



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

July 2018



"America's First Ladies: The Centennial Birthday of First Lady Betty Ford" luncheon was held on April 11, 2018 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year's special guests were former First Lady and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton; Lynda Bird Johnson Robb (right), daughter of Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson; and NBC Journalist Andrea Mitchell (left).



On June 4, 2018 Senator John W. Warner was awarded the 2018 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, D.C. Senator Warner was sworn in by Vice President Gerald R. Ford to be the Director of the American Bicentennial Administration on April 11, 1974 and joined President Ford on the flight deck of the *USS Forrestal* to initiate the ringing of the Bicentennial Bells across the nation on July 4, 1976. John Warner served as the U.S. Senator from Virginia from 1979—2009, which made him that state's longest serving Senator in history. He also served five years as Under Secretary, and later as Secretary of the United States Navy.



Letter from the Executive Director, Joseph S. Calvaruso

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Joseph S. Calvaruso
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April marked the sixth consecutive year of the Foundation's wonderful First Ladies event. This year was particularly special as we celebrated Betty Ford's 100th birthday at the beautiful Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. On hand for this tribute to Mrs. Ford and all first ladies were Hillary Rodham Clinton, Lynda Johnson Robb, Susan Ford Bales, and Mike Ford. Mrs. Ford's friend and NBC News' correspondent, Andrea Mitchell, moderated a discussion with Secretary Clinton and Lynda Johnson Robb. Guests were treated to wonderful stories and reminiscences of Mrs. Ford. A big thank you goes to Liesel Meijer for chairing this year's event.

Members of the Ford Family helped open the Museum's new exhibit "In Step with Betty Ford: In Celebration of Her Centennial", which was designed and curated by Museum and Library staff. The exhibit highlights Mrs. Ford's extraordinary life and will be open to the public through the end of the year.

In September 2018, Lisa McCubbin's new biography of Mrs. Ford, "Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate,



On June 6, 2018 Joe Calvaruso presented a lecture at the Rotary Club of Portage Michigan on the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. (l-r) Club President David Jewell, Joe Calvaruso, and Club Director Thomas G. Welsh.

Survivor, Trailblazer," will be released. Shortly after the book's release, Lisa will be doing presentations at both the Museum and Library.

A bronze statue of Mrs. Ford will be unveiled at the Museum on July 14, 2018. Greeting visitors to the Museum, Mrs. Ford's statue is in a new specially designed park-like setting. Thanks to Trustee Peter and Joan Secchia for their vision and support.

Trustee Don Rumsfeld recently released a terrific book, "When the Center Held: Gerald Ford and the Rescue of the American Presidency". Secretary Rumsfeld's perspective on Gerald Ford the president and Gerald Ford the man are vividly captured in this meticulously researched book. If you have

not yet had a chance to do so, I would encourage you to treat yourself with this book.

We extend a warm welcome to the new Foundation Chairman Mike Ford. We look forward to working with Mike in the coming years to promote the legacy of integrity that defined President Ford. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Red Cavaney for his dedication and effort during his tenure as Chairman of the Foundation. It was an honor to work with him.

A special thank you to our Trustees for their time, talent, and support. This year's Annual Meeting welcomed four new Trustees with unique perspectives and interests. In addition, this year several Trustees retired from the Board after many years of dedicated service. Both the new and retired Trustees are highlighted in the newsletter.

Thanks go to "Friends of Ford" members, volunteers, and everyone that enable us to raise the level of awareness of our nation's 38th President. It is an honor to serve as your Executive Director.

All the best,



Canada's Deputy Ambassador to the United States Kirsten Hillman (left) with Joe Calvaruso during her visit to the Museum on May 8, 2018.

Foundation & Museum Special Visitors



Consul General of France in Chicago, Guillaume Lacroix, visited the Museum and signed the visitor log in President Ford's Foundation office on May 17, 2018.

Welcome New Members of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees:



Maria C. Cimitile began her appointment as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Grand Valley State University on July 1, 2017. She earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Memphis, M.A. from Villanova University, and A.B. from the College of the Holy Cross. She joined Grand Valley State University in 1999 as Assistant Professor in Philosophy, received early tenure and promotion in 2004 and full professor in 2016. Dr. Cimitile received a number of teaching awards, has a wide breadth of university administrative experience, created the Latino Student Initiative at Grand Valley State University, and is committed to the co-existence of equity and excellence in education.



Laura Hills is a founding partner of Hills Stern & Morley LLP. Prior to founding Hills Stern & Morley, Ms. Hills spent ten years at OPIC, including as Associate General Counsel for Finance where she served as chief counsel to the Agency for all matters involving the finance program. In the years since the Firm's founding, Ms. Hills has continued to work on projects throughout the developing world and in emerging commercial markets. Ms. Hills is a member of the District of Columbia bar. She received a B.A. in political science and Spanish from Stanford University and a joint JD/MA from Stanford Law School. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of International Law. She has held an appointment as Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center (2003-2009) where she taught International Project Finance. Since 2010, Ms. Hills has been included in "Best Lawyers in America" for her work in project finance.



J. Donald Sheets currently serves as principal of his consulting firm, focusing on strategic advising, board service in materials, financial, health care, and higher education. Don brings his extensive executive leadership experience, business knowledge and financial expertise to billion dollar organizations as well as selected philanthropic pursuits. Don completed a 34-year career with Dow Corning Corporation in 2017, retiring as Vice Chairman. He continues to serve as a director of Dow Corning and Hemlock Semiconductor. Don's career with Dow Corning included 14 years as Executive Vice President and CFO, Vice President of Internet Business, where he led the development of the XIAMETER internet business, and various other commercial and financial positions.

Don also serves on the board of directors of American Zinc Recycling, Mid-Michigan Health System, Tri-Star Trust Bank, The Temple Theatre Foundation and Albion College, where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He also served a number of years on the board of Business Leaders for Michigan and the Midland Center for the Arts.



Teresa Weatherall Neal, M.Ed. has been with Grand Rapids Public Schools since she was four years old, first as a K-12 student and then as a student worker, administrative assistant, coordinator of compliance, and assistant superintendent before rising to the role of superintendent. Since being appointed superintendent in 2012, she and the district have gained state and national attention for the success of the GRPS Transformation Plan, which is increasing graduation rates, reducing chronic absenteeism, providing comprehensive professional development focused on equity and inclusion, launching innovative new school choices, and increasing student enrolment for the first time in twenty years. Superintendent Neal holds an associate degree from Grand Rapids Community College, a bachelor's of science degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University, and a master's degree in educational leadership from Western Michigan University. She is also a graduate of the Michigan Leadership Institute's Superintendent Leadership Academy.

Retiring Board Members



Vaden Bales 2005-2018

Fellow members of the Board of Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation extend their sincere gratitude to Vaden Bales, Robert Hooker, Thomas Kauper, John Morris, Paul O'Neill, Brent Scowcroft, and Sanford Weill for their outstanding service as Trustees of this Foundation and to express their sincere appreciation for their wise leadership, helpful counsel, and great contributions to the growth and success of the Foundation.



Sanford Weill 2010-2018



Robert Hooker 1985-2018



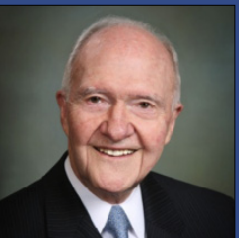
Thomas Kauper 1985-2018



John Morris 2012-2018



Paul O'Neill 1981-2018



Brent Scowcroft 1982-2018

Senator John W. Warner Awarded the 2018 Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service

Each year, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards the Medal for Distinguished Public Service to persons who have served the public good in the private and public sector. The award was established by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation's Board of Trustees in 2003 and is presented during a ceremony held in June at the Foundation's annual dinner in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes outstanding public contributions by individuals who reflect the qualities demonstrated by President Ford during his public service career. This year the Board of Trustees selected the Honorable John W. Warner as the 2018 recipient of the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

John W. Warner has devoted his life in service to the American people as the second-longest serving U.S. Senator in Virginia's history. Born in Washington, D.C. to John W. and Martha Budd Warner; he grew up in Washington and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II, shortly before his 18th birthday. He left the military as a petty officer third class and went to college at Washington and Lee University, followed by the University of Virginia Law School. During the Korean

War, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

Senator Warner served for five years as Under Secretary, and later as Secretary, of the U.S. Navy. He was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to be the Director of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Soon after the Bicentennial activities concluded, he began considering a political office for himself.

In 1978, he entered politics, winning the Virginia election for U.S. Senate. His committee memberships included the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

While still in office, Senator Warner, in his capacity of Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee of the United States, introduced an Amendment to the Senate Bill 2776 that was presented to the United States Senate on June 13, 2006, to name our nation's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78).



Senator John Warner (center) is presented the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service by Foundation Chairman Mike Ford (left) and Trustee Carla Hills (right).

Throughout his extraordinary public service career, Senator John Warner has demonstrated the personal and professional qualities exemplified by his dear friend President Gerald R. Ford – *Integrity, Strength of Character, Diligence, Patriotism, and Sound Judgment*. He is indeed a worthy recipient of the President Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

The annual dinner program and award presentations video is available on our website: geraldfordfoundation.org

31st Annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prizes



Left Photo: (l-r) Trustee Carla Hills, WTOP National Security Correspondent J.J. Green, and Foundation Chairman Mike Ford. J.J. Green is the recipient of the 31st Annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense in 2017. This marks the first year a radio correspondent has won the award. **Right Photo:** Foundation Chairman Mike Ford (left) and Trustee Carla A. Hills (right) present the 31st Annual Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency to Ashley Parker, White House Reporter and Philip Rucker, White House Bureau Chief for *The Washington Post*. The \$5,000 annual awards recognize journalists whose high standards for accuracy and substance help foster a better understanding of National Defense and the Presidency. Congratulations to this year's winners.

2018 Annual Trustee Dinner in Washington, D.C. on June 4, 2018



(l-r) Trustee Steve Ford, Chairman Mike Ford, Trustee Peter Secchia, Senator John Warner, and Christian Ford following the dinner.



(l-r) Trustees Laura Hills and Carla Hills



(l-r) Trustees Steve Ford, Red Cavaney, Chairman Emeritus Marty Allen, and Chairman Mike Ford. Red Cavaney was presented with a bust of President Ford as a gift for his years of service as Chairman of the Foundation.



Trustee Brent Scowcroft, Senator John Warner, Trustee David Mathews



Trustees Brent Scowcroft and Karen Scowcroft.



(l-r) Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer, Trustees Teresa Weatherall Neal, Steve Waterbury, and Treasurer David Hoogendoorn.



(l-r) Trustees Frank Zarb and David Hume Kennerly.



(l-r) Trustees Frank Ursomarso and Terry O'Donnell.



Trustee Steve Waterbury, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, and Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso.



Left: Trustees Jim Ursomarso and Larry Harlow. **Above:** Trustees Buzz Thomas and Don Sheets. **Right:** (l-r) Jesse Hooker, Trustee Bob Hooker, and Christian Ford during the annual dinner reception. All Annual Meeting and Dinner photos courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries.



America's First Ladies: The Centennial Birthday of First Lady Betty Ford



Photos Left to Right: (1) Elizabeth Anne "Betty" Bloomer, age 3, April 1921 (2) Betty at age 14, in 1932. (3) First Lady Betty Ford dances on the Cabinet Room table on the day before departing the White House upon the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter, January 19, 1977. (4) Gerald Ford and Betty in 1948. (5) Betty Ford poses for an article in *Ladies Home Journal* in 1962. Historical photos provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Coinciding with Mrs. Betty Ford's birthday, **'America's First Ladies: The Centennial Birthday of First Lady Betty Ford'** highlights the lasting impact and enduring legacy of one of America's most beloved First Ladies. The April 11, 2018 luncheon was held at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan and graciously hosted by Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer and Liesel Meijer, who served as luncheon chair.

This year's special guests were former First Lady and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton; Lynda Bird Johnson Robb, daughter of Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson; and NBC Journalist Andrea Mitchell. Michael Ford and Susan Bales Ford, children of Gerald and Betty Ford, also attended.

The event celebrated Betty Ford's legacy on what would have been her 100th birthday. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids recently opened a new exhibit honoring Mrs. Ford. The exhibit "In Step with Betty Ford: A Celebration of Her Centennial" opened April 10, 2018 and will run through January 16, 2019.



Luncheon Chair Liesel Litzenger Meijer (right) presents gifts to luncheon panelists (l-r) Andrea Mitchell, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Lynda Johnson Robb.



Top Left: (l-r) Foundation Vice-Chairman Hank Meijer, Trustee Mike Ford, Lynda Johnson Robb, Luncheon Chair Liesel Litzenburger Meijer, First Lady and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Trustee Susan Ford Bales, and Andrea Mitchell prior to the luncheon. **Top Right:** Liesel Litzenburger Meijer, Luncheon Chair, welcomes guests to the luncheon.



Susan Ford Bales presented remarks at the luncheon.



(l-r) Elizabeth Welch, Lynda Johnson Robb, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kate Pew Wolters, Susan Ford Bales, and Andrea Mitchell.



(l-r) Secretary Hillary Clinton, Susan Ford Bales, and Andrea Mitchell.

Right: First Lady and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton during the moderated conversation of Mrs. Ford's legacy and the role of first ladies. **Below:** Lynda Johnson Robb's introduction at the luncheon.



Above Left: Luncheon Invocation offered by Reverend Zachariah Char, Sudanese Grace Episcopal—Mayflower Congregational Church of Grand Rapids. **Above Right:** Musical Tribute performed by Officer Wally Tett from the Grand Rapids Police Department.



Betty Ford Centennial Birthday Exhibit

Ribbon Cutting for Betty Ford Centennial Exhibit “In Step with Betty Ford”



Trustee Susan Ford Bales, Martha Ford Postma, Carla Ford, Greg Ford, Laurie Ford Cassady, Lynda Johnson Robb, Supervisory Curator Don Holloway, Library and Museum Director Elaine Didier, and Ted Burba cut the ribbon on the Betty Ford Centennial Exhibit “In Step with Betty Ford” at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on April 10, 2018.

In Step with Betty Ford – A Celebration of Her Centennial

She “could not have been more in touch with her times,” wrote John Pope of Betty Ford, in a collected history of First Ladies. In many ways, one hundred years after her birth, seventy years after she and Jerry Ford married, forty-one years after they left the White House, and almost seven years after her passing, Betty Ford’s story remains in touch with our times. Indeed, she did much to help shape our times.

On April 10, Susan Ford Bales, surrounded by relatives and joined by Lynda Johnson Robb and Museum staff, cut the ribbon to officially open the centennial exhibit honoring the life of Betty Ford. The exhibit covers the breadth of Betty’s life, marking a first for the Museum. In part, that is a consequence of timing. Only now does the Library and Museum hold sufficient artifacts and documents to curate such an exhibition. The story that emerges reveals a rich life that at every turn was preparing Betty for her too brief but most meaningful time as first lady.

From her love for dance, which she dates to the age of eight, to her deep devotion to her

mother, Hortense, Betty Bloomer was preparing for the rigorous demands of the future stage on which she would perform and the fulfillment she found in helping others. This discipline would carry her through a quarter century’s service as a congressman’s wife, meeting countless constituents and dignitaries, attending state dinners with presidents from Truman to Nixon, and organizing formal affairs with congressional wives and first ladies. Her heart for helping those less fortunate also would be strengthened through years of volunteering with charities, organizations, and hospitals.

Knowing this makes it as unsurprising as it is satisfying to take in her performance as first lady, one Susan Swain, of C-SPAN described as “breaking the mold more than starting traditions.” To illustrate her story, the Library and Museum pulled together one hundred thirty-nine artifacts and documents and eighty images. These populate galleries that focus on Betty’s youth, which features her love for dance and her work at Herpolsheimer’s Department Store; congressional years, which examines her support for her husband’s

career, raising four children, her volunteer work, and her proximity to power; First Ladyship, which depicts her battle with cancer, support for equal rights, her candid nature, and her role in affairs of state; and her post-White House years, which reviews her treatment for alcohol and chemical dependencies, the two books she published, and the help she extended to others through the Betty Ford Clinic and other organizations.

The exhibit benefits from new material donated to the Museum by the Ford family, and loans of artifacts and images from the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the Special Collections of the Grand Rapids Public Library, and Mary Free Bed Hospital. It features a tribute video produced by Bob Boetticher, Sr., and sets built by The GR Shop. The exhibits team included the gifted efforts of exhibits specialist Bettina Cousineau, registrar James Draper, archivist Stacy Davis, audio-visual archivist Elizabeth Druga, and supervisory archivist Geir Gundersen. ~ *Don Holloway, Supervisory Curator at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.*



Photos from inside the Betty Ford Centennial Exhibit: "In Step With Betty Ford" at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Exhibit will be on display through January 6, 2019.

Exhibit photos by Don. Holloway.



New York Times bestselling author Lisa McCubbin (left) joined Susan Ford Bales at the exhibit ribbon-cutting. Lisa McCubbin's biography of Mrs. Ford "Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer" is due to be released September 2018.



Library and Museum Director, Dr. Elaine Didier, welcomed guests to the Betty Ford exhibit ribbon-cutting.



(l-r) Lynda Johnson Robb and Lisa McCubbin tour the Betty Ford exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum following the ribbon-cutting.



Left Top: Ribbon-cutting guests were treated to a special curated tour of the exhibit by Supervisory Curator, Don Holloway (far right). **Left Bottom:** Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso at the exhibit ribbon-cutting. **Above:** Guests await the ribbon-cutting of the Betty Ford Exhibit "In Step with Betty Ford" on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Ribbon-cutting photos by Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Betty Ford at 100 “Still Passing It On”

by Jacqueline Mullen (MPP '18)

University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Reprinted with permission from Spring 2018 edition of “State & Hill,” the magazine of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

In 1994, former White House photographer David Hume Kennerly asked former First Lady Betty Ford if he could publish a photo he had taken on her last day in the White House. In the photo, Ford was posed atop the Cabinet Room table. As Kennerly recalls in a 2008 *Smithsonian Magazine* article, President Gerald R. Ford hadn't seen the photo, and was surprised when he did.



David Hume Kennerly

“Well, Betty, you never told me you did that,” Jerry said, according to Kennerly.

“There’s a lot of things I haven’t told you, Jerry,” Betty quipped.

The co-founder and longtime chair of the Betty Ford Center was well known for her sense of humor, as well as her determined activism, openness, and compassion. On April 8—what would have been her 100th birthday—we celebrate the legacy of Betty Ford, and remember the profound impact she had on so many lives.

Betty Ford found herself thrust quite reluctant-

ly into the national spotlight when her husband, Gerald R. Ford, became President of the United States. Less than two months after entering the White House, Betty Ford was diagnosed with breast cancer—at a time when stigma was strong enough to keep the disease in the shadows.

As would become characteristic, Ford chose to speak publicly about her struggle, boosting awareness in the media and saving countless lives as thousands of women across the country were encouraged to get breast examinations.

Just like that, Ford recognized the power that came with her position—and she never looked back. It was an “aha moment,” says Lisa McCubbin, author of a forthcoming biography about Betty Ford. “She went, “Wow, I have this platform, and people will listen to me.”

Next, Ford set her energy on supporting another policy topic she felt strongly about: the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, which would have explicitly guaranteed equal civil rights to all, regardless of gender.

“She started calling congressmen and senators and urging to get it passed. And that was something First Ladies hadn’t really done,” says McCubbin. Susan Ford Bales, daughter of Betty and Gerald, remembers her father’s chief of staff asking Betty to stop making the calls from inside the White House. He believed the calls should be made from an outside line. “So my mother had an outside line put in so she could still make the calls from her office,” Bales says. “She wasn’t going to let somebody stop her from doing something she truly believed in.”

What Ford is perhaps most remembered for, however, was her decision to turn her personal battle with alcohol and drug abuse—again, a battle she courageously shared with the public—into a lifelong campaign to support others facing addiction. The cause took her from researching and helping to develop treatment programs at the Betty Ford Center, which opened its doors in 1982, to testifying before Congress in support of health care insurance for addiction treatment.

Before she died in 2011 at the age of 93, Ford received multiple awards for her advocacy work including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, the Susan G. Komen Foundation Award, and



Trustee Mike Ford and Nadine Jawad at the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy on April 13, 2018.

induction into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame.

By all accounts Betty Ford had the courage to bring her unapologetic self—her struggles, her integrity, and her advocacy—to the public eye. In a country where breast cancer was only whispered about, views on gender were stubbornly old-fashioned, and a harmful stigma shrouded alcohol and drug addiction, Betty Ford “challenged all that,” says Mike Ford, the Fords’ oldest son. Speaking out also meant “she took a lot of negative feedback, especially as First Lady,” Mike adds. “But that didn’t deter her; she wanted to champion others, and she kept doing that until her final breath.”

On her 100th birthday, the success of Betty Ford’s efforts can be measured in terms of thousands of people who have faced breast cancer or substance addiction and found the hope and help they needed. Ford’s legacy is also seen in the activism she inspired for those working toward women’s rights. And her legacy is here at the Ford School, in the example she sets for today’s students and alumni as they aim to become policy leaders.

Nadine Jawad (BA '18) spoke at the Ford School’s April 13 celebration of Betty Ford’s 100th birthday. She admires Ford’s determination to utilize her platform to address social issues. “Betty Ford represented a new era of fierceness. Her courage to speak up, despite social norms deeming her voice unacceptable, is inspiring to women all across the world fighting every day to find their voice and gain the right to use it,” Jawad said.

What advice would Betty Ford give us if she were here today? Lisa McCubbin, Susan Ford Bales, and Mike Ford offer some ideas: Stick to your principles. Strive to be an informed and fully engaged citizen. Find your ‘thing’ and stand behind it. Respect those who disagree with you. Don’t dwell on the past. Find the humor in everything. Use your power to help other people. Be compassionate. Pass it on.

President Gerald R. Ford Student Essay Challenge: “Reflecting on a Life of Courage” 2017 - 2018 School Year



Second Place
Melanie Roelofs
Plymouth Christian High School
“One Life Dedicated to Thousands”



First Place
Aneeqa Hasan
Forest Hills Central High School
“Land of the Brave”



Third Place
Aunner Calderon
Union High School
“A Mother with Courage”

Each year, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation has sponsored an essay challenge for high school students. The theme changes each year and always features a character trait reflected in the life and leadership of Gerald R. Ford. This year’s theme of “courage” must have struck a chord with our students, as we received more entries than ever before! We were honored that our entrants chose to share stories of courage they had learned about in history, had witnessed in their friends and family members, and had discovered within themselves.

Of the over 900 entries, our panel of judges selected eleven outstanding students to be honored at an Awards Ceremony on May 12, 2018. Their remarkable essays included harrowing stories of immigrants beginning new lives in the United States, family members overcoming great adversity to achieve success, and heroes from history who risked grave danger for the betterment of others. Students received awards of up to \$1,000 and, new this year thanks to Meijer, teachers of the top three students received gift cards to use for classroom supplies.

A very special moment came when our third place winner read his essay aloud to the audience and then read it again in Spanish so that his mother, who is from Guatemala and was the subject of his essay, could hear how her son had honored her by telling her story of courage. Being that the ceremony was the day before Mother’s Day, this truly was a meaningful experience for all in the room. To read the top three essays, and enjoy photos from the award ceremony, please visit: <https://geraldfordfoundation.org/student-essay-challenge/>. *Essay challenge photos courtesy of Larry Avery.*

Mike Ford Visits Learning Center

April 12, 2018

On Thursday, April 12, second grade students visiting the Museum received a visit from a very special guest! The students, from West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science, were participating in a Foundation education program called *Citizens in Action*, where students learn from the examples of President and Mrs. Ford to discover ways they can be active parts of their communities and help others.

During their class session, Mike Ford, son of President and Mrs. Ford, dropped in to say hello. Ford, who was in town for Mrs. Ford’s centennial birthday celebrations, talked with the students about the character of his parents, what it was like to have his father become the President of the United States, and what it was like to stay at the White House.

Following the Q&A session and a tour of the Museum, the students participated in a service project with *Kids Food Basket*, preparing sack suppers for children in need in the West Michigan community. Ford hopped right in, donning a hair net and gloves, to help the students be active citizens and lend a hand to friends in need. Thank you, Mr. Ford, for making this group of students’ visit to our Learning Center extra special!



Trustee Mike Ford helps students prepare sack suppers for *Kids Food Basket*. *Photo courtesy of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.*

2nd Annual Historical Betty Ford Easter Egg-travaganza!

Grand Rapids: On March 24th, 2018, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum was filled with families for the second annual **Historical Betty Ford Easter Egg-Stravaganza**. Young children toured the Museum with their families by visiting eight special stations throughout the exhibits. At each station, children participated in an educational activity or game and, of course, received a colorful, fun-filled Easter egg. From tossing a football with a maize and blue-clad football player to learning to “dance like Betty” from professional dancers, children and adults alike came away with a better understanding of President and Mrs. Ford, and had fun, too! After hopping along the bunny trail through the exhibits, children were treated to lemonade and cookies, as well as a visit with the Easter Bunny himself. Many thanks to Reverence and Hearts In-Step Dance Academies as well as our many volunteers who worked to make this event a memorable one for the many families that attended!



The Easter Bunny visited the Museum to the delight of all!

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

During this second year of operation with our wonderful new core exhibits and the DeVos Learning Center, it is a pleasure to report that visitation continues to be strong, a wide range of classes are being offered by both Museum and Foundation staff, and more groups are calling to request tours. In addition, requests by outside organizations to hold meetings and receptions at the Museum continue to increase. Feedback regarding our new exhibits, and the recently opened Betty Ford centennial exhibit (with displays at both the Museum and the Library), has been very positive – Museum attendance is up 30% since the exhibit opened! We are grateful to the Foundation and all who contributed for making these enhancements possible. Here are some selected highlights to bring you up to date.

We've had another strong year of collaboration with the Foundation to plan outstanding public programs. Trustee Brian Becker gave a wonderful talk at the Library in March on *Economics and the Presidency*, opening with a copy of his 1975 letter written as a child to President Ford expressing his concerns about the economy! Other programs focused on the centennial of Mrs. Ford with a major luncheon program in Grand Rapids and a program on First Ladies at the Library, along with presentations at both sites by Scott Kaufman, discussing his new biography of President Ford. Summaries of each are provided in this issue. The new *Ford After Five* series at the Museum continued with a Big Band celebration, and more programs are scheduled for the coming months.

In April, the Museum and Library hosted 70 former White House Fellows for a reunion, with a program featuring excellent speakers including Foundation Trustees Carla Hills, Roger Porter and Al Zapanta, (Porter and Zapanta are former Fellows), along with tours of the exhibits and a special Saturday tour at the Library in Ann Arbor.

The spring review of applications for the Foundation's outstanding Research Travel Grant program, co-chaired by Trustees Tom Kauper and Roger Porter, has just been completed. These grants (up to \$2200 each) continue to draw strong interest from graduate students and faculty from universities across the U.S. and beyond, enabling them to come to the Library to conduct their research.

As an example of the Library's draw for global researchers, we had our first-ever Scholar in Residence this spring, hosting Tia Cully, a Ph.D. candidate from Cardiff University in Wales. She spent two months conducting research for a project on Anglo-American relations, working in collaboration with professors at both Cardiff and Grand Rapids Community College. See highlights of her experience elsewhere in this issue.

The selection committee for the Ford Scholar Award in Honor of Robert Teeter, comprised of UM faculty and others, met recently to review 10 proposals for this \$5,000 award for dissertation research. This year's winner is Kimberly Probolus from George Washington University. Her topic focuses on *Separate and Unequal: The Rise of the Gifted and Talented Programs in Boston 1950-2000*, and this funding will enable her to conduct research at the Ford Library as well as other archives.



Dr. Elaine K. Didier

Library staff continued the intensive work to digitize our collections, making good progress due to the Foundation's continuing support for this initiative. Recent projects included the Ford Family photographs, Betty Ford and Sheila Weidenfeld papers (as part of research for the centennial exhibits), and current work on gift records from the White House Central Files. The availability of these materials on our website has greatly enhanced researchers' ability to identify key materials in advance of a visit as well as to expand public awareness of our rich holdings.

A new biography by Lisa McCubbin, *Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer*, will be published in September, and the author is already scheduled to speak at both sites early that month. Work continues on other biographies of both President and Mrs. Ford, so stand by for more information.

The contributions of several Ford Library staff (Stacy Davis, Kate Murray, John O'Connell and Elaine Didier) were noted in the acknowledgements section of a new book by Kate Andersen Brower: *First in Line: Presidents, Vice Presidents and the Pursuit of Power*. It is wonderful to see authors recognizing the special contributions of our archival team!

Finally, it is bittersweet to share news that our Education Specialist, Barbara McGregor, has just announced her plans to retire at the end of June. Barb joined our staff when the Museum opened in 1981, and we are grateful for her creativity and commitment over so many years. She will be missed, and we wish her many happy years in retirement!

As you can appreciate, these are but a fraction of the projects and activities going on at both the Library and Museum. Special thanks to all of our *Friends of Ford*, trustees and donors for your continuing support of the Ford Library and Museum exhibits, education, research and public programs. We truly couldn't carry out all of these activities without your assistance!

Museum Says "Farewell" to Retiring Staff

Barbara McGregor

Barbara McGregor, Education Specialist at the Ford Museum, has just announced her plans to retire at the end of June following nearly 37 years of service to NARA and the Museum. She has developed the education program from its infancy when the Museum opened in 1981, bringing President Ford's vision of "a classroom of American democracy" to life. Over the years, Barbara has worn many hats, developing a wide range of classes for middle, high school and university students, working with home-schooled students and Scout programs, leading the Ford Essay Challenge for many years, presenting at teacher institutes held at other presidential libraries and organizing numerous special programs, speakers and events at the Museum. She has also brought student groups to use research materials at the Ford Library in Ann Arbor. Throughout her career she was also the museum's liaison with many community groups including the World Affairs Council, Woman's History Council, and Michigan Museum Association. We are very thankful to Barb for her creativity and hard work, and so many contributions over the years. We wish Barbara the very best in her new adventures!



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Library and Museum Host White House Fellows Conference

The White House Fellows held the third in an ongoing series of regional conferences at the Presidential Libraries in Grand Rapids, MI Michigan, on April 12-14, 2018 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum. In all, 72 people - including 45 White House Fellows, 19 Spouses, and 8 friends or family members - attended. The Fellows met on Thursday evening in Grand Rapids for dinner in the *Gerald R. and Betty Ford Presidential Ballroom* of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Following dinner they heard from Elaine Didier, the Director of the Library, and from Don Holloway, the Curator of the Ford Museum, as they set the stage for the conference the following day.

The next morning the Fellows gathered at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on the opposite bank of the Grand River. Roger Porter began the day with a deep examination of the Ford Presidency, both how Ford came to power, and the impact of his presidency. Included in his remarks, Roger described his own experience as the White House Fellow selected during Placement Week to serve in the Office of the Vice President, who – on August 9th, 1974 – suddenly found himself working for the newly inaugurated 38th President of the United States.

The conference agenda included two panel

discussions featuring White House Fellows who served during the Ford administration. Les Denend, Randy Jayne, and Al Zapanta provided an assessment of President Ford's Foreign Policy during the morning session. In the afternoon, Roger Porter, Percy Pierre, Gil Omenn, and Don Haider provided an assessment of President Ford's Economic and Domestic Policy.

During lunch their guest speaker was Ambassador Carla A. Hills, who served as *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development* during the Ford administration. Additional speakers during the course of the day included Joe Calvaruso, the Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation on "The Process of Honoring a President's Legacy", and Don Holloway, the Curator of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, on the Centennial Exhibit Honoring First Lady Betty Ford.

On Saturday, as most of the conference attendees navigated a late spring snow storm and the associated obstacle course of cancelled airline flights, a few intrepid White House Fellows made the 135 mile journey to Ann Arbor to visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. Gil Omenn, Judy Rosenstreich, and Yvonne Campos all deserve a special shout-out for their



White House Fellows who served in the Ford Administration (l-r) Les Denend, Randy Jayne, and Foundation Trustee Al Zapanta during a panel discussion at the Museum.

determination to persevere through the snow storm to reach Ann Arbor. The Fellows very much appreciated that Elaine Didier and Geir Gundersen had opened the Library on Saturday for the Fellows visit.

The White House Fellows will continue their series of conferences at the presidential Libraries next year when they visit the Carter Center in Atlanta.

Courtesy of David Moore – White House Fellows Foundation

Jill Abraham Hummer "First Ladies and American Women" Thursday, April 26, 2018

Ann Arbor: The Library presented a lively program by Dr. Jill Abraham Hummer, Associate Professor of Political Science at Wilson College and author of *First Ladies and American Women*.

In her interesting and engaging talk, Dr. Hummer explored how the roles of First Ladies were affected by backgrounds, personalities, ambitions, and relationships with their spouses, which in turn shaped their impact on society and the broader political context of their times and reflected the changing roles of women in America over the course of a century. She cited fascinating examples of the roles, experiences and contributions of multiple First Ladies.

For First Ladies, the hours are endless, there are no guidelines or salaries for fulfilling their duties, all live with the harsh scrutiny of the public eye, and all are measured by their contributions and impact on history. Not surprisingly, Pat Nixon described the role of First Lady as "the hardest unpaid job in the world," while Betty Ford likened it to "being thrown in a river without knowing how to swim."

Nonetheless, First Ladies have invariably risen to the occasion and left their imprint on history through activities and causes and their tremendous behind-the-scenes access and clout. After all, they have the President's ear!

The overflow audience of more than 250 people asked a wide range of questions following the talk and during the book signing, and reception following the program.



Dr. Jill Abraham Hummer.

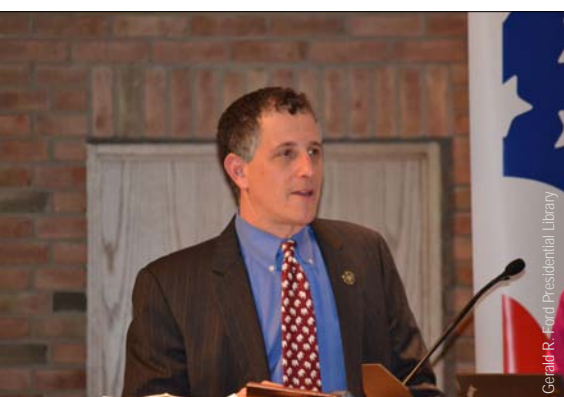
Scott Kaufman
“Ambition, Pragmatism, and Party; A Political Biography of Gerald R. Ford”
May 15-16, 2018

Dr. Scott Kaufman, chair of the Department of History at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, spoke at the Museum on May 15 about his newest book, *Ambition, Pragmatism, and Party; A Political Biography of Gerald R. Ford*. Published by the University Press of Kansas last November, Kaufman said he hoped to fill a void in the scholarship on Gerald Ford by producing the first complete biography of the nation’s 38th president.

Dr. Kaufman spoke in the Museum’s auditorium to about 200 people, describing Ford as a product of his pragmatic Midwestern roots, a man ambitious to succeed in politics, and “loyal to his party but not a political ideologue.” His talk was well received and was taped by *C-SPAN* for later broadcast. The following day, Kaufman spoke at the Library to another good-sized audience. Kaufman is the author of numerous books on diplomatic, presidential, and military history.



Dr. Scott Kaufman.



Brian Becker
“Economics and the Presidency”
Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Ann Arbor: The Library presented a well-attended talk by economist and Ford Foundation Trustee Brian Becker on presidents and the key economic issues that defined their times and often impacted their success.

In an interesting and entertaining presentation (yes, economics can be both interesting and entertaining!), Dr. Becker provided an overview of how presidents have had to navigate larger and more complex economies with ever-increasing federal budgets, starting with a \$7 million budget in 1794 under President George Washington through our present day budgets totaling more than 500,000 times that total at nearly 4 trillion dollars. He explored a wide-range of factors contributing to dramatic economic increases, including growing population, rising productivity, and inflation as he reviewed responses of past presidents to significant economic issues through-

out American history. In explaining the “misery index” (defined as the sum of the inflation and unemployment rates), Becker praised President Ford for presiding over the most dramatic decrease in the “misery index” ever seen up to that time in history.

The rapt audience of 145 people asked many questions during the question and answer session and continued a lively and lengthy economics discussion with our speaker at the reception following the program. As part of his visit to Michigan, Dr. Becker spoke the previous evening at Albion College as a guest of the college and its Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service.

Trustee Brian Becker during his presentation at the Library.



Garrett M. Graff
“Raven Rock: The Story of the U.S. Government's Secret Plan to Save Itself, While the Rest of Us Die”
March 13-14, 2018

The Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum each got a very sobering dose of Cold War reality in March with a visit from Garrett Graff, author of *Raven Rock: The Story of the U.S. Government's Secret Plan to Save Itself, While the Rest of Us Die*.

Mr. Graff discovered Raven Rock by a quirk of fate one day when a government employee lost his ID card with directions to the facility on the back. These directions would provide the owner his route to safety in the event of a nuclear exchange between the Soviet Union and the United States. Mr. Graff was given this ID card by someone who found it in a parking garage, and using Google was able to follow the directions to a dead end road in the side of a mountain. Thus began Mr. Graff’s research into the secret Continuity of Government plans the United States had developed since the onset of the Cold War.

The lecture was one part Cuban Missile Crisis and one part *Dr. Strangelove* as the surreal collided with reality as Mr. Graff highlighted previously classified government plans on how the nation would survive after a nuclear attack, such as the mass production of 150 million pounds of biscuits to be stored in bomb shelters all across the country or why the Supreme Court Justices would not be saved during an attack.

Both lectures were well attended with 184 at the museum and 145 at the library. The lecture ended with a very interesting reflection. Given the new era of social media, smartphones, GPS and high resolution satellites, would it even be possible to secretly develop a location like Raven Rock in the future?

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Garrett Graff during the Museum presentation.

Ford Library Hosts Visiting Scholar From Cardiff University

From April 13 - May 8, the Ford Library had the pleasure of hosting visiting scholar Tia Culley, a PhD candidate in International Relations, as part of an informal program between the Library and Cardiff University in Wales. During her visit, Ms. Culley conducted research for a book project on Gerald Ford and the special US-UK relationship, which included digitally photographing over 72,000 pages of content!; created and presented a class lecture; met with staff to learn about the work of the Library and Museum; and formulated plans for developing educational content based on her research at the Library. Funding for the visiting scholar was provided by Cardiff University. *Here is Tia Culley's account of her experience at the Ford Library:*

On May 8, I completed my two-month visiting scholar experience at the Ford Presidential Library, a collaborative program between the Ford Library and Cardiff University, UK. For my part it has undoubtedly been the most edifying and fruitful experience thus far in my, albeit early, academic career. I am so grateful to all the staff at the Ford Presidential Library, and especially Director Elaine Didier and Supervisory Archivist Geir Gundersen, for facilitating my stay.

My time at the Ford Library was designed to facilitate my academic development and to help promote awareness of all the fantastic contributions that the Library makes to heritage and cultural well-being – not just in the USA but internationally too. My principal activity was to research and collect all the Library's relevant holdings for a book project between myself, Dr. Steve Marsh (Cardiff University) and Professor Robert Hendershot (Grand Rapids Community College). Ford Library archival staff made this an education and a pleasure. I am delighted to report that the consequent book - *Ford and the Special Relationship: Revaluing the Interim Presidency* – is now under contract with the *University of Michigan Press*. Even better, the Ford Library has kindly agreed to host a book launch event – already pencilled in for November/December 2020!

My time at the Ford Library also furthered my professional development. In April, Curator Don Holloway's wonderfully informed tour of the Ford Presidential Museum deepened and widened my knowledge and understanding of President Gerald Ford. The opening of the temporary exhibit, 'In Step with Betty Ford', also provided a fascinating insight into the work done and roles played behind the scenes when preparing a public display. Additionally, at the Ford Library, I was able to acquire indispensable skills in digitization and processing of primary documents. This knowledge and experience will, I promise, be put to good use in the upcoming months as we dive into the Ford primary materials and write our book.

Finally, the program allowed me to share some of my work and ideas with an academic audience. On April 9, I gave a guest lecture, *Ford, Anglo-American Relations and the UK IMF Bank Loan, 1976*, at Grand Rapids Community College.

I am sad that my time at Ford has come to an end, but look forward to a follow-up research visit in September! Meantime, you can follow my progress through my Instagram account @FordScholar and stay tuned for my blog, FordScholar, set to go live in July.



Tia Culley

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Research Travel Grants

Spring 2018

Allcock, Thomas
University of Manchester (U.K.)
Andelic, Patrick
Northumbria University (U.K.)
Blair, Monica
University of Virginia
Conley, Richard
University of Florida

Cully, Erin
City University of New York
Gawthorpe, Andrew
Leiden University (The Netherlands)
Haddad, Ryan
University of Maryland
Ingelson, Elizabeth
Southern Methodist University

Nofil, Brianna
Columbia University
Roady, Peter
Columbia University
Robertson, Mitchell
University of Oxford
Scarminach, Shaine
University of Connecticut

Whitaker, Georgia
Harvard University

Padnos Museum Internship Program

Museum interns Annaka Koster and Christina Ribbens, both from Calvin College, exceeded all expectations this semester. On top of their busy regimen of collections management projects, they took the initiative on several Betty Ford centennial projects including exhibit preparation and installation. Annaka lent a discerning eye to editing the exhibit script. Both worked tirelessly on research, writing, artifact prep, artifact mount-making, case layouts, lighting, and so much more. The sheer volume and exceptional quality of their work demonstrate the continued success of the Padnos Museum Internship Program. We can expect a shining future for public history with students like Annaka and Christina entering the field.

Photo Right: Christina Ribbens (left) and Annaka Koster (right) work together on the Betty Ford Centennial exhibit.





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

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



As a member of Friends of Ford you are invited to participate in many special Library and Museum activities that are not open to the general public.

Members of "Friends of Ford" receive many valuable benefits:

- ★ Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
- ★ Advance notification of speakers and exhibits at both the Library and Museum
- ★ Invitation to pre-opening exhibit tours by staff members
- ★ Foundation Newsletter, 5 issues per year
- ★ 10% Discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
- ★ Free admission to other Presidential Libraries and Museums
- ★ Membership card
- ★ Members at the Family, Associate, Sustaining, Patron, President's Cabinet and Legacy membership levels receive additional benefits.

For further information, please contact Kristy Lecceadone at 616.254.0396 or email klecceadone@38foundation.org.

Attached is an application envelope for your convenience. Memberships are tax deductible to the limits allowed by the IRS.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

**Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
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The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation fosters increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of America's 38th President. It does so through activities designed to promote the high ideals of integrity, honesty, and candor that defined President Ford's extraordinary career of public service. The Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to public service and historical legacy of President Gerald R. Ford and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity wherever it exists in the public arena. It supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy; conferences; educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular, including at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.