

NEWS FROM THE FORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION



Summer 2001

PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD: *Both Profiled for Courage*



Courtesy Fergus Greer/ICON International

Betty Ford is named one of the 20 living heroes of today by U.S. News and World Reports.

By “putting concern for the public ahead of her personal fears,” Betty Ford’s forthrightness throughout her life resulted in the saving of many lives from debilitating disease and helped to repair the public trust of the White House after Watergate. Her courage in “always telling it like it is” to a public accustomed to a tradition of viewing First Ladies as perfect, put her in the ranks of authentic living heroes, along with Rosa Parks, John McCain, Jim Lovell, Mohammed Ali, Mel Brooks and

fourteen others. In this way, *U.S. News and World Reports* honored Betty Ford for her candor and bravery in publicizing her breast cancer and chemical dependency by profiling her as one of 20 living American heroes in its August 20, 2001 issue.

“Putting concern for the public ahead of her personal fears”



Courtesy John F. Kennedy Library and Foundation

Gerald R. Ford accepts the 2001 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award from Caroline Kennedy and Senator Ted Kennedy.

“For more than a quarter century, Gerald Ford proved to the people of Michigan, the Congress, and our nation that politics can be a noble profession. As President, he made a controversial decision of conscience to pardon former President Nixon and end the national trauma of Watergate. In doing so, he placed his love of country ahead of his own political future.” So said Caroline Kennedy as she presented President Ford with the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on May 21, 2001, in a ceremony at the Kennedy Library that also honored the legendary civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) with an unprecedented lifetime achievement award. The award is presented annually to an elected official who has withstood strong opposition from constituents, powerful interest groups or adversaries to follow what she or he believes is the right course of action.

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▶▶ COMING and GOING ▶▶

Richard Norton Smith Departs Foundation for Dole Institute

The man behind the Ford Museum and Library's hugely successful public programming since 1996 announced his resignation on August 7, just as this issue was going to press, to head a new Robert J. Dole Institute for Public Policy and Public Service at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, beginning December 1. Smith's impact on President Ford's legacy and the Ford Library and Museum in carrying out the work of the Foundation has been prodigious. He oversaw a \$5 million renovation of the museum's permanent exhibits, organized a series of major temporary exhibits and nationally televised conferences, and increased museum visitation by nearly forty percent. During the same period, the Library strengthened its ties with the University of Michigan and the Ford Museum undertook several joint programming initiatives with Grand Valley State University, among them the recently announced Ralph Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. He will be sorely missed.

"These have been wonderful years for the Ford Museum and Library," said President Ford in response to the news. "And while I am naturally disappointed by Richard's decision, I take heart from his continuing availability to me and to the Ford Foundation in an advisory role. On a personal note, Betty and I admire Richard's achievements, and cherish his friendship. We look forward to enjoying many more years of each." "Richard brought us to a new threshold of excellence," said Marty Allen, the Foundation chairman. "The challenge now is to maintain and build on these



accomplishments. Library and Museum Director Dennis Daellenbach and his staff will continue to have the full support of the Foundation Board, including Richard who will continue to serve as a Trustee."

The Dole Institute, to be housed in a 28,000 square foot building on the Lawrence campus of the University of Kansas, will sponsor a variety of programs growing out of Senator Dole's long career in public service. These are expected to include an oral history project on modern American politics, a high profile speaker series, nationally visible conferences and other activities. In his new position, Smith will continue his commentary for PBS' *News Hour with Jim Lehrer* and C-SPAN, among other broadcasts. He will also complete a biography of former New York Governor and Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, scheduled for publication in 2006.

"Difficult as it is to leave Grand Rapids," says Smith, "I'm excited by the prospect of *starting* something new. For the first time in my career, I will be in a position to help build, define, staff, and program an institution *from its inception*. At the same time, I have no intention of severing my ties to Grand Rapids or to the Fords, the most honorable people I know. None of what has been achieved these last five and a half years would have been possible without their enthusiasm and support."

Foundation Elects New Trustees at Annual Meeting

At the June 4, 2001 annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, the following nominees were elected as new members:



John M. Engler
Governor of Michigan



Peter M. McPherson
President of Michigan State University; a White House administrator in the Ford Administration and later, head of Agency for International Development (AID)



James T. Lynn
Former Secretary of HUD and head of OMB in the Ford Administration



Richard Norton Smith
Executive Director, Gerald R. Ford Foundation and Distinguished Professor of Presidential History, Grand Valley State University



Glenn D. Steil
Chairman of Compatico, a manufacturer of furniture components in Grand Rapids and completing his final term as a Michigan State Senator

President Ford:

"I am pleased and most grateful that these very special individuals have agreed to be Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. Their extensive backgrounds in the private and public sector will be of great value in accomplishing the mission of the Library and Museum."

▶▶ COMING and GOING ▶▶

In Memory of Phil Buchen

2/27/1916 - 5/21/2001

Charter Member, 1981-1998
 Honorary Member, 1998-2001
 Gerald R. Ford Foundation
 Board of Trustees

"Phil Buchen was one of my dearest friends over 50 years. He did a superb job for me as my White House counsel. He was an outstanding citizen with a superb record in the legal profession." — Gerald R. Ford

At the Foundation's annual dinner on June 4, President Ford spoke of his of his long time friend, fraternity brother, law partner, and legal counsel:

"Beneath Phil's easygoing surface was a man of rigorous standards. His decency was matched only by his integrity. When events thrust me into the White House in the middle of the most serious domestic crisis since the Great Depression, it was only natural that I should turn to Phil. He was much more than my counselor. He was my conscience."



Vice President Cheney, a Gerald R. Ford Foundation Trustee, graciously hosted a reception at the Vice President's residence following the Foundation's annual meeting in June.



President and Mrs. Ford visit with Vice President Dick Cheney prior to the Foundation's annual dinner on June 4, 2001.

Photos courtesy White House photographer David Bohrer

GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

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 and Betty Ford
Honorary Co-Chairmen

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Diane VanAllsburg
Administrative Assistant

Washington Post Doubles Again on Ford Journalism Prizes

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation, since 1988, has recognized and encouraged insightful work by reporters covering the presidency and national defense. This year's two prizes went to two reporters from *The Washington Post*—Dana Priest for reporting on national defense and John Harris for reporting on the presidency. Two separate panels of judges made the awards and there was no consultation between them. A double award is an unusual situation, but it has happened once before—and again, to *Washington Post*. In 1993, *Post* reporters Bart Gellman won the national defense award and Ann Devroy won the presidency prize.

President Ford presented the awards at a luncheon at the National Press Club on June 4th of this year. In accepting his award for reporting on the presidency, John Harris, paid a warm tribute to the above-mentioned double winner Ann Devroy, who was his mentor and who died in 1997. In praising her he said, "In the first couple of years (of working at the White House) I was motivated primarily in my work by the hope or the fear that it not be too obvious to colleagues and to readers that I simply wasn't in Ann's league as a reporter. Over time, Ann's example became less intimidating to me and started becoming empowering. That's because Ann had a sense – her real strength as a journalist was that she understood the power of journalism and understood the power specifically of *The Washington Post* and realized that the other guys don't necessarily have all the cards. Ann knew how to play them better than anybody. The advice we give even now to the new team that's covering President Bush on how to cover a new administration is to go back to 1993 and read Ann's clips. I mention that because Ann was a winner of the Ford award in 1993 and also because she was a mentor of mine, and we miss her very much."

Harris's four winning pieces highlighted the vital interplay between politics and policy in the White House. The stories focused on President Clinton's frenetic final year in office, but also cast a revealing light on his entire presidency. In awarding Harris the Ford Prize the judges said that he



Dana Priest, President Ford, John Harris, Betty Ford

took into account the nature and character of President Clinton, related that personality to policies and actions and decisions and reached well beneath the surface to reveal insights about how the last president of the twentieth century projected his power and provided his leadership.

Dana Priest's winning series, "The Proconsuls," revealed the inner working, political influence and evolution of the four-star regional Commanders-in-Chiefs (CINCs). The project raised questions about an unexplored but profound shift in the shaping of U.S. foreign policy during the Clinton administration. It showed how, with no public debate, the military assumed greater responsibility in forging foreign policy in the world's most remote corners. The judges were impressed by the quality of her writing which allowed the readers to travel to distant and in some cases, obscure locations around the world to see how U.S. defense and foreign policy is sometimes now implemented at the "retail" or "grass-roots" level.

The Foundation is grateful to Ronald O'Rourke a defense analyst with the Library of Congress Research Service for chairing the defense committee and to James M. Cannon, journalist, author, and Ford biographer for chairing the presidency committee. Thanks also go to the judges. On the defense prize panel were Col. John Macartney, USAF (Ret.); L. Edgar Prina, Washington Bureau Chief of the Copley News Service, (Ret.); Dr. Neil Singer of the Congressional Budget Offices' National Security Division (Ret.); and Debra van Opstal, Vice-President of the Council on Competitiveness. The presidency prize was judged by Candice Nelson of The American University; Mark Rozell of Catholic University of America; ABC reporter Hal Bruno; and Gene Roberts, University of Maryland professor and editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant Awards

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to \$2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Geir Gundersen, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, by phone (734) 741-2218 ext. 232, or email geir.gundersen@nara.gov. Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the Spring 2001 awards and their topics are:

Il-joon Chung
University of Washington (Visiting Scholar)
Continuity & Change in the U.S. Foreign Policy toward Korea and the Transformation of South Korea, 1953-1976

M. Lynn Frasher
Texas A & M University
The Political Economy of the United States – European Monetary Relations in the 1970s

SimonPeter Gomez
Buffalo State College
Commitment in U.S. Foreign Policy: The Ford Administration and South Vietnam

Mark Hove
University of Florida
Constructing the Communist Threat: Salvador Allende and U.S. Chilean Relations, 1950-1977

B.M. Jain
University of Rajasthan, India
United States and South Asia: The Ford Administration, 1974-77

Notes from the Library/Museum Director

As I reported to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation Board in June, it certainly has been an exciting and eventful first few months. It is indeed a privilege to be Director of the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum.

Here at the Library in Ann Arbor, a primary focus has been on shared activities with the University of Michigan. I believe relations between us are on an excellent upward track. Working with the Bentley Library, we co-sponsored a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Fellow to come and talk about NARA's dynamic plans for handling the explosion of Federal electronic records. The Clements Library is generously lending an historic Civil War document for our *Lincoln* exhibit. Working with Dean Rebecca Blank of the Ford School of Public Policy and with the approval of University President Lee Bollinger, the University's Advisory Committee for the Library is beginning anew. Dean Blank will serve as the chair of this important Library support group. I have also re-established my old ties with the History Department. I will teach a seminar on the Ford administration in the winter 2002 semester, and will serve as Advisor for History Honors students. All of these, and others, are major factors as we move forward into the new school year. I am grateful for the University's responsiveness and willingness to work together.

Another major impact on Library activities is the upcoming research by teams of State Department historians. The Department's premier historical publication is *Foreign Relations of the United States*, commonly known by its acronym FRUS. The FRUS researchers have finished most of the volumes for earlier years, and have now reached the Ford administration time period. Publication of FRUS volumes is a long-term declassification project (counted in years), involving considerable staff time and effort. We will provide all the support possible to ensure that the legacy documents of the Ford Presidency reach a wide audience.

Highlights and accomplishments at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids are equally exciting. With much appreciated

guidance from Richard Norton Smith and funding from the Foundation, the Museum continues in the strong tradition of exceptional programs and exhibits. There is more detail elsewhere in the newsletter, but suffice it to say, the First Ladies conference on April 28, with David McCullough and First Lady Betty Ford, was outstanding, as was the now concluded *Style and Substance* exhibit. The current *Portraits of the Presidents* display from the Smithsonian Institution is truly majestic. And then *Lincoln: A Personal Journey* will be the capstone exhibit of the last several years. Our *Lincoln* will be bigger than any other exhibit on our 16th President, and an altogether fitting last display for the current temporary exhibit gallery that will close during construction of the Museum expansion.

Community outreach events such as *Fourth of July at the Ford* and *President Ford's Birthday* celebration, and educational activities for students such as the upcoming Education Day to kick off the opening of the *Lincoln* exhibit, certainly also bring a heightened sense of excitement to the Museum.

Everyone is working hard at the Museum to put together a comprehensive Program Plan and have a framework in place by early Fall.

The staff is carefully considering and assessing the mission, goals, and objectives of the Museum. We are always looking to create opportunities for change, for improvement, for strengthening programs.

This is all possible and valuable because the Ford Museum stands as a unique institution. History is our gift to future generations. At the Ford Museum, we freely give this gift with great pride and passion. The story of this nation and people, of the American Presidency, and of Gerald R. Ford—born to lead, chosen to serve, destined to heal—is a treasured heritage we gladly share with everyone. As always, we invite you to join with us on this adventure.

It is a great adventure, indeed, and now a challenging adventure with the departure of Richard as the Foundation's Executive Director. His unmatched flair, creativity, and drive for excellence have brought the Library and Museum to new heights of accomplishment and prestige, setting an amazing standard. We all thank him for these superb achievements, wish him well in his new position, and much appreciate that he will continue to be available to President Ford, the Foundation, and the Library and Museum for special activities.

**"History is our gift to future generations.
At the Ford Museum, we freely give this gift
with great pride and passion."**

Mark Kramer
Harvard University
*The Helsinki Accords and East-West
Relations: The View from Washington,
Moscow, and Eastern Europe*

Katie Pearce-Sassen
University of Utah
*Preserving American Families: A Cultural
Study of the Eagle Forum and Concerned
Women for America in the Battle over the
Equal Rights Amendment*

Catherine E. Rymph
University of Missouri-Columbia
*The Rise and Fall of Republican Feminism,
1972-1980*

Amy Schapiro
Independent Scholar
Millicent: A Woman Ahead of Her Time

DENNIS A. DAELLENBACH, DIRECTOR
*Gerald R. Ford
Library and Museum*



A Lincoln, Not a Ford: The Capstone on Our Twentieth Anniversary



As befitting the man who said he was “a Ford, not a Lincoln” — and who counts Abraham Lincoln as his personal hero — the Gerald Ford

Presidential Museum is preparing its most ambitious exhibit ever as the crown jewel in the museum’s 20th anniversary celebration. Opening October 12, 2001 and running through February 18, 2002, *Lincoln: A Personal Journey* will bring together hundreds of objects loaned by the Illinois State Historic Library, the Smithsonian and other major repositories, as well as numerous private collectors.

The exhibit will include original furnishings from the Lincoln home and law office in Springfield, Illinois. In the Museum lobby, visitors will see the carriage the Lincolns rode in to Ford’s Theater the night of April 14, 1865. For one month only, they’ll be able to examine one of the five existing copies, in Lincoln’s hand, of the Gettysburg Address. What else will be on display? For starters, the pen and inkwell used by the President to draft the Emancipation Proclamation; banners, badges, and torches carried in the 1860 presidential campaign; the famous Leonard Volk life mask of Lincoln commissioned that same year; a pair of white dress gloves and blood stained collar Lincoln wore to Ford’s Theater; a toy cannon Tad Lincoln once pointed at members of Lincoln’s Cabinet; a rail split by Tad’s father during his youth; Abraham and Mary’s wedding license; the president’s spectacles and shaving glass; Mrs. Lincoln’s jewelry and sewing basket; as well as a gold and purple White House tea set and the First Lady’s pink china tureen.

Add to this dozens of priceless documents, family letters, historic paintings and photographs, all displayed within settings recalling the life and times of America’s sixteenth president, and you have some idea of the scope of what many are calling one of the comprehensive Lincoln exhibitions ever mounted. Filling over 3,000 square feet on the museum’s second floor, *Lincoln* will transport visitors to rural Kentucky and Indiana. It will allow them to eavesdrop on the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. It will take them inside the Lincoln White House, where tragedy stalks the President and his mentally fragile wife, even as civil war ravages the nation. Finally, it will immerse them in the extraordinary pageant of grief that convulsed the nation for twenty mournful days in the spring of 1865.



Accompanying the exhibition will be a series of lectures by nationally recognized Lincoln scholars (see attached schedule). And that’s not all. As we go to press, the museum’s public affairs director, Erik Nelson, is up to his elbows in grapes and hardtack—among other

accoutrements of military life, circa 1863. It’s all part of a large scale Civil War encampment that Erik is creating with the help of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and other groups, during the opening weekend of the exhibit, October 12-14, in Ah-Nab-Ewen Park just outside the museum entrance.

Lincoln: A Personal Journey is not a traveling show. Unique to the Ford Museum, and to Grand Rapids, it is made possible by the generous support of the Steelcase Foundation and is a fitting capstone to the Ford Museum’s twentieth anniversary, and to five-and-a-half memorable years of Richard Norton Smith’s leadership.

Coming **The Lincoln Lecture Series**



James McPherson
Thursday, October 18, 2001

A Pulitzer Prize winning historian at Princeton University, James McPherson is perhaps best known for his Civil War history, *The Battle Cry of Freedom*. Mr. McPherson is also author of a recent history on the American Presidency, *To the Best of My Ability*.

Douglas Wilson
Thursday, October 25, 2001

Douglas Wilson is director of the Lincoln Center at Knox College in Illinois. His groundbreaking work, *Honor’s Voice*, deals with Lincoln’s pre-presidential life, including his youth and marriage.

Allen Guelzo
Thursday, November 1, 2001

A much-admired Lincoln authority, specializing in Lincoln’s spiritual life, Mr. Guelzo is the author of *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*, which has received both popular and scholarly acclaim.

Harold Holzer
Thursday, November 8, 2001

Harold Holzer has authored the definitive work on the Lincoln-Douglas debates. As befitting the Director of Public Affairs at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Holzer has earned national recognition for his work on the many images of Lincoln. These will be the subject of his unique audio-visual presentation.

Richard Norton Smith
Thursday, November 15, 2001

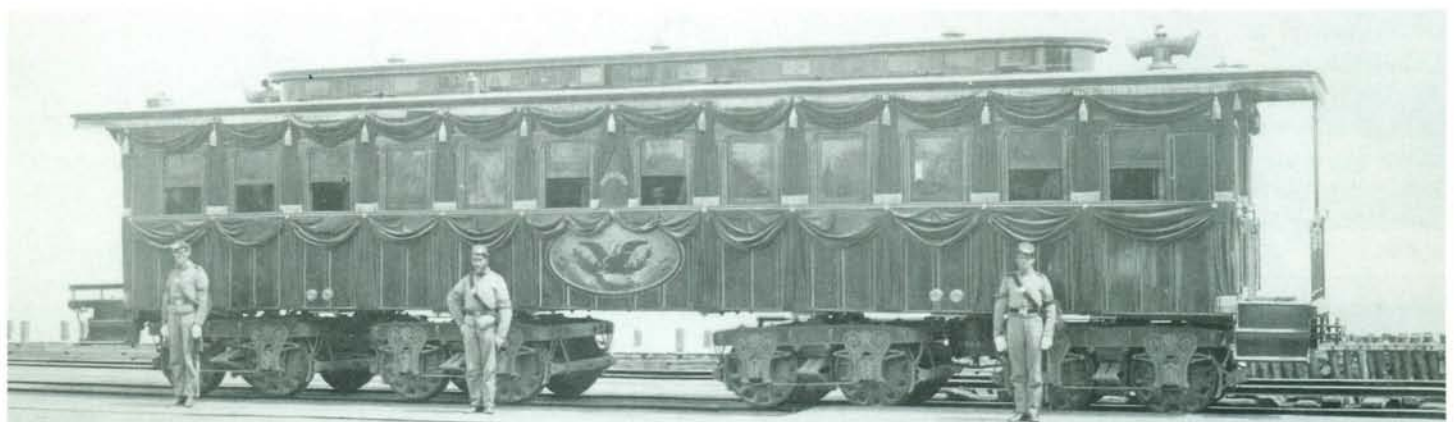
Wrapping up the series — and delivering his farewell speech at the Ford Museum before leaving for his new position as Director of the Robert J. Dole Institute at the University of Kansas. Mr. Smith has spent five and a half years at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids. A nationally known biographer and distinguished professor of presidential history at Grand Valley State University, he is a frequent guest on C-SPAN and *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*.



Michael Beschloss to Deliver the William E. Simon Lecture

A familiar face to millions of viewers of the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer* and ABC News, Michael Beschloss is also the acclaimed author of numerous books addressing twentieth century history and the American presidency. His current project? A volume covering the Lincoln assassination – which makes him the perfect choice to help the Ford Museum unveil its forthcoming blockbuster exhibition *Lincoln: A Personal Journey*. Michael Beschloss will deliver the William E. Simon Lecture at the museum on Thursday evening, October 11, following a reception held in his honor at 7 p.m. The event will also afford guests an opportunity to see the Lincoln exhibit before it opens to the public the following day. The William E. Simon Lecture Series was established in 1988, with a generous gift from the late William E. Simon, who served as President Ford's Secretary of the Treasury.

Friends of Ford can reserve tickets for this very special program, at \$20 apiece, by calling 616-451-9263, extension 21. *Given the expected overwhelming demand, you are urged to make your reservations as soon as possible.*



This Train is Bound for Glory!

Lincoln Funeral Train Travels Again: This Time to Grand Rapids, Michigan

Following Abraham Lincoln's assassination in April, 1865, the President was mourned with open coffin funerals in Washington D.C., Baltimore, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York City, Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Chicago and, finally, Springfield, Illinois. Twenty days passed between his murder and his Springfield interment. Millions of grieving citizens watched the train carrying his body up the eastern seaboard and across the midwestern prairie.

A highlight of the museum's upcoming Lincoln exhibition is a 1/12 scale model replica (nearly 15 feet in length) of the most famous train in American history. Precise down to the President's private car and horse drawn hearse, the replica is owned by Dr. Wayne Wesolowski, who for the past eight years has been the director of Benedictine University's *Lincoln Train Project* documenting the mournful journey from Washington to Springfield.

In Springfield, an exquisite hearse bore the late president

to his temporary-resting place, not far from today's soaring monument. Covered in silver and black trim and pulled by six black horses, the hearse cost more than \$6,000 in 1865 currency. It was loaned to Springfield by the mayor and people of St. Louis for the funeral. The private car bearing Lincoln's casket burned in a grass fire in Columbia Heights, Minnesota in 1911. This coach, dubbed the "United States," featured bunting and silver tassels. Its complex sixteen-wheel trucks were most unusual for the time.

The Benedictine University traveling exhibit, of which the scale model train is part, retraces the 1,700 mile journey through over 180 cities and towns. Since its unveiling in February, 1995 the *Benedictine Lincoln Train* exhibition has been displayed at numerous venues, including the National Model Railroad Association train show, the Lincoln Home Site and Old State Capitol in Springfield, the Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne, Indiana, the National Model Railroad Association and Steam Town National Historic Site.

There's More Ford (Museum) In Your Future

Plans are well underway to renovate and expand the museum in Grand Rapids, a project that will enable us to provide long overdue educational facilities, enhanced temporary exhibit space and – for the first time – to house our entire memorabilia collection under one roof (as opposed to the current situation, in which a quarter or more of all museum objects aren't even in the museum, but occupying much needed archival storage areas in the library at Ann Arbor).

The \$5.1 million project, 20 percent of whose funding will be supplied by the Ford Foundation through the generosity of the State of Michigan and the family of Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, will add 10,000 square feet on two floors in an addition on the north end of the current structure. Visitors will hardly notice the change, since the addition will complement the present facade. What they will notice, and benefit from, is a new state of the art temporary exhibit gallery, and an interactive replica of the White House Cabinet Room, where they will have the opportunity to “decide” critical policy issues and become active participants in Ford Administration crisis management. In addition, tentative plans are underway for two blockbuster exhibits to inaugurate the new gallery – the first, an original copy of the *Declaration of Independence* recently purchased by Hollywood

producer Norman Lear (Presidents Ford and Carter are co-chairing a project to send the Declaration to several leading institutions around the nation); to be followed, in October 2003, by a roadshow of the Smithsonian Institution's recently opened exhibition on *The Presidency*, complete with some 350 original artifacts drawn from the Smithsonian's unparalleled collections.

The Cabinet Room and an adjoining 900 square foot seminar room, to be named the Michigan Room in recognition of the state's support, will give the museum what it has long lacked – a classroom and related facilities capable of handling thousands of visiting schoolchildren. Indeed, no single component of museum activity is more important than education. And the new expansion will enable us to do far more in this field than in the past.

Plans for the addition and renovation are now 75% complete with a construction start sometime in early spring 2002. The architectural firm is Peck/Peck and Associates of Woodbridge, Virginia who have been working with the museum's staff since the summer of 1999. If all goes as planned, the expansion should be ready for dedication on *President Ford's 90th Birthday*, July 14, 2003 – a great legacy in commemoration of a great life.

ARE YOU A “Friend of Ford?”

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we need your help to ensure that the future programs of the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library maintain the standards of the past and honor the wishes of President Ford.

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

— GERALD R. FORD, FORD MUSEUM DEDICATION, SEPTEMBER 18, 1981

You can do this by joining the *Friends of Ford* program. If you love learning about our nation's history, if you enjoy world-class exhibits, and would like to receive advance notification of conferences and programs where history

literally “comes alive,” then we invite you to consider joining *Friends of Ford*.

As a member of *Friends of Ford* you are entitled to:

- Year-round free admission to the Ford Museum
- Advance notification of conferences and special events
- Free admission to 9 other presidential museums
- Discounts for special events, lectures and conferences
- 10% discount in the Ford Museum Store
- Unique travel opportunities
- Ford Foundation Newsletter
- Official Friends of Ford membership I.D. and discount card

To request a membership form or more information about *Friends of Ford* write to Diane VanAllsburg at Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl St., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 or call (616) 451-9263 Ext. 34, or e-mail us at grffound@aol.com.

Looking Back at the First 20 Years at the Ford!



Exhibits

Change

Visitors

Directors

Staff

Docents

Volunteers

Programs

Scholarship

Conferences

Foundation

Education

Newsmakers

Presidents

Fun

Guests

Distinguished Visitors



Looking Back at the First 20 Years at the Ford!

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Betty Ford Visits Grand Rapids

In Grand Rapids on April 28, Betty Ford received an honorary degree from Grand Valley State University for speaking out on both her breast cancer and her chemical and alcohol dependency. At the graduation ceremonies in Van Andel Arena GVSU's outgoing President Arend Lubbers praised Mrs. Ford for tackling her dependency directly, in full view of the American public. "You did not excuse, dissemble or hide," he noted. He stated that Mrs. Ford's establishment of the Betty Ford Clinic and her continuing work there has helped many overcome their addictions. Similarly, her candor about breast cancer resulted in numerous lives being saved over the years.

It was a busy day for the former first lady, who attended GVSU's graduation ceremony in the morning, and then appeared at the Ford Museum's conference *Mrs. President: Rediscovering Our First Ladies* in the afternoon. While at the museum she participated in a special on-stage interview with Richard Norton Smith and attended the dedication of the new *Betty Ford Garden* in front of the Museum.



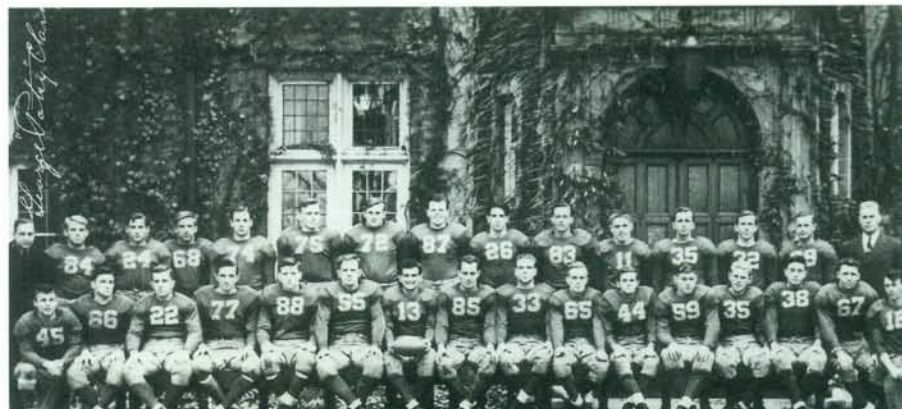
The Fords are joined at the Betty Ford Garden Dedication by Museum docent Connie Snelling, who designed and maintains the garden, and Trustee Fred and Lena Meijer, who donated the centerpiece bronze statue, "American Eagle," by Marshall Fredericks.

Coach Ford and Grand Rapids University Team Reunite



Courtesy Dan Watts

At GRU in 1941, Ford accepted the position of assistant coach to former Detroit Lions great George "Potsy" Clark and taught law classes at the same time. Together, Clark and Ford turned the team's record from 1-6 to 6-2 in just one season. After that stellar first-year, Clark joined the U.S. Navy and Ford was named the team's head coach. Soon after, the country beckoned Ford, who also enlisted in the Navy. Though Ford coached only one season, he and several of his players have developed lasting friendships. Each team member at the event received a team jacket and a football autographed by President Ford.



Remarks by Gerald R. Ford at the JFK Profile in Courage Award Dinner

Thank you very much, Senator Kennedy, for your too kind introduction. Needless to say, this evening conjures special memories for me. I am particularly honored to share this platform with John Lewis, whose moral courage is equaled only by his physical bravery in defying Bull Conner and Jim Crow.

To receive this award, in this place, is something I will cherish for as long as I live. To do so in the presence of my dear wife Betty - a true profile in courage - fills me with emotions not easily expressed. This may well be the greatest honor I have received since leaving the White House - in no small measure because of how I left the White House. Its meaning is magnified because of the man it commemorates, and the distinguished tradition of public service carried on by his family and friends.

Today, more than ever, President Kennedy reminds us all of a time when Americans took heart from their leaders, and hope from the political process. How proud he would be of you, Caroline, and of this library which is such a vital part of his legacy. I am reminded of the sad words of New England's great poet laureate, Robert Frost:

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief.
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

The poem evokes both the promise and the poignancy of the New Frontier. Yet for all its lyricism, Frost's verse does an injustice to the Kennedy legacy. Four decades later, the true gold of John Kennedy's all too brief Presidency shines with undiminished luster. With characteristic wit, JFK once observed that, although mothers might still want their sons to grow up to be President, according to the Gallup Poll, 73% didn't want them to become politicians in the process.

What was laughable then is depressing now. Even as we meet, too many Americans believe that politics are a corrupt comedy, irrelevant to their lives. Millions have embraced apathy over involvement.

What courage lies in this course? The question answers itself. It is easy to be jaded. It is hard to be engaged. It requires no imagination to stand on the sideline, or retreat into smug condescension, while it demands every ounce of our mental and moral energies to live conscientiously in service to others.

Fifty-two years have passed since I first arrived in the nation's capital as that lowest ranking creature in the political food chain — a freshman Congressman in the minority



Courtesy John F. Kennedy Library and Foundation

party. Across the hall from my office, in the old House Office Building, was another young Navy veteran of the Pacific front. His name was John F. Kennedy. On the surface, we might appear to have little in common. He was a liberal Democrat from Boston, with a famous name, a glittering resume, and more than his share of glamour. As a conservative Republican from Grand Rapids, I was what you might call charismatically challenged. Although Jack Kennedy and I came from different parties, our priorities were much the same. We were both internationalists in our outlook, both willing to accept the burdens of leadership in standing up to Soviet aggression. We had both seen enough of the world to know that it was not going to go away. When the bells would ring for a vote, we often walked over to the floor of the House together. Once there, we might go our separate ways politically, but we never questioned each other's patriotism or motives.

That's how I approached the political arena. I have always believed that most people are mostly good, most of the time. I have never mistaken moderation for weakness, nor civility for surrender. As far as I am concerned, there are no enemies in politics — just temporary opponents who might vote with you on the next Roll Call. No sooner had I taken my first Oath of Office than a dark haired, intense young man who stuck out his hand approached me and said, "I'm Dick Nixon from California."

So began another friendship, one whose consequences neither of us could imagine in 1949. Of my new friends, one would be violently taken from us long before his time. The other would leave office in a tragedy of his own making. In both instances I found myself drafted by history to play a role I neither desired nor anticipated. Like the Presidency, both the Warren Commission and the Nixon pardon came to me unsought, but also unavoidable. It was President Kennedy himself who famously observed that only the hardest deci-

sions wind up on a President's desk — all the easy ones get made elsewhere.

The truth of this hit me, as never before, on September 8, 1974. Early that Sunday morning, I slipped out of the White House, crossed Lafayette Square to St. John's Church, the so-called "Church of the Presidents," which has provided spiritual refuge to every Chief Executive since James Madison. Facing the toughest decision of my public life, I did what all of us do at such times — I sought strength wherever I could. Prayers offer better guidance than polls.

Returning to the Oval Office, I called Tip O'Neill, among others, to inform him of my decision. Never one to mince words, on this occasion Tip was more than usually emphatic. To be precise, as I recall, he told me that I was crazy, adding or good measure, "this will cost you the election." Soon after, my White House press secretary handed me a letter of resig-

nation. He was acting as his conscience dictated. So was I.

Nearly twenty-seven years later, I am gratified to know that many Americans, including some who were critical of the pardon at the time, have come to reconsider their views. At the same time, I realize that many of my countrymen will always disagree with my action. For now, I can only pray, as I did on that long ago Sunday morning at St. John's, that no future President is ever confronted by such a similar choice. But if he is, or should he face some even greater test of national character, I hope he will remember that the ultimate test of leadership is not the polls you take, but the risks you take. In the short run, some risks prove overwhelming. Political courage can be self-defeating. But the greatest defeat of all would be to live without courage, for that would hardly be living at all.

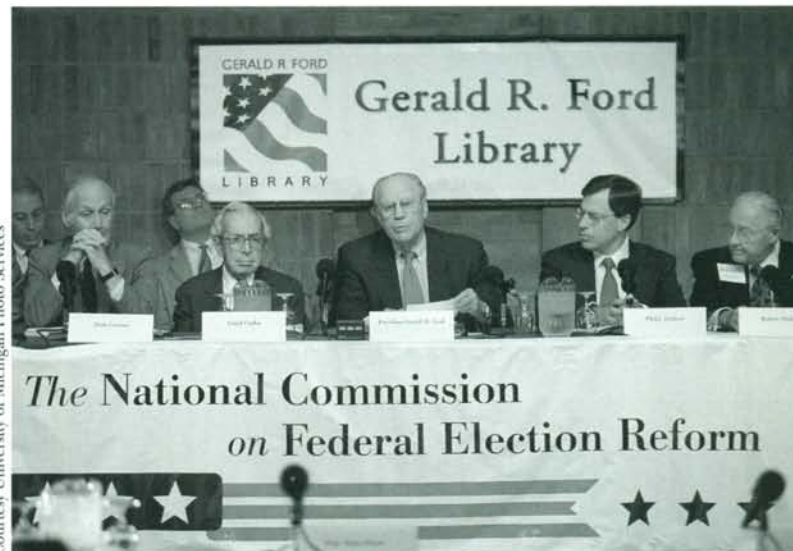
Finding a Way to Election Reform

Exactly twenty-five years ago, long before anyone heard of hanging chads or dimpled ballots, Jimmy Carter and I waged what we thought was a very, very close presidential election. As we have since discovered, there's close and then there's Florida." With those words, President Ford opened the public hearings of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform at the Library in Ann Arbor on June 5, 2001.

Presidents Ford and Jimmy Carter serve as honorary co-chairs of the Commission. Organized by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia, the Commission had previously held three public hearings at other Presidential libraries. The four hearings brought together some of the best minds in America to consider how to make elections work better in the United States. The focus at the Ford Library was on "The American and International Experience."

President Ford, speaking to an overflow audience in the Library auditorium (the largest attendance among the four hearings), set the tone in his opening remarks. "I share the concerns of a great many Americans," he said, "regarding our electoral machinery." He noted that the need for election reform was clear. "We should not only make it as easy as possible to vote, but we should assure that every vote is counted and counted accurately and no vote counts more than any other." As the lead witness on the panel "Perspectives from Washington," U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) echoed President Ford's concerns. In his testimony, Rep. Hoyer stated that electoral reform must occur this year. "Election reform is the civil rights issue for (this) Congress," he said.

Almost two months later, the Commission presented its



[l-r]: Commission Vice Chair Slade Gordon, Co-Chair Lloyd Cutler, Honorary Chair President Ford, Executive Director Philip Zelikow, and Co-Chair Robert H. Michel

final report to President George W. Bush on August 1. The recommendations in the report are not without controversy. They range from making Election Day a Federal holiday and establishing a new Federal agency for oversight of election standards, to asking for voluntary restrictions on media reporting and permitting provisional voting. The hope is that many, if not all, of the Commission's reforms might be implemented in some fashion. As President Ford summed up appropriately at his Library in June, "Let us find a way not to repeat last fall's disputed election."

Complete transcripts of the hearings may be found on the Commission's webpage "<http://www.reformelections.org>."

Library Receives Superb New Papers From Secretary Laird

It felt like Christmas in March when former Defense Secretary Mel Laird donated a superb cache of additional materials for his collection at the Library. There were seventy-six large black binders, each filled to capacity with substantive memos and reports on defense policy issues, 1969-1973. The binder labels were brief, to the point, and full of promise for future researchers: "NATO-Vol. IX," "All-Volunteer Force," "Equal Opportunity and Race Relations," and "Vietnam-Vol. XXI." Supervisory archivist Dave Horrocks and archivist Geir Gundersen personally packed and transported the materials from Washington, where the papers had been held in secure storage for many years.

Christmas came in July for State Department historians when they learned of the binders. The historians expect to use the materials immediately as they near the completion of several Nixon administration volumes in the prestigious and authoritative *Foreign Relations of the United States* series. Over

the next few years, teams of State Department historians will make multiple visits to the Library as they begin the Ford administration volumes.

If you have a collection of historic materials that might be of value to future generations, Library director Dennis Daellenbach would welcome the chance to speak with you about the Library's acquisitions program.

**Email dennis.daellenbach@nara.gov
or call (734) 741-2218 ext. 237**

Student Researcher Wins University of Michigan Award



Matthew A. Dekovich, a graduating U of M senior headed for law school next fall, received the Arthur Fondiler History Award for Best Honors Thesis in April for his paper researched at the Ford Library, entitled "Gerald R. Ford and the End of the War in Vietnam: A President's Struggle." Undergraduates drawn from local universities and colleges

comprise the largest group of on-site researchers using the Ford Library archives, totaling 45% of all users in the period 1987-1995. As one of them, Matt was a frequent visitor over the past year. The archival staff knows him well. We were delighted to learn of the success of his paper—and to receive a copy of it for our archival collections.

In presenting his paper, Matt acknowledged his inspiration for his topic culminated when he attended the Library's April, 2000 conference *After the Fall: Vietnam Plus 25*, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of South Vietnam's fall and the Library's declassification of thousands of pages of documents relating to the Vietnam War—mostly papers

from the National Security Office and the State Department. President Ford attended the conference himself to mark the official release of the documents. "The opportunity to review a documentary record never before seen by historians was exciting and something I could not pass up. I went to the conference, and hearing the President and others like Deputy National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft speak on the very subject I would write on was a special highlight."

Matt closed his remarks with the following comment, "I just want to say a word or two about what this project meant to me. I can safely say that this was the most valuable part of my undergraduate education in history. There's only about a

"I can safely say that this was the most valuable part of my undergraduate education in history."

dozen presidential libraries in this country, and given my interest I am grateful that I was able to become

familiar with one of them. I tried to spend one day per week there during most of the summer and through the fall semester, and every time I stepped into the library I sensed just how historians go about researching presidential biographies or other works on the American presidency. The challenge of identifying relevant information and finding proper perspective as I sifted through the many documents provided for a great learning experience."

Community Events at the Gerald R. Ford Museum

With an eye toward family entertainment, the Museum offered a series of noteworthy events during the spring and summer of 2001.

White House Weekend, an annual event featuring actors and speakers, as well as exhibit tours, refreshments, and other entertainment, was held over Mother's Day weekend. This spring the focus was on the women of the White House, in conjunction with our *Style and Substance: America's First Ladies* exhibit. Bonnie Angelo, former TIME Magazine London bureau chief, kicked off the weekend with an entertaining and informative discussion of her book, *First Mothers*. Bill and Sue Wills presented two first couples (Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt) from their *Presidents and their First Ladies, Dramatically Speaking* series. On Saturday afternoon, guests enjoyed a portrayal of Abigail Adams by Grand Rapids educator Shirley Meyer. Ms. Meyer's presentation was followed by tea and desserts, plus entertainment by Voices of Freedom, a local a cappella choir. On Sunday, all mothers attending the Wills' performance received a long-stemmed rose in honor of Mother's Day. Costumed interpreters in *Style and Substance* rounded out the event. The entire weekend of activities was funded by a grant from the Nokomis Foundation, generous co-sponsors of *Style and Substance*.

The Museum welcomed thousands of visitors at two July traditions. The *4th of July* featured craft activities, storytelling, antique cars, refreshments, videos, and even the opportunity to be photographed as George or Martha Washington.

Over 1,600 visitors stopped in to enjoy the activities and exhibits that day, which complemented the annual 4th of July Gala in Ah-Nab-Awen Park. Ten days later, *President Ford's 88th Birthday* drew 1,800 celebrants, spurred on by free admission and cake donated by Meijer, Inc.

In another innovation, the Museum instituted *Tuesday Evening Family Night*. The response has been enthusiastic to our half price admission, refreshments, and children's craft and gallery activities related to *Portraits of the President*.



The Morris family of Kalamazoo, Michigan, one of many to enjoy the museum's festivities on July 4th, stopped in front of "George and Martha."

At the "Mrs. President: Rediscovering Our First Ladies" Conference, April 28



Betty Ford shares a humorous moment with Richard Norton Smith in a special onstage interview.



White House Curator Betty Monkman, Maria Downs (former Social Secretary to Mrs. Ford), and Betty Ford, tour the First Ladies Exhibit with Richard Norton Smith.



First Lady Betty Ford poses with models wearing her original White House dresses and gowns after a lunchtime fashion show.



Christmas on the Grand
NOVEMBER 16, 2001

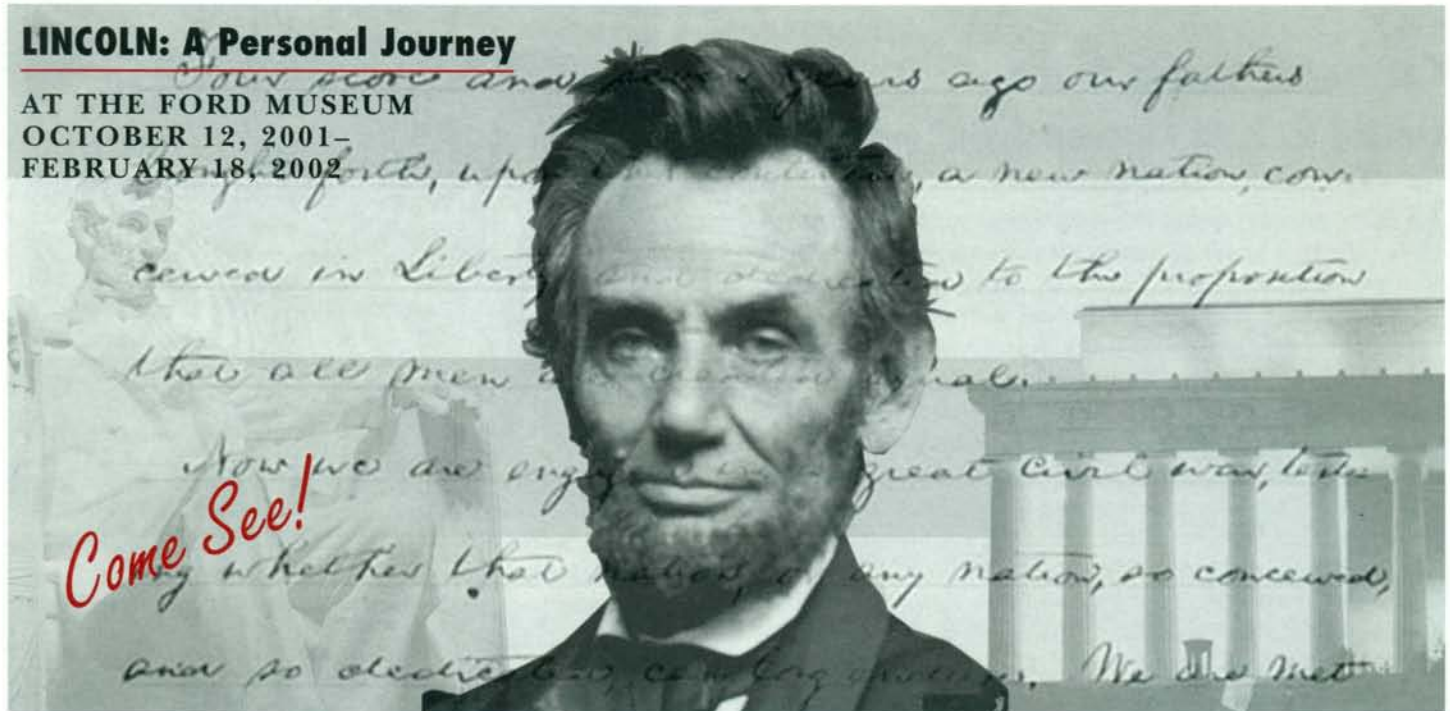
Holiday Open House
DECEMBER 2, 2001

LINCOLN: A Personal Journey

AT THE FORD MUSEUM

OCTOBER 12, 2001-

FEBRUARY 18, 2002



- The Gettysburg Address written in Lincoln's own hand (**one month only!**)
- The pen and inkwell used to draft the Emancipation Proclamation
- The carriage the Lincolns rode to Ford's Theatre
- Lincoln's white dress gloves and blood stained collar worn the last night of his life
- A 15 foot replica of Lincoln's funeral train
- A life mask taken of President Lincoln in 1860
- Original furnishings from Lincoln's home and office
- Lincoln's spectacles and shaving glass
....And much, much more

Michael Beschloss OCTOBER 11, 2001

The acclaimed author and television commentator will open the Lincoln exhibit with the William E. Simon Lecture on October 11. Reserve your tickets early. See inside, page 7.



The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose programs are supported entirely by contributions and bequests in an effort to honor Mr. Ford's lifelong commitment to public service. The focus of the Foundation is on community affairs and educational programs, conferences, symposia, research grants and special projects that improve citizen interest and understanding of the challenges that confront government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353.

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