



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Newsletter

October 2019



Left: Foundation Chairman Mike Ford presents closing remarks at the 9-11 Community Day of Remembrance Scout Salute at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. **Right:** The Presidential Wreath was placed at the Tomb of President Ford by Major General Paul Rogers on behalf of the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States. Looking on are (l-r) Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young, East Grand Rapids Chief Mark Herald, and United States Secret Service Agent Steve McManus.



USS Gerald R. Ford crew member LTJG Nick Spaleny from Kalamazoo, Michigan provided remarks at the Wreath Laying Ceremony.



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Letter from the Executive Director, Joseph S. Calvaruso



(l-r) Joe Calvaruso, CBS News' Jim Axelrod, and David Hume Kennerly in President Ford's Foundation office.

This year's Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was conducted on President Ford's birthday, July 14. In addition to the wreath from President Donald J. Trump and the Ford Family, wreaths were presented by crewmembers of *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) and several local law enforcement agencies.

In September, those that served in the White House Communication Agency (WHCA) during the period of the Ford Administration held a reunion at the Museum. Sixty WHCA members came together to tour both the Library in Ann Arbor and the Museum in Grand Rapids. They placed a wreath

at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford during their visit. It was an honor for me to speak to them about President and Mrs. Ford's legacy. Of particular interest was *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN78) and the Ford-class of aircraft carrier.

A special performance of "Victors of Character" will be performed at the Detroit Athletic Club (DAC) in October for DAC members and community leaders. While in Detroit, the play will also be performed for several schools. We are pleased with the continued interest shown in the play, which highlights the story of teammates Gerald Ford and Willis Ward and the 1934 University of Michigan-Georgia Tech football game. A video of a special performance at the Foundation's Annual Dinner can be viewed on our website homepage:

www.geraldrfordfoundation.org.

The Foundation is discussing with the Ford Presidential Library staff and the National Archives on whether to digitize the remaining papers of President Ford. This would allow researchers and students from around the world access to the rich history and stories of President Ford.

Our temporary exhibit *Extraordinary Circumstances: The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford* has been extended, by popular demand, to November. Foundation trustee David Hume Kennerly, President Ford's White House photographer, collaborated with the Museum's curator staff to produce the exhibit. The temporary portion of the airport exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport also highlights the wonderful temporary exhibit.

A special thanks to Trustee David Kennerly and Museum Curator Don Holloway for their hard work on this magnificent exhibit and to the Frey Foundation and Bank of America for their generous support of the exhibit. Later this year a portion of the exhibit will move to the Presidential Library in Ann Arbor.

A special thank you to our Trustees for their time, talent, and support and to "Friends of Ford", volunteers, and everyone who so generously enable us to raise the level of awareness of the legacy of our nation's 38th President. It is an honor to serve as your Executive Director.

All the best,

*Retired White House Communication Agency (WHCA) Members
Visited the Museum on September 12, 2019*



Foundation Executive Director Joe Calvaruso (staircase bottom) joins retired WHCA members on the Grand Staircase at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

agency are tremendous, including earning the Presidential Service Badge and receiving specialized technical training unlike any other in the Department of Defense.

The White House Communications Agency (WHCA) is a one-of-a-kind joint service organization dedicated to providing premier information services and communications support to the President. WHCA has assignment opportunities for military service members who are self-motivated and seek to grow. WHCA members operate in a fast-paced, dynamic environment requiring a team of dedicated, highly competent professionals — WHCA's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are the best of the best.

An assignment at WHCA qualifies these leaders to work in direct support of the President, Vice President, U.S. Secret Service and White House senior staff. The benefits of an assignment with the

USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) Update



Susan Ford Bales answers questions at the Wolverine Academy from sailors newly assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford. Wolverine is the tactical call-sign of the Ford.

Susan Ford Bales, Ship Sponsor of *USS Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78), recently visited her dad's namesake aircraft carrier and met with the ship's crew. This was Susan's 21st visit to the ship and gave her the opportunity to meet the newest crewmembers and to receive updates from Captain J.J. "Yank" Cummings, the *Ford's* Commanding Officer, and from sailors in various departments. One of the highlights of the visit was Susan's participation at the ship's "Wolverine Academy", which is a two-week program through which newly assigned sailors to the *Ford* receive detailed briefings about their new assignments, including a several hour historical presentation about President Ford and his legacy of *Integrity At The Helm*. *USS Gerald R. Ford* is currently undergoing its scheduled post-shakedown availability at the Newport News Shipyard and is scheduled to return to sea this fall.



Lieutenant Donny James, USS Gerald R. Ford's advanced weapons elevators officer, briefs Susan Ford Bales on the successful updates to the ship's AWE system.



Susan Ford Bales meeting with sailors in the ship's Starbucks, known as "Mac's" in tribute to Mackinac Island.



Susan Ford Bales enjoying lunch with sailors in the ship's aft mess.



Susan Ford Bales is welcomed aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) by (l-r) Lieutenant Commander A.J. Falvo, Command Master Chief De'Andre Beaufort, and Commanding Officer Captain J.J. Cummings.

Photo Credits: "U.S. Navy Photo- for security purposes, certain image have been altered by blurring out badges."

Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford

On July 14, 2019, the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Tomb of President Gerald R. Ford, marking the 106th anniversary of his birth. USS Gerald R. Ford crewmember LTJG Nick Spaleny from Kalamazoo, Michigan provided the ceremony remarks. LTJG Spaleny was joined by Foundation Trustees, staff of the Foundation and Museum, as well as Ford family and friends from throughout West Michigan.

Remarks of Lieutenant Junior Grade Nicholas Spaleny Assistant Public Affairs Officer, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)

Good morning. My name is Lieutenant Junior Grade Nick Spaleny, I am the Assistant Public Affairs Officer aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

I would like to start by thanking the [Ford Family] for inviting us here today to represent the ship and her 2600 crewmembers. I would also like to thank our Sponsor, Susan, for allowing us to honor your father on what would be his 106th birthday, and everyone else here today for welcoming us and letting me speak to you on behalf of the crew.

I cannot begin to tell you how privileged we feel to be here today to help fulfill Betty Ford's wishes. It truly is an indescribable honor to pay our respects to our Ship's namesake, the man who continues to inspire us to be integral leaders and crewmembers through the actions and moral virtues President Ford demonstrated throughout his life.

There are countless actions and roles I could discuss as examples, but let's talk about his service as a young officer in the United States Navy... that's a role that I can relate to.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Ford put his legal career and political interests on hold, and joined the Navy. Answering an instinctive call to serve our great nation after such a tragedy and heinous act of evil against us.

He was commissioned in April of '42 and served his first sea duty aboard the USS MONTEREY, a light aircraft carrier stationed in the South Pacific. As a Gunnery Officer, Ford took part in several major battles with the Japanese, winning eight battle stars and proving himself a great leader and a dependable officer. But it wasn't just his merit as a leader in battle that inspires us, but rather his actions and courage during a time of vulnerability and despair.

I'm talking of course about when the MONTEREY was severely damaged by Typhoon Cobra, a storm that caused extensive damage to the Pacific fleet during WWII, including the loss of three destroyers and over 800 men. The storm rocked the MONTEREY with 100 mph winds, high seas, and torrential rain. Planes went adrift, collided, and burst into flames.

During the storm, President Ford narrowly avoided becoming a casualty himself. As he was going to his battle station, the ship took a 25 degree "roll" to port, which caused him to lose his footing and slide toward the edge. The two-inch steel ridge around the edge of the carrier slowed him enough so he could roll into the catwalk below and be saved by the ship's safety nets.

As he later stated, "I was lucky; I could have easily gone overboard." After that President Ford went below decks and responded to multiple casualties including an active fire below the forecastle and structural damage and flooding on the 2nd deck, where he would lead the efforts in containing the incidents and ultimately save the ship. Due to these heroic efforts, the ship would get underway after short repairs and continue to fight in the central Pacific Campaign.

This idea of one man responsible for saving the entire ship may sound a little cinematic; but on a hot Virginia day in the summer of 2014, Chief Jeremy Stoecklein, our current ship's historian (who you saw up here at the beginning of the ceremony), found himself giving a tour to an old man in a wheelchair, wearing a CVL-26 USS MONTEREY ball cap. The man, who was in his mid-90's, was proud to explain he served with Jerry aboard MONTEREY. Being the history buff that Chief Stoecklein is, he had many questions he wanted to ask, but he asked specifically about President Ford's actions during Typhoon Cobra.

Without reservation, the man's only reply was, "If it wasn't for Jerry, all hands would have been lost that day;" and he left it at that.....

"If it wasn't for Jerry, all hands would have been lost that day."

Myself, being roughly the same age and rank President Ford was while he served on the MONTEREY, I could only hope that I would act as bold and heroically as he did in that situation, or to be lucky enough to serve alongside people like him.

President Ford has a long history of doing the right thing. Even when no one is looking right? That's how we commonly define Integrity. He also has a long history of doing the right thing even when it's unpopular. This, in my own opinion, more intimately describes the kind of courage and integrity that President Ford displayed. More times than not, it is more difficult to go against popular opinion - or even peer pressure - to do the right thing.

Whether you interpret integrity as doing the right thing when no one is looking, doing the right thing when it's the unpopular opinion, or even the Merriam-Webster definition of "firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values: (synonym: incorruptibility)", President Ford is a prime example of someone who embodies this virtue.

That's why our ship's motto is "Integrity At The Helm". "Integrity At The Helm" for us as a crew means demonstrating the same moral virtues as our

namesake in our work and daily lives, because that is our responsibility as service members to our Navy and to America, and we owe it to you.

The life and legacy of President Ford is so important to our way of life and service aboard the ship that every new Sailor who checks in goes through an indoctrination course, and has a three hour long presentation about the history and importance of President Ford. We also teach the importance of our motto, and the significance of our ship's crest which you can see here on the USS FORD wreath on my left, or on the back of your ceremony programs.

The Fleur-de Lis points true north on our ship's navigational compass, symbolizing the Boy Scouts of America, and more specifically, President's Ford's achievement as an Eagle Scout. Additionally, this navigational compass pays tribute to LCDR Ford's time as the MONTEREY's Assistant Navigational Officer. The map of the world represents USS Ford's global presence and ties to the CNO's guiding principles of War Fighter First, Operate Forward, and Be Ready; also, this backdrop of the globe behind our ship represents all of President Ford's efforts with our nation's foreign policy during his tenure. The 38 stars surrounding the emblem represent him being the 38th president of the United States. Twenty-six of those stars are colored in, representing his ship during WWII, USS MONTEREY (CVL 26). The color scheme is maize and blue representing President Ford's undergraduate university, the University of Michigan. The crest also contains Yale University's blue and white, to represent his graduate school.

Our ship's crest is just one of the many ways through which President Ford's legacy will live on. Everywhere our ship sails in the next 50 years, when they see that big 7-8 on the horizon, heads will turn at the magnificent sight of the ultimate symbol of our nation's strength, ingenuity and capability.

For years to come, Ford's name will be remembered all across the globe. Ford's name will be feared by our enemies. Even decades from now, when this great nation he served calls upon our ship to navigate across the globe, off the shores of our allies, off the shores of our enemies, while launching freedom and recovering victory everywhere in between, Ford will be remembered. No matter how close we are to home, or how deep we are in harm's way.

And President Ford, if you are listening.....

Sir, WE STAND THE WATCH.



Left: The Ford Family Wreath was placed by Susan Ford Bales during the Wreath Laying Ceremony. **Center:** (l-r) Grand Rapids Police Officer Wally Tett, Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young, East Grand Rapids Police Chief Mark Herald, and United States Secret Service Agent Steve McManus place the Law Enforcement Wreath at the Tomb of President Ford. **Right:** Crewmembers of the USS Gerald R. Ford attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony. (l-r) ETN2 Dakota Jarvis, LTJG Nick Spaleny, and ABEC Jeremy Stoecklein.



Left: (l-r) Ford Family members Linda Burba, Bob Ford, Karen Ford, Greg Ford, Laurie Ford Cassidy, Gary Cassidy, and Martha Ford Postma pay their respects at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford. **Right:** "Pledge of Allegiance" given by CVN 78 crewmember ETN2 Dakota Jarvis, the Highland brothers, Vincent, Alexander, Lucas, and Rick. The Highland family was honored to participate in this year's ceremony; due to Congressman Gerald Ford's efforts, their Great Grandparents were able to successfully immigrate to the United States.



Left: (l-r) Former Foundation Trustee Bob Hooker and Trustee David Hooker place remembrances at the Tomb of President Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford. **Center Top:** The President Ford Field Service Council, Boy Scouts of America Troop 96 during Presentation of Colors. **Center Bottom:** Dr. Robert M. Humphries paid his respects at the Tomb of President and Mrs. Ford. **Above:** Gerald R. Ford Presidential Fellows-Ford School at the University of Michigan, Megan Nestor (left) and Karl Hoesch (right) chat with Historian and former Library and Museum Director, Richard Norton Smith following the ceremony at the Tomb.

All Wreath Laying Photos Courtesy of Dr. Robert M. Humphries

Gerald R. Ford International Airport Exhibit

While the Gerald R. Ford International Airport continues to add new airlines and services, the exhibit about Gerald R. Ford, prominently displayed in the airport lobby near TSA screening, was itself recently renovated. The wall featuring Gerald Ford's career remains, as does the Walker Hancock bust of President Ford and the model of the *USS Gerald R. Ford*. The portion of the exhibit that featured his football exploits was struck and replaced with photographs of President Ford taken by David Kennerly. Over eighty of Kennerly's photographs are on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in an exhibit titled *Extraordinary Circumstances*, which this airport exhibit now promotes. Accompanying Kennerly's photographs is a video featuring David talking about President Ford and his experiences as the President's personal photographer.

This airport exhibit will run through next year. When the *Extraordinary Circumstances* exhibit ends its run at the Museum in November, portions of it will be installed at the Library in Ann Arbor. The Foundation would like to thank former Trustee Peter Secchia and Joan Secchia for their vision and support of the President Gerald R. Ford Tribute Room project along with Trustee Fred Keller who served as Chairman of the Airport Tribute Committee.



Renovated exhibit at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

USS Gerald R. Ford Crewmembers Throw Out First Pitch and Visit West Michigan Veterans at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

While in Grand Rapids commemorating President Ford's 106th Birthday, three sailors from the *USS Gerald R. Ford* were invited to throw out the first pitch at the West Michigan Whitecaps baseball game on Saturday, July 13. Throwing out ceremonial first pitches were Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Nick Spaleny from Kalamazoo, Michigan; Aviation Boatswain's Mate (ABEC) Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Stoecklein from Hutchinson, Kansas; and Electronics Technician (ETN2) Petty Officer 2nd Class Dakota Jarvis from Luther and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Whitecaps are a Single A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers. Nearly 6,000 baseball fans had the opportunity to watch the *USS Gerald R. Ford* Sailors commemorate President Ford's Birthday.



LTJG Nick Spaleny throws out ceremonial first pitch in honor of President Ford's 106th Birthday.

Earlier in the day the sailors participated in a meet and greet with veterans at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and participated in a live television interview at WZZM TV, the Grand Rapids, MI ABC affiliate.



CVN 78 crewmembers ETN2 Dakota Jarvis (left) and ABEC Jeremy Stoecklein (right) present *USS Gerald R. Ford* Hats to Veterans at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital during their visit.

"Betty Ford Drive"

On Friday, July 12, Susan Ford Bales met the "Name That Road" contest winners at the *Betty Ford Drive* sign at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The Airport had an unnamed road on airport property, and held a contest with airport authority employees to come up with a name. The name *Betty Ford Drive* was chosen after an employee vote. Two of the airport employees, Jody Naimo and Ryan Schaner, came up with the idea to honor the former First Lady, as there is no other *Betty Ford Drive* location in West Michigan.



Trustee Susan Ford Bales congratulates airport authority employees Jody Naimo and Ryan Schaner on winning "Name That Road" contest.

9-11 Community Day of Remembrance Scout Salute

Throughout the day thousands gathered on the mall at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in honor of the victims of the September 11th attacks during the annual 9-11 Community Day of Remembrance Scout Salute. This year marks the 17th consecutive year the President Ford Field Service Council gathered scouts from across West Michigan for their continuous dawn-to-dusk salute of the American Flag.

The day began with the Grand Rapids Police and Fire Department color guards' lowering of the flag to half staff at sunrise. Activities throughout the day included a blood drive by the American Red Cross, Grand Rapids Fire Department Smoke House Demonstration, Grand Rapids Police Officers Canine Demonstration, Salvation Army Band performance, ringing of the bell and moment of silence for collapse of the South Tower, North Tower, Pentagon, and Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. At sunset the color guard returned to lower the flag with a final salute and playing of *Echo Taps*. Foundation Chairman Mike Ford and Aaron Gach, Field Service Scout Executive from the President Ford Field Service Council presented closing remarks.



Scouts salute the flag on 9-11 at the Museum.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Left: Girl Scouts salute the flag during the 9-11 Community Day of Remembrance Scout Salute.

Right: Grand Rapids Police Department Canine Unit Demonstration.

Larry Avery



Larry Avery



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Larry Avery

Left Photo: Members of the Grand Rapids Police and Fire Departments join scouts in saluting the American Flag during the 9-11 Scout Salute. **Right Photo:** A young scout places a flag in honor of the 2,977 victims of the 9-11 attacks in Ab-Nab-Awen Park outside the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Foundation Chairman Mike Ford visits the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center



Chairman Mike Ford visits a classroom at the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center.

During a visit to Grand Rapids in September, Foundation Chairman Mike Ford spent time with the students at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, a PK-8th grade Grand Rapids Public School. The school is so named because it is the site of the former Madison Elementary, where Gerald Ford attended elementary school.

Ford toured the school, which provides a college prep curriculum including visits to college campuses and violin lessons for every student. He popped into a first grade classroom during a language arts lesson and talked with the students about life in the White House.

After his tour, Ford spoke to the 3rd through 5th graders in the school gym, where they very eagerly answered some "pop quiz" questions about their school's eponym and then had a chance to ask their own questions including everything from "What was your dad like?" to "What kind of food did you eat in the White House?" Ford made sure to talk to the students about the virtues he

learned from his parents: honesty, friendship, hard work, and compassion. He told them he was sure his dad would be very proud to have his name on a school like theirs.

Summer Scout Camps at the Learning Center



Camp participants during "backstage" tour of the WGVU studios.

This summer our education team provided a number of different camps for Scouts.

First up was the "Agent of Change" summer series for Junior Girl Scouts. Girls learned about the courage shown by Mrs. Ford as she used her own personal challenges to work for change. They then selected their own issue and worked to spread awareness through the production of a public service announcement video that they created with their teams.

Cadette Girl Scouts enjoyed our first-ever "MEdia" summer series. Girl Scouts toured the David Kennerly exhibit to learn about the role of media in the presidency of Gerald Ford. They then examined their own use of media as well as the messages received by girls their age through mediums like social media, movies, magazines, etc. The group had a "backstage" tour of the WGVU studios and had the chance to interview two local media personalities, Shelley Irwin and Jennifer Moss. By the end of the week, the girls had produced their own "media remake" projects designed to promote positive messaging to girls.

In August we once again provided our "Citizenship in the Nation" merit badge class for Scouts. This Eagle Scout-required badge involves Scouts learning all about their government from the Declaration of Independence to the Amendments. They also toured the Museum, wrote letters to their members of Congress, and discussed President Ford's address to the nation regarding the pardon of Richard Nixon.

"Tomorrow's Leaders Summer Day Camp"

This summer we held the third annual "Tomorrow's Leaders Summer Day Camp" for children ages 9-12 in our Learning Center. Campers toured the Museum to learn all about the leadership style of President Ford and then discovered their own leadership qualities through several interactive and team-building activities throughout the week.

After viewing campaign ads and materials from 1976, campers took on the role of a candidate for office, writing their own "stump speeches", creating slogans and t-shirts, and even producing their own campaign videos. The campers got civically active by learning about communicating with elected officials from the Michigan League for Public Policy and then writing letters to their own Representatives. They even got a chance to interact with local leaders including Judge Sara Smolenski and Mayor Rosalynn Bliss. Many thanks to Judge Smolenski and Mayor Bliss for sharing their encouraging and inspirational stories with our young leaders!

The week ended with a celebration in the Museum's auditorium where campers got to showcase their campaign videos with their families and then toured them through the exhibits, sharing their newfound knowledge of President and Mrs. Ford.



Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss (center) visits with "Tomorrow's Leaders" during the summer day camp at the Learning Center.

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

As you can see from coverage of multiple activities throughout this newsletter, the summer has flown by with nary a pause, and we're now into the swing of a very full schedule of fall events at both the Library and Museum.

With the strong support of the Ford Presidential Foundation, the Library's digitization program continues to add more content to its Digital Library. In response to Foundation trustees' keen interest in increasing the scope and pace of the program, the Library's Supervisory Archivist and lead Digitization Archivist have started exploring options for establishing and managing a larger-scale digitization program in the years to come. The Library and the Foundation are eager to move forward with this project, and look forward to working with NARA to develop specific plans.

It has been a very busy and productive summer in the Library Research Room with a large contingent of Foundation-funded grant recipients and other researchers making their way to Ann Arbor from across the United States and overseas to conduct research on a wide-range of domestic and foreign policy topics from the Ford administration. Our business is booming!

On September 10, Clare Shubert, the Foundation's Director of Engagement and Programming, brought members of her teaching team from Grand Rapids to the Library to research and collect primary source materials for use with classes this fall. They were introduced to topics including the Nixon pardon, New York City financial crisis, Equal Rights Amendment, 1976 presidential campaign, the space program, 25th Amendment, and President Ford's trip to China. Everyone involved enjoyed the trip and the group plans to come for another intensive session in the spring. This begins a new level of collaboration between the Foundation, Library and our two sites!

At the Museum, in September and October, the lobby will feature *3D Expressions*, a very unique exhibition of artistically crafted, three-dimensional contemporary sculpted quilts. Organized by Studio Art Quilt Associates, Bruce Hoffman, an Executive Board member of FiberPhiladelphia, will serve as juror for this exhibition.

New to our holiday celebration last year, the *DeVries Family – Breton Village Holiday Train* will move this year from the Museum's lobby to the feature exhibit space upstairs. Our exhibit specialist, Bettina Cousineau, along with many volunteers, have been working to expand the exhibit and give the train a more Ford-related make-over, adding sites like the Ford Paint and Varnish Company and Ramona Park to the scenery. Stand by for details regarding the opening events!

Following this, plans are set for an exhibition of the artwork of Brian Washington, a Cincinnati-based artist and attorney. Washington's show, *The Continual Struggle*, features thirty works of art that explore "the struggle for equality and racial reconciliation in American society." His style, suggestive of the Regionalism of Thomas Hart Benton and John Steuart Curry, is subtle yet powerful. In the words of the Honorable Nathaniel R. Jones, retired 6th Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals:

"...Washington, through his artistry, succeeds in evoking a sense of the ultimate triumph of justice over oppression, which is the great lesson of the civil rights struggle, a lesson that cannot be over-taught." *The Continual Struggle* will open in late January 2020 and continue through May.

In support of all of these exhibit plans, the Museum's docent program continues to expand, and now offers volunteers the opportunities to serve not only as docents but also as Gallery Guides. Visitor surveys submitted in the past few months have shown great appreciation for the new Gallery Guides, who offer in-depth knowledge of specific areas of the exhibits.



Dr. Elaine K. Didier

Finally, it is a great pleasure to report that our proposal to the National Archives Foundation for \$10,000 toward support of the production of a documentary play about Betty Ford has been fully funded! *She Did All That* was written by Lisa Rafferty, of Boston, Massachusetts. Inspired by her own battle with breast cancer, Ms. Rafferty researched Betty Ford's story at the Ford Library and Museum in 2016, using many primary documents and interviewing staff members and members of the Ford family. Based on that research, she developed a script focusing on Mrs. Ford's advocacy for women's rights, equality, and health, using Betty Ford's own voice, as well as the voices of those who knew her and have written about her.

In 2018, Ms. Rafferty opened her play in Boston to high praise, attracting national attention. Audience members praised its presentation of the President and First Lady, saluting their candor, integrity, transparency, and truth. Through Ms. Rafferty's play, the audience saw Mrs. Ford as a strong First Lady supporting issues of importance to women. We are working with the Foundation and the playwright to plan performances at both the Library and Museum in 2020.

Amid all of these activities, the Library and Museum have also had several transitions in staffing. In July, our Museum Registrar, Jamie Draper, left to take an exciting new position as Curator of the USAF Space and Missile Museum at Cape Canaveral, Florida – just in time to have to evacuate in advance of Hurricane Dorian! We are grateful that Jamie and his family and their new home survived the storm.

We are delighted to welcome John Sheehan as our new Registrar in September, coming to us from the U.S. Marine Corps Museum in Virginia. After a nine-month gap, Michelle Tomasek will be joining us on the same day as our new Secretary at the Library. Our Event Coordinator at the Library, Kate Murray, retired from her position in June, and we hope to have her replacement join us in late September. We are also in the process of hiring a much-needed new Archivist, and hope to have that concluded shortly. Finally, Desiree Ruhland, our Program Assistant at the Museum, retired at the end of August, and we are awaiting approval to move forward to fill that position. See the next issue for more formal introductions to our new colleagues!

As we embark on our exciting plans for feature exhibits, ongoing research and educational programs, and outstanding speakers noted elsewhere in this issue, all of us at the Library and Museum are grateful for your continuing support for all that we do!



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum



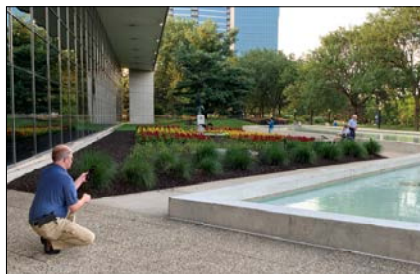
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

**Ford After Five Series Event:
“Swinging & Swearing In”
Friday, August 9, 2019**

Under a cloudless sky, a crowd gathered to listen to live music and celebrate the 45th anniversary of Gerald R. Ford’s swearing in as President of the United States. Many in the crowd had memories of that historic day, others were too young to have experienced the event. Joel Westphal, Deputy Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, recapped the significance of August 9, 1974 before kicking off the evening’s festivities. The John Shea Trio with special guests Max Colley III and Jon Montgomery played a wide range of hits that brought many to their feet.

**Ford After Five Series Event:
“Photos & Phones”
Thursday, July 25, 2019**

With cell phones and cameras in hand, students of the “Photos and Phones” class taught by Grand Rapids photographer Diane Carroll Burdick, descended on the grounds of the Ford Presidential Museum looking for their “best shot.” Diane shared tips and tricks for taking unique photos with phones, and discussed technical settings with those who brought their cameras. She even had students moving to ground level and viewing the world from different angles...all leading to exciting new digital images. Participants also received a copy of David Hume Kennerly’s book “On the iPhone.”



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

Top & Right Photos: Class participants on the grounds of the Museum looking for the perfect photo!

Archivist Awards to Museum and Library Staff



Don Holloway

Over the summer, David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, presented the Archivist Achievement Award to both Geir Gundersen, Supervisory Archivist at the Library in Ann Arbor and Joshua Dawson, the Facility Manager for both the Library and the Museum for their efforts during the U.S. government shutdown in December and January. Geir and Joshua provided key services to the government during this time **by overseeing the physical care and safety of each of our**

facilities and our very special and unique collections throughout the shutdown, and we are all thankful for their hard work during a very stressful time. Congratulations to both for a job well done!



Don Holloway



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

Library and Museum Facility Manager Joshua Dawson (left) and Library Supervisory Archivist Geir Gundersen (right) received the Archivist’s Achievement Award.

Farewell to Museum Staff



Desiree Ruhland

The Museum has lost another of its valued staff this quarter with the retirement of our Program Assistant, Desiree Ruhland. Desiree came to the Museum in the spring of 2009 from the Department of Homeland Security. If you have ever attended a lunch, meeting, dinner or catered event here at the Ford Museum then you are probably familiar with her work as Desiree ran the Museum's Rental Program for ten years. During her tenure, Desiree has worked with so many of you who chose to make the Ford Museum the site for their special event while at the same time assisting in the management of our digital sign in front, which was always well received through the comments that came to us by the public. We at the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum wish her all the best in her retirement.

On Exhibit Now!



Explore a New Dimension in Contemporary Fiber Art:

SAQA's Global Exhibition 3D Expression offers an intriguing glimpse into a new dimension of art quilts, creatively interpreted by artists from 14 US states and 10 countries. The wide variety of pieces selection by Juror Bruce Hoffman include vessels, wearables, wall-pieces, and sculptural artworks. This cutting-edge exhibition shows how textile art can come off the wall and expand both into the third dimension and into the future. See art quilts in a whole new way! Don't miss this exciting exhibit now on display through November 3, 2019 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Art by: Carole Staples, Christina Brown & Marijke van Welzen

SEPTEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 3, 2019



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.



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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 kleccadone@38foundation.org. Attached is an application envelope for your convenience. Memberships are tax deductible to the limits allowed by the IRS. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
616-254-0396



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Schedule of Upcoming Events

Save the Dates!

Date	Location	Time	Event
10/19/19	Grand Rapids Museum	1:00 PM	“Fabric Mosaic” with ArtPrize winner (2013 and 2015) Ann Loveless. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is hosting a 3-hour class, taught by Master Quilter, Ann Loveless. During the class, you will make a 4” x 6” mosaic-like art quilt. Participants may choose any of Ann’s mosaic designs by looking on her website. Cost to attend is \$20.00 per attendee. Reservations can be made at 616-254-0384 or ford_events@nara.gov. The class is limited to 25. If registration is over 25, we will add names to a wait list.
10/21/19	Grand Rapids GVSU Eberhard Center	7:00 PM	Michael Beschloss - “Presidential Character-The X FACTOR” As a presidential election looms, Michael Beschloss joins us for our Character and the Presidency series, sharing his wealth of knowledge on the qualities that create a president. This is a joint venture between the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Museum, and Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. No cost to attend. Reservations are available at Hauenstein Center Events website: www.gvsu.edu/hc
10/24/19	Ann Arbor Library	7:00 PM	“The 2019 Canadian Election: Issues and Impact for Michigan”. Join us for a moderated discussion on the issues and results of the 2019 Canadian election, and its impact on US-Canadian relations and Michigan. Sharing their expertise in Canadian and American politics and diplomacy will be moderator Barry Rabe, Ford School of Public Policy, and panelists Stephen Brooks, University of Windsor, and Maryscott Greenwood, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian American Business Council. Opening remarks by Canadian Consul General Joe Comartin. No cost to attend. Open seating. No reservations required. Reception following program.
11/12/19 11/13/19	Ann Arbor Library Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	John Carlin presents “Dawn of the Code War: America’s Battle Against Russia, China, and the Rising Global Cyber Threat”. Former Assistant Attorney General John P. Carlin takes us to the front lines of a global but little-understood fight as the Justice Department and the FBI chases down hackers, online terrorists recruiters, and spies. Reservations are required at the Museum presentation only by calling: 616-254-0384 or emailing: ford_events@nara.gov.
12/01/19	Grand Rapids Museum	1:00 to 4:00 PM	Kick off the Holiday Season this year at the Ford Presidential Museum with holiday music and visit with Santa and his reindeer. Opening for the holiday season will be the train formerly shown at Breton Village Mall! This train is now a permanent holiday display at the Ford Museum. No cost to attend this family-friendly celebration.
12/10/19	Grand Rapids DeVos Ctr Loosemore Auditorium	7:00 PM	Authors David Roll and Hank Meijer share the stage as they discuss Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein’s favorite WWII General, George Marshall and Grand Rapids’ native, Senator Arthur Vandenberg. Joint program with Hauenstein Center. No cost to attend. Reservations are required. Please visit www.gvsu.edu/hc and select events to RSVP on line.
12/12/19	Grand Rapids Museum	7:00 PM	Mary Evans Seeley “Seasons Greetings from the White House”. Mary Evans Seeley is a collector, historian, lecturer, author and publisher of two books about Christmas at the White House. She has the most extensive collection of Presidential Christmas memorabilia in the country. Her book, “Season’s Greetings from the White House” is now in its eighth edition. It tells the stories of Christmas at the White House from Calvin Coolidge through Donald J. Trump, documenting nearly a century of presidential Christmases. No cost to attend. Reservations are required by calling 616-254-0384 or emailing: ford_events@nara.gov.

For Additional Event Information Please Visit Our Website www.geraldrfordfoundation.org or Call **616-254-0396**.

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.