THE COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE



Ambassador Peter Secchia



Richard Norton Smith

On November 17, 2015, the Foundation was proud to partner with the Hauenstein Center in launching an exciting multi-year series entitled *Character and the Presidency*. This annual event will explore an area in which both Democrats and Republicans have a stake in finding common ground. This year, historian and presidential biographer, Richard Norton Smith spoke on the character of President Gerald R. Ford.

The event also included a panel discussion featuring a growing list of scholars including Henrik Booraem, Tom Cronin, Kevin den Dulk, Jason Duncan, Mike Grass and Don Zinman. The discussion was moderated by Victoria Vuletic.

Ambassador Peter Secchia spoke of his admiration for and friendship with President Ford and discussed a documentary currently in production about President Ford's life and time in office. The documentary is being produced by Ambassador Secchia with additional support from Hank Meijer.

The program was generously supported by The Peter Secchia Family and the Meijer Foundation. Videos of the presentations are available on the Hauenstein Center's website www.hauensteincenter.org. *Courtesy of the Hauenstein Center.*

Foundation Names New Director



Clare Shubert

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is proud to welcome Clare Shubert as Director of Engagement and Programming of its new DeVos Learning Center at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The 8,000-square-foot, \$5 million learning center will be complete in June 2016 and allow teachers to bring full classrooms into the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The Foundation and Museum will collaborate to offer additional opportunities for students and adults to study history, civics, and President and First Lady Ford's lives of integrity, character and public service.

"President Ford called the museum 'a classroom of American democracy...where school kids as well as scholars will enjoy privileged access to the innermost workings of their government,'" said Shubert. "I am looking forward to developing programming at the DeVos Learning Center and helping a new generation of children better understand history and civics."

Previously, Clare Shubert was a first grade teacher at West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science in Grand Rapids. She worked as a special education teacher at Three Oaks Academy in Muskegon and served as a conductive education teacher at the Conductive Learning Center in Grand Rapids.

Shubert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in special and elementary education from Aquinas College, and a Master of Arts degree from Western Michigan University, specializing in early childhood education. In 2015, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies named Shubert a Teacher of the Year top five finalist.

"The DeVos Learning Center will continue the legacy of integrity and character demonstrated by President Gerald R. Ford and Betty Ford before, during and after their lives in public service," said Joe Calvaruso, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. "We hope the Center will help students understand civil engagement in local, national and global communities." The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum closed to the public in fall 2015 for construction and renovations, including new permanent and interactive exhibits. It will reopen in June 2016.

Jim Hill

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

As we go through the final stages of work on the new permanent exhibits, members of the Library and Museum staff have mobilized to respond to myriad last-minute requests for additional photos, documents and artifacts, or their images. These are for the core exhibit graphics, the "dig deeper" interactive media exhibits and the overview films for several sections of the exhibits. Staff have also been busy creating hundreds of templates for custom artifact mounts essential for safe display of our treasures. It is amazing to all of us that even after nearly seven years of research, writing, editing and selecting appropriate items, the detailed requests from our media firms and exhibit fabricators continue to flow in.

This project is taking place at the same time that the new DeVos Learning Center addition to the Museum is being completed. All phases of the construction have been ahead of schedule, as we have been blessed with great architects and contractors as well as favorable weather and no government shut-down -- any of which could have thrown things off track. This new facility offers an amazing seven-fold increase in the Museum's education space, offering rich opportunities for expanded programming for all ages.

In addition to the exhibit renovation and the new wing, the Museum staff have undertaken two other projects during this period: upgrading the audiovisual systems in the auditorium, and re-designing and refreshing the museum store

and admissions desk areas in the lobby.

While the Museum has been closed since October, the Library has continued to offer its usual wide array of public speaker programs, drawing increasing audiences as our reputation for high quality and non-partisan programming has spread. In addition, the Library has expanded its outreach to University classes and K-12 groups with great success. The number of requests for a Library speaker to address a group, as well as requests for special tours, have also increased over the past year as people are more aware of our offerings.

The Library's general visitors and program attendees are enjoying the expanded exhibits being offered in the Library lobby. After removing a cumbersome "hand-me-down" exhibit case in the lobby, we covered the wall with a framed backdrop and added lighting for enhanced display of images from our vast holdings (see photo below). These complement the unique artifacts now displayed in two new custom-made exhibit cases, enabling us to bring more of a "museum feel" to the Library lobby.

Several new education programs have also been developed, including a special Saturday workshop at the Library for Jack and Jill of America students and their parents. Others in development are with the Girl Scouts of West Michigan, Cooley Law School for a course on Ethics and Decision Making, and a summer institute for teachers focused on the need for

more collaboration and bipartisanship by our leaders in Washington. The Museum's Education Specialist, Barbara McGregor, also submitted a grant proposal to the National Archives Foundation for an Institute on Teaching the Vietnam War, to be hosted by the Ford Library and Museum and offered to satellite locations at other presidential libraries.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that I have been appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to a three-year term on the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees. Having previously served on and chaired this board a number of years ago, it is nice to renew connections with the broad range of libraries across the state. This offers a great opportunity to make them aware of the resources of the Ford Library and Museum and how we can be accessible and beneficial to their constituents and their communities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the ALL NEW Ford Presidential Museum and DeVos Learning Center very soon!



Dr. Elaine K. Didier

**"Presidential Firsts at Home and Abroad: New York City and Japan"
New Lobby Exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Ann Arbor
January 2016 through June 2016**



Lobby exhibit area at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, MI.

The new lobby exhibit explores two remarkable moments of the Ford White House -- President Ford's 1974 visit to Japan and the New York City bailout in December 1975.

In November 1974, Gerald Ford became the first sitting American President to visit Japan. His visit with the Japanese Emperor served to build positive US-Japanese relations and honor the alliance between the two nations.

In December 1975, after having withheld aid to New York City for almost a year until certain conditions were met, President Ford authorized loans of 2.3 billion dollars. The city, on the brink of bankruptcy, restored its fiscal stability with a reorganized and streamlined budget.

The unfolding of these events are chronicled in two lobby displays at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library -- complete with artifacts, documents, and photographs to tell the stories of these historically significant events.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library



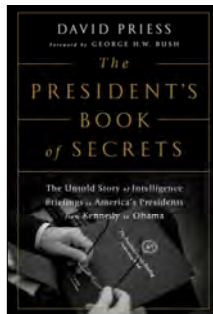
Luke Nichter

Luke Nichter

"A Decade With the Nixon Tapes: What We've Learned and What We Have Yet To Learn"

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ann Arbor: Dr. Luke Nichter spoke to an overflow audience at the Library about his experiences researching the Nixon tapes, which involved listening to nearly 3,000 hours of publicly released recordings over the past decade. In his talk, Dr. Nichter discussed the challenges of working with the Nixon tapes, the impact of the tapes on the later careers of those who were unwittingly recorded, and provided a truer sense of what is actually on the tapes beyond the better known Watergate-related recordings. Dr. Nichter also played two audio clips featuring then House Minority Leader Gerald Ford.



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

David Priess

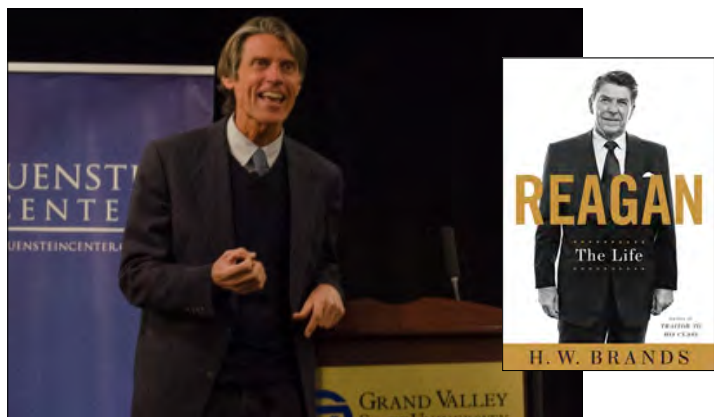
David Priess

"The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents from Kennedy to Obama"

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Ann Arbor: Dr. David Priess, spoke to an overflow audience at the Library about his new book, *The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents from Kennedy to Obama*, which examines how Presidents receive the most sensitive intelligence reporting and analysis in the world through the President's Daily Brief (PDB). During his talk, Dr. Priess introduced the audience to the personalities of those who produced and read the PDBs, the process of its creation and delivery, and the role played by the PDB in the daily work of national security at the highest level for more than 50 years.

Hauenstein Center



H. W. Brands

H. W. Brands

"Reagan: The Life"

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Grand Rapids: Noted historian and West Michigan favorite, H. W. Brands, spoke to a full crowd on February 18 at GVSU's Eberhard Center. Brand's talk was on his most recent book *Reagan: The Life*. Brands explored the life of our nation's 40th president paying particular attention the personal experiences that shaped his life and rise to our nation's highest office. The event was cosponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Museum and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.



Ralph Vartabedian

Ralph Vartabedian

"Decay in America's Nuclear Arsenal"

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ann Arbor: Ralph Vartabedian, co-recipient of the 2014 Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense spoke to an attentive audience at the Library about the current state of America's nuclear arsenal. In his talk, Mr. Vartabedian provided an historical overview of America's nuclear arsenal from its inception during World War II to our present post-Cold War world. His talk provided insights into the many facets of our declining nuclear arsenal, including outdated weapons systems and infrastructure, the high costs of maintaining an aging nuclear complex, the lack of research and development, the rising physical and cyber security costs of safeguarding an outdated system, and the environmental issues and damage surrounding the nuclear stockpile.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

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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