



*Gerald R. Ford*

PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford  
Embracing in the Oval Office, 12/6/1974.  
Image provided by the National Archives.



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Congressman Gerald R. Ford at work in his office.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

# A Letter from the Chair

A Letter from Chairman, Mike Ford

Dear Friends of Ford!

I hope that you and your loved ones are well, and that you have had a good start to the summer! As we emerge individually and collectively from the scourge of Covid, I wanted to share some of my thoughts and remarks from our June Ford Presidential Board of Trustees meeting (6/7/21).

“We, as individuals and as a nation are living in very uncertain and challenging times. Though some of the overall health and economic indicators have generally improved, for many Americans we are still facing many worrisome realities:

- The Covid virus and its multiple mutations/variants continue to hold a firm grip on many people’s lives and institutions and their wellbeing. And such a pandemic reality is even a great threat to the rest of the planet, particularly for people and countries of the under-developed and under-resourced world.
- Our great country and citizenry in all of their diversity and beauty remain polarized and at odds in their views and understanding of the world and what is objective reality.
- We also are facing the fact that the fundamental values and institutions of our great Republic and democracy are being challenged and undermined on many levels.
- Global peace, national security, and human rights are becoming fragile and vulnerable to autocratic rule, and the role of the United States as the leader of the Free World is being tested on many fronts.

In the face of these challenging realities, what is to be our response, as individuals and as the Ford Presidential Foundation? For me personally, I think about my father and his legacy of strong, principled, and compassionate leadership during some very turbulent years for our nation and world.

I believe that he would desire for the Ford Presidential Foundation to continue to move forward, to show national leadership, and step into the public space of developing programs and initiatives that promote several guiding principles:

- First, a spirit of civility which includes mutual respect and dignity for all people,
- Second, an open-minded dialogue which includes deep listening to one another towards understanding,
- Third, a practice of working together across differences to find common ground and solutions to solve our shared problems for the greater good,
- Fourth, empathy and compassion for all members of our society,
- Fifth, honor and integrity in how we approach all relationships and how we do our work.

For myself, I draw great strength and hope from my father (and mother’s) life and legacy, his core principles, and his personal example for facing uncertain and challenging times. And I believe, as the Ford Presidential Foundation, we have a calling and indeed a mandate to play a meaningful and significant role in providing civic leadership and service to help educate, inspire, heal, and restore our Great Commonwealth of America. Thank you for joining me in this noble and important work!”

With great gratitude and respect,



Mike Ford  
Chair, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Mike Ford at Grand Rapids Community College Ford Fieldhouse

“We are bound together by the most powerful of all ties, our fervent love for freedom and independence, which knows no homeland but the human heart.”

~Gerald R. Ford

Address before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, August 1, 1975.

# Direct from the Director

A Message from the Executive Director, Gleaves Whitney

Dear Friends of Ford:

Have you taken the Town Square test lately? Developed by former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, it's an easy test because there is just one question: Can you walk into a public forum and express your opinion without fear of arrest or harm to yourself or your family? Do you feel free to confront the Establishment or majority viewpoint in a TV studio, at a town meeting, in a classroom, or around a dinner table? How you answer that question says a lot about the state of American democracy. It also forecasts how likely we are to overcome our differences and find enough common ground to live together in peace.

Although Republicans and Democrats are finding their ability to work with each other more vexing than at any time since the end of World War II, it's important not to succumb to cynicism on one hand or to the false promises of easy cures on the other.

Amid the present disorder, one wrong cure would be for legislators and courts to erode the right to assemble, speak freely, and enjoy the benefits of a free press. Progress throughout American history has been possible because of freedom of speech, even when the clash of ideas is uncomfortable to hear. The truth will out only if all informed citizens of good will have open forums in which to discuss, debate, and deliberate their ideas for our common betterment.

Another wrong cure would be for powerful institutions to collude and enforce one viewpoint, one ideology, or one orthodoxy. Consider higher education. Our colleges and universities are precisely the institutions in our society where rigorous debate over contending ideas should occur. At our public universities especially, no one orthodoxy should be allowed to bully all rivals out of classrooms, lecture halls, and student clubs. Campuses are precisely the place where existing truth-claims and paradigms should be thoughtfully transmitted—and then questioned, confirmed, or rejected. Campuses also offer spaces where new ideas can be methodically developed, rigorously tested, and publicly refereed.

Nor should other great American institutions abandon a commitment to a diversity of viewpoints, whether those institutions are in the public, private, or philanthropic sector. Throughout our early history, the vast spaces of the frontier attenuated the power of institutions to enforce conformity. It's why many Americans still have an independent streak and tend to be libertarian in their social attitudes if not their political affiliation. Intellectual rigor requires a diversity of viewpoints. And in fact, our founders counted on the capacity of strong institutions—our schools, churches, marketplace, and republican form of government—to help balance our unum with our pluribus.

Yet another wrong cure would be for the American people themselves to abandon their strongly held values, principles, and

beliefs for fear of the consequences. Never in the history of the Common Ground Initiative that I launched in 2012 did we tell citizens to abandon their deeply held values, principles, and beliefs. We never presumed to teach them to think one way or to compromise for the sake of compromise. Besides, it would not have worked. Americans are not by nature mushy. Most are not ideologues. Most Americans earn their political outlook through hardscrabble experience—through owning a business, farming the land, raising a family, or volunteering with the PTA—and they are pragmatic problem solvers. So whatever common ground they achieve with others is rarely squishy ground. It is the result of thoughtful deliberation and compromise.

Still another wrong cure would be for America to go down the path that Weimar Germany did in the early 1930s and give a charismatic leader the emergency powers to impose an unconstitutional order on our people. Just to be clear, this danger could come from ideologues on either the left or the right.

What about the right cures? Those will be the topic of a future letter.

I mention the Town Square test now because Pew and Gallup surveys show that many Americans are increasingly fearful of sharing their opinions in public. They choose to keep a low profile rather than risk saying something that will have them doxed or canceled by ideologues on either the left or the right. Did you ever imagine that our nation would come to this?

At the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, we are committed to upholding the core principles, values, and beliefs of President and Mrs. Ford. Like you, they treasured our nation's freedoms and our robust tradition of deliberation and debate. They had the courage to enter the fray. They did so not to become celebrities, but to offer a better way for Americans to live together.

All my best,



Gleaves Whitney  
Executive Director  
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Gleaves Whitney

# Milestones



President Gerald R. Ford and John Warner, chief of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, shaking hands in the Rose Garden, 6/29/1976. Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

## In Memoriam: Senator John Warner (1927—2021)

John W. Warner devoted his life to 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 Gerald R. Ford to be the Director of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). Soon after fulfilling his duties in this position he started to consider a political office for himself. In 1978 he entered politics in 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 as chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee of the United States, took action on behalf of President Gerald R. Ford and introduced an Amendment to Senate Bill 2776 that was presented to the United States Senate on June 13, 2006, to name the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN-78) the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford.

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.



First Lady Betty Ford with Wolf Trap Ball Committee Chair Virginia Holton and ARBA Administrator John Warner in the Library at the White House, 8/7/1975. Photo provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.



April 8, 2021, wreath laying in honor of Betty Bloomer Ford's birthday. Foundation staff members, Amy Wilcox and Rachel Siglow, placed the arrangement.

Wreath for Father's Day, June 20, 2021. Placed at the Gerald R. and Betty Ford tombs, Grand Rapids, Michigan.





Swearing-in of Donald Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense in Arlington, VA, 1975.

**In Memoriam: Donald H. Rumsfeld (1932–2021)**

**Statement by Mike Ford, chair of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, on the Passing of President Ford’s Second Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld**

It is with a heavy heart that my family and I learned of the passing of Donald Rumsfeld, a good friend, faithful public servant, and long-serving Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Trustee. The Ford family and many of our Foundation trustees remember Don Rumsfeld as a personally warm but professionally tough advisor and leader. Our father and Secretary Rumsfeld made a good team. They relied on each other’s good judgment at a particularly tough time in American history.

In his book *When the Center Held*, Secretary Rumsfeld referenced the Mayaguez Incident, America’s last battle in the Vietnam War. It was a turning point for our father because that test forced him “to demonstrate his command at a time of international crisis.”

*The New York Times* obituary framed Secretary Rumsfeld’s career well: “Encores are hardly rare in Washington, but Mr. Rumsfeld had the distinction of being the only defense chief to serve two nonconsecutive terms: 1975 to 1977 under Mr. Ford, and 2001 to 2006 under Mr. Bush. He also was the youngest, at 43, and the oldest, at 74, to hold the post—first in an era of Soviet-American nuclear perils, then in an age of subtler menace by terrorists and rogue states.”

Our prayers go out to Joyce and all the family of Secretary Rumsfeld. May he Rest In Peace.



**July 8th, 2021, marks the 10-year anniversary of Betty Ford’s passing.**

Elizabeth Anne (Betty) Bloomer was born in Chicago on April 8, 1918, and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is the third child and only daughter of Hortense Nehr and William Stephenson Bloomer. Mr. Bloomer, a factory parts salesman, passed away in 1934, when Betty was sixteen years old. Mrs. Bloomer, remembered by her daughter as “strong and kind and principled,” survived him until 1948.

Learn more about Betty Ford’s life by visiting the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum website at [www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)

Biographical information provided by the Gerald R. Ford Library & Museum.

**A letter from a Friend of Ford, Margaret C.:**

“I wanted to reach out to let you know that I was impressed and heartened by Mike Ford’s statement in the spring 2021 issue of the newsletter and the inclusion of the letter signed by the former secretaries of defense. There’s no doubt that President Ford would have been proud of all of them, and especially his son. Please thank him in my behalf.

It’s an honor to be associated with a group like that, like the man it’s named for, stands up for our democracy and for the ideals that have stood since our forefathers created this remarkable experiment in governance. To the extent your leadership has also helped to promote that set of ideals, thank you too.”

# Ford in the News

## Biden becomes just fourth president to have given both SOTU rebuttal and joint address

*The Hill*, by Sarah Polus—04/28/21 10:43 PM EDT

President Biden on Wednesday night made his first address to a joint session of Congress. He also made history as the fourth president in history to deliver both a congressional address as president and a State of the Union party response.

Only three other presidents have done the same: Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, noted CSPAN Communications Director Howard Mortman.

Then-Senator Biden delivered the Democratic responses to Republican President Ronald Reagan's State of the Union addresses in 1983-1984. Biden served as a senator for six terms representing Delaware before becoming vice president under former President Obama in 2009.

The tradition of the party response dates back to 1966, notes the *Fairfield Sun Times*.

President Gerald R. Ford waving from inside the presidential limo to a crowd. During President Ford's trip to Chicago on August 19, 1974, he spoke at the VFW Annual Convention and announced the earned amnesty program.

Gerald Ford, president from 1974 to 1977, gave three State of the Union addresses during his presidency. As a Michigan representative, Ford delivered three Republican party responses to the addresses made by Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson between 1966 and 1968, according to the House of Representatives website.

In 1985, then-Gov. Bill Clinton (D-Ark.) spoke on behalf of the Democrats after President Reagan's address.

George H.W. Bush, at the time a Republican congressman, was among those who offered a rebuttal to Democratic former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

This year's opposition speech will be delivered by Republican South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott.



On Friday, June 18, the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) completed the Full Ship Shock Trials. The trials consisted of 3 in-water, 40,000-pound charge detonations. Each blast would occur closer in the water to the ship hull.



### **Explosive USS Gerald R. Ford Shock Trial Registered as 3.9 Magnitude Earthquake** USNI News by Sam LaGrone, June 19, 2021

This post has been updated with additional footage from the shock trial.

The Navy blasted its newest carrier with thousands of pounds of explosives in the Atlantic Ocean on Friday to simulate how the ship would perform in battle conditions, according to images released by the service and government earthquake monitors.

Wired with sensors to measure the effects of the shock, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) was hit with the blast about 100 miles off the Florida coast just before 4 p.m. Friday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey that registered the blast as a 3.9 magnitude earthquake.

“The first-in-class aircraft carrier was designed using advanced computer modeling methods, testing, and analysis to ensure the ship is hardened to withstand battle conditions, and these shock trials provide data used in validating the shock hardness of the ship,” the service said in a Saturday statement.

“The U.S. Navy has conducted FSSTs over several decades, most recently for the Littoral Combat Ships USS Jackson (LCS-6) and USS Milwaukee (LCS-5) in 2016; as well as for the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) in

2008, the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) in 1990, and the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG-53) in 1987. The last aircraft carrier to execute FSST was USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in 1987.”

Ford commanding officer Capt. Paul Lanzilotta told USNI News in March aboard the carrier that the crew had been busy preparing for the event.

“That’s quite a bit of work when you have a ship with 5,000 spaces in it, so we have to prepare all of our gear,” he said.

“We’re also going to prepare the crew: so the crew has to know what to expect, they need to practice their damage control procedures because that’s something that we all need to be good at, and when we shock the ship we need to make sure that we have the ship in as ready a condition as we can.”

The trials come at the conclusion of a post-delivery test and trials period for the carrier in which the Navy has worked to prepare Ford for its first deployment.

The carrier was scheduled for three separate explosions, but the service may cap the tests at two blasts, USNI News understands.

Shock testing the first-in-class Ford, rather than second-in-class John F. Kennedy (CVN-79), was driven in Congress by the late Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). He insisted on the trials to prove the reliability of the new carrier class before its first deployment.

# A Moment in History

## Celebrating Gerald R. Ford Born on July 14, 1913

Gerald Rudolph Ford, the 38th President of the United States, was born Leslie Lynch King Jr., the son of Leslie Lynch King and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King, on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska.

His parents separated two weeks after his birth and divorced later that year. He and his mother eventually settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where her parents lived. In 1917, Dorothy King married Gerald R. Ford, a Grand Rapids paint salesman. The Fords began calling her son Gerald R. Ford, Jr., although his name was not legally changed until December 3, 1935.

The future president grew up in a close-knit family which included three younger half-brothers, Thomas, Richard, and James.

Image: Some of his staff surprised him with a cake and a chorus of "Happy Birthday" aboard Air Force One on a return trip from Philadelphia the day before his birthday in 1976. President Ford passed out cake and champagne to those on the flight, including the staff, members of the press corps, his son Jack, and baseball player Joe Garagiola.

Image and information provided by the National Archives.



# Ford Features



Daniel Boothe, Isabel Gil, and Clare Shubert

## The Greatest Reward

The greatest reward any teacher hopes for is to see students applying the lessons they've learned in the real world. As Museum educators working mostly with students during single-day programs, our education team members don't always get to see the impact they are making. That's why when the Foundation's Director of Engagement and Programming, Clare Shubert, ran into Isabel Gil at the WGVU studios this summer, it was an unexpected and joyful reunion.

Isabel, then a Junior at Forest Hills Eastern High School, was the first place winner in the 2020 President Gerald R. Ford Student Writing Competition. Her piece, titled "Thump," earned her the top prize and deeply moved the three rounds of judges who read her entry. One of those judges was Daniel Boothe, a reporter and producer at local PBS affiliate WGVU.

Isabel, an avid writer and editor of her school newspaper with aspirations of a career in journalism, was excited to see that Daniel had been involved in the competition. She reached out to Clare, who managed the competition, to ask if she might be able to connect with Daniel to learn more about his career path and the introduction was made.

Fast forward to the summer of 2021 when Clare was visiting the WGVU studios. (The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and WGVU have a long-standing history of partnership, dating all the way back to when Congressman Ford helped secure the funding needed to bring public media to West Michigan!) As part of this partnership, Clare was meeting with WGVU staff members and was caught by surprise when a young professional entered the room to introduce herself—it was Isabel! After winning the writing challenge and connecting with Daniel, she was offered a summer internship at the station for a hands-on, real-life experience in the newsroom. Both Clare and Isabel were thrilled to reunite and reconnect.

Isabel shared that while it was incredibly gratifying to win the competition, what has been even more exciting are the unexpected opportunities that followed. Her internship at WGVU has afforded her experiences like meeting deadlines in the newsroom, writing her own stories, and even seeing Dr. Jill Biden. She credits the Student Writing Challenge for helping put her on a fast track to achieve her dreams. Isabel will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall with a specialization in environmental communications and a minor in creative writing. Her aspirations include becoming a reporter for National Public Radio or the editor-in-chief of *National Geographic*.

To read Isabel's first place entry in the 2020 competition, visit <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/student-essay-challenge-2020-first-place>

# Community Partnerships and Events



Gerald Ford with his pet Boston Terrier. Different sources identify the dog as either Spot or Fleck. 1916.

Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

## The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans

March 4

### Catherine Grace Katz

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum



On March 4, 2021, the Foundation, Library, and Museum welcomed author Catherine Grace Katz to discuss her book *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans*. Katz spoke as part of Women's History Month. The discussion began with a brief history of the Yalta Conference, then a look at each of the delegations. Katz highlighted each daughter, all bound by fierce family loyalty and political savvy. Kathleen Harriman was a champion skier, war correspondent, and daughter of U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Averell Harriman. Sarah Churchill, an actress-turned-RAF officer, was devoted to her brilliant father Winston, who depended on her astute political mind. Franklin Roosevelt's only daughter, Anna, chosen instead of her mother Eleanor to accompany the President to Yalta, arrived there as keeper of her father's most damaging secrets. The talk concluded with audience questions and answers. Additional support for the program was provided by the National Archives Foundation and Maggie and Robert Boroujerdi.

Image of author Catherine Grace Katz

## David Eisenhower: Eisenhower, Hauenstein, and the Men and Women Who Saved Civilization

March 18

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum  
in partnership with the Hauenstein Center at GVSU



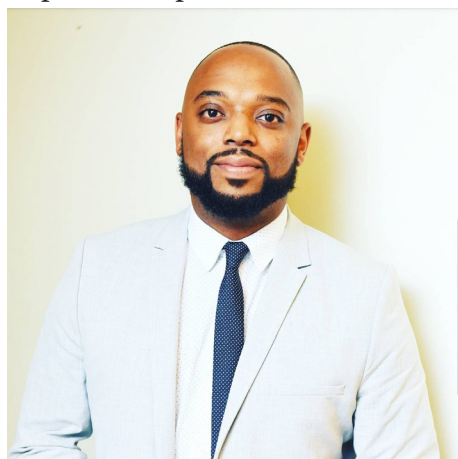
David Eisenhower

World War II constituted one of the greatest existential threats ever to the United States and the American way of life. But for the sacrifice of millions of American men and women who answered the call of duty to serve in the armed forces, the outcome of the conflict could have been very different. Two such men—General Dwight Eisenhower and Colonel Ralph Hauenstein—played an instrumental role in delivering a victory for the United States against Nazi forces in Europe. In celebration of what would have been Ralph Hauenstein's 109th birthday, his grandson, Brian Hauenstein, joined David Eisenhower, the grandson of General and President Dwight Eisenhower, in a virtual discussion moderated by Gleaves Whitney and sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. They discussed the impact these men had in "saving civilization." David and Brian recounted stories about their grandfathers' work collecting critical intelligence and leading Allied forces in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. You do not want to miss the riveting accounts of two American heroes' respective journeys across war-torn Europe as told by some of the people who knew the men best. A recording of this discussion can also be found on the Hauenstein Center's YouTube page.

## Astead Herndon and Lisa Desjardins: The Constitution, Elections, and Democracy

March 22

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum  
in partnership with the Hauenstein Center at GVSU



Astead Herndon

Our country is facing an identity crisis: Whose democracy is this? And what role does an increasingly balkanized national media play in discerning this question during elections? Astead Herndon, a

reporter for the *New York Times*, and Lisa Desjardins, a correspondent for PBS NewsHour, discussed these challenging questions in a virtual Q&A session with Grand Valley State President Philomena Mantella and her predecessors Arend Lubbers, Mark Murray, and Thomas Haas in the second installation of the Presidential Roundtable Series, sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Herndon shared his experiences as a journalist in Georgia as it embraced its newfound status as a battleground state in the 2020 election cycle. And Desjardins recounted her harrowing involvement reporting on the chaos of the January 6, 2021, siege of the US Capitol. Both delved into the role of the national media during one of the most contentious elections in US history

and discussed how the media can restore faith in future elections, journalism, and democracy. View a recording of this fascinating discussion on the Hauenstein Center's YouTube page.



Lisa Desjardins

## Eggs-plore the White House Easter Egg Roll

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum  
in partnership with the White House Historical Association

Did you know the Easter Egg Roll is one of the oldest annual events at the White House? After Congress forbade children from gathering for egg races on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building, President Hayes invited them to hold their festivities at the White House instead. Since then, children and families have been invited to join this special event each Easter Monday. The event has been canceled only a handful of times, like during WWII and most recently because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was for this reason the 2021 Egg Roll was canceled but it didn't keep us from virtually learning and celebrating together!

On March 31st, 2021, we were joined by Samantha Hunter-Gibbs and Ken O'Regan from the White House Historical Association for a special online program to learn about the history of this special tradition. The team shared archival photos, entertaining stories, and even a taste of "Easter Monday on the White House

Lawn" played by the United States Marine Band. Author Jonathan Pliska joined the program to share portions of his children's book, *The White House Easter Egg Roll: A History for All Ages*. After an Easter-themed craft project led by the Foundation's Clare Shubert, the panel answered questions from the audience, the most popular of which was, "How do I get a ticket for next year?"

A good time was had by all and one viewer had this to say about the program, "Three words: educational, enjoyable, EXCELLENT!" We certainly enjoyed learning and connecting with families virtually and hope to resume our in-person Easter event at the Museum next spring!

To order your copy of *The White House Easter Egg Roll: A History for All Ages*, visit [shop.whitehousehistory.org](http://shop.whitehousehistory.org)

## Robert Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett: The Constitution, Elections, and Democracy

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum  
in partnership with the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

Renowned authors and researchers Robert D. Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett joined the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation for another stimulating virtual discussion in the final installation of the Presidential Roundtable Series. Putnam and Romney Garrett discussed their recent book, written before the chaos of the pandemic and the election, *The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*. As masterfully laid out by both authors, from the end of the eighteenth century until the 1960s, the greater American community evolved from a more individualistic "I" society to a more communitarian "We" society. But since then, it seems this trend has reversed. Americans' polarized responses to an acrimonious election and a devastating pandemic are recent totems marking this reversal and the disarray of today's sociopolitical discourse. Is there hope on the horizon for a stronger, more unified nation in the near future? Tune in to the Hauenstein Center's YouTube page to watch a recording of the event, where Putnam and Romney Garrett probe this difficult question and offer their thoughts on the recent, groundbreaking developments that have changed the course of American history.

April 6

**Robert D. Putnam** is the Malkin Research Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, having retired from active teaching in May 2018.



Before coming to Harvard in 1979, Putnam taught at the University of Michigan and served on the staff of the US National Security Council.



**Shaylyn Romney Garrett** is a writer who has dedicated her life to the pursuit of connection, community, and healing in an increasingly fragmented world. Shaylyn has also had a successful career as a social entrepreneur.

Images and biography information provided by the Hauenstein Center at GVSU.

## Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead with General Mattis

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum

April 21



General James Mattis

On April 21, 2021, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum welcomed General James Mattis to discuss his book, *Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead*. The Library and Museum's Deputy Director, Joel Westphal, moderated the conversation which lasted for over an hour. Topics ranged from humility, the most important trait a person can have according to Mattis, to leadership, and ended with his personal reading list.

General Mattis spoke about his young adult years, highlighting how those experiences shaped how he dealt with young men and women serving under him. He stressed the importance of continuing education through books and study. The General offered the following advice on how to become a 4-Star General, "Fight enemy Generals who are dumber than a box of rocks." When talking about mistakes, he offered some down-to-earth advice. "We are not machines; we are humans, and humans make mistakes. Own up to the issue, get in front of it, and learn from our mistakes." If you missed the program and would like to hear more words of wisdom from General Mattis, the program can be accessed through either the Foundation or Library and Museum's websites.

## H.W. Brands: The Zealot and the Emancipator

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum  
in partnership with the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

On April 23, 2021, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation hosted a virtual event with the distinguished historian H.W. Brands that explored the history of two competing visions of the United States immediately before the Civil War. In his book, *The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom*, Brands reflects on the lives and leadership of Abraham Lincoln and John Brown, teasing out their different visions for the abolition of slavery. Brands explains that while the two men shared common ground on abolition, each sought a different way of achieving emancipation. Brown was an anti-slavery militant who sought to violently overthrow the institution of slavery in the South, an objective for which he lost his life after trying to foment a slave-led revolt in 1859. Lincoln, on the other hand, delivered our nation through its most profound existential crisis, defeated the Confederacy, and signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Both men shaped the war for freedom in this country and paid dearly for their efforts to do so. Ready to learn more? Access a recording of this lecture on the Center's YouTube page to learn more about this seminal chapter in American history.

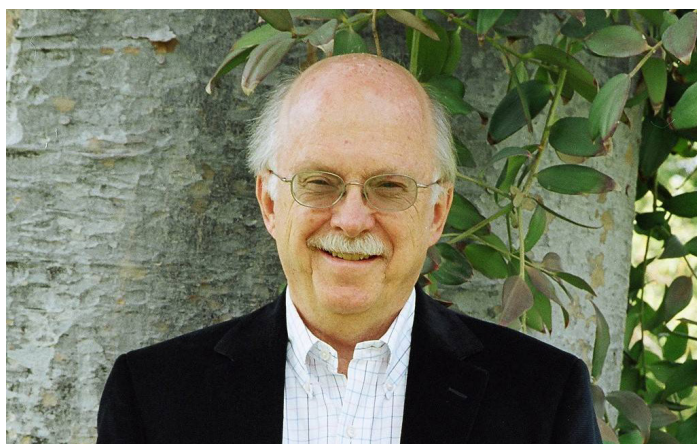


H.W. Brands

## Ronald C. White: Lincoln in Private

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum in partnership with the Hauenstein Center at GVSU

May 7



Ronald C. White

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum, and Hauenstein Center welcomed bestselling author and historian Ronald C. White for a virtual discussion of his recent book, *Lincoln in Private: What His Most Personal Reflections Tell Us About Our Greatest President*. Abraham Lincoln, despite his public reputation as a gifted lawyer, politician and president, was known by his friends and colleagues as a deeply private man. His “best thoughts,” as he called them, came in the form of short, private notes that outlined his thinking on the issues that would come to define his presidency. Whether writing about the legal profession, the Republican Party, slavery, or debate preparation, Lincoln endeavored to understand another person's beliefs from within that belief system so he could effectively respond to views opposite his own. And White's masterful analysis of the sixteenth president's probing intellectual curiosity, as reflected in these “best thoughts,” offers a revelatory glimpse into the man's brilliance, empathy, and anxieties. Tune in to the Hauenstein Center's YouTube page to view a recording of this thought-provoking examination of the private life of one of America's most revered leaders.

## Energy Crises: Nixon, Ford, Carter, and the Hard Choices in the 1970s

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library, and Museum


May 19

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum welcomed US energy policy expert Jay Hakes for a virtual discussion about his recently published book, *Energy Crises: Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Hard Choices in the 1970s*. The book deftly examines the five energy crises that beset the United States that decade—including the OPEC oil embargo and the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident—and the policy decisions in response to the challenges presented by each incident. Hakes's work, drawing on previously unavailable records and information, offers a unique perspective of the decision-making by the three US presidents, the influence of their aides, and their contentious relationships with the leaders of Iran and Saudi Arabia. As the prospect of environmental and energy crises looms large yet again, gaining familiarity with this tumultuous chapter in American history is more important than ever. To learn more, watch the video recording of this intellectually stimulating discussion, available on the Foundation's YouTube page.



Jay Hakes

# 2021 America's First Ladies Luncheon



First Lady Betty Ford observes the table settings and staff preparations for the evening's state dinner in honor of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, July 7, 1976. Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

## “Always in Bloom: Betty Bloomer Ford”

This year's event to celebrate the birthday and remarkable life of First Lady Betty Bloomer Ford was held virtually on April 26, 2021. Gourmet box lunches and beautiful flower arrangements were available for pick up for West Michigan guests at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. All guests were able to view the event via the internet. This year's theme was “Always in Bloom: Betty Bloomer Ford.” Our program included Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President and Mrs. Ford; Ann Compton, former ABC News White House correspondent; Bing Goei, president, Eastern Floral & Gifts; Jonathan Pliska, author of *A Garden for the President, A History of the White House Grounds*, and Nicola Ripley, executive director of the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.

After enduring many hard months of the pandemic, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation wanted a program that affirmed the joys of spring, new life, perseverance, and hope—all reminiscent of the spirit of Betty Ford herself.

Ann Compton and Jonathan Pliska spoke about the White House grounds, covering the historical period of significance from President Adams through current presidential administrations. Topics of discussion ranged from landscape architecture, to gardening for vegetables and flowers, to presidential pets. Jonathan's book, *A Garden for the President; A History of the White House Grounds*, can be purchased by visiting the White House Historical Association's website, <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/>

Bing Goei joined the program to share his memories of flowers and unique arrangements that had significant meaning to President and Mrs. Ford. Bing discussed the *Laeliocattleya* Betty Ford orchid, which was named for Mrs. Ford and was presented to her by Orchids by Hausermann at the 1982 Allied Florists Convention in Denver, CO. There are 15 First Ladies for whom orchids have been named.

Ann Compton spoke with Nicola Ripley about the early development of the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens. The discussion

included memories of President and Mrs. Ford's participation in the groundbreaking ceremony, the events they attended at the Gardens while they were living in Vail, and their enjoyment in walking the grounds on a beautiful day. Nicola shared with the audience many of the unique flowers that bloom at Vail's elevation. For additional information about the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, visit their website, <https://bettyfordalpinegardens.org/>

The program concluded with Susan Ford Bales and Ann discussing Mrs. Ford's love of flowers. Susan shared her early memories of gardening with her mother, pulling weeds, and learning to appreciate the calming nature of flowers. Susan recalled the period of time when she lived in the White House, and the iconic style of her mother that elevated the beauty and elegance of state dinners. One state dinner to remember included the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States of America with Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip. Fun fact—in addition to the orchid which is named for Betty Ford, there is the Betty Ford lily. Susan spoke of her fondness for her mom's lily and shares the plant with her daughters and friends.

The funds raised from the annual America's First Ladies Luncheon will benefit future civic and educational opportunities at the Foundation and the DeVos Learning Center.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is thankful to our sponsors for the virtual event, in particular, the Meijer Foundation, Amway, Fifth Third Bank, Spectrum Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan, and GreenNV. We are always grateful to our Friends of Ford for their continued celebration of Betty Ford and their unwavering support for all the activities at the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, especially through the pandemic.

This year's event has been posted to our website at [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org) where you may watch the entire program, or watch previous luncheons. Enjoy!

## Gleaves Whitney's Comments on the 2021 America's First Ladies Luncheon

Dear Friends of Ford:

I have happy news to report. Not only are the Betty Ford daylilies thriving in the gardens at the Ford, but also C-SPAN will be broadcasting our 2021 America's First Ladies Luncheon on their American History cable channel. You will hear from our office again as soon as C-SPAN finalizes its broadcast schedule.

The April 26 luncheon, titled "Always in Bloom: Betty Bloomer Ford," is built around the themes of spring—perennial new life, unquenchable hopefulness, and dogged resilience—which seems a particularly apt way to capture Mrs. Ford's spirit. The program features First Daughter Susan Ford Bales and former ABC News White House correspondent Ann Compton. Additional segments include interviews with Eastern Floral President Bing Goei, historian and author Jonathan Pliska, and Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Executive Director Nicola Ripley. Ford Foundation Deputy Director Rachel Siglow opens the program, and yours truly closes it.

The leadership at some terrific organizations made this year's special event possible, and we are eager to express our deepest gratitude to them as well as to our Friends of Ford. Several of them have requested anonymity. But the generosity of all involved has been humbling. They have sustained us at a particularly tough time due to COVID. To see our sponsors and donors, please go to our Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation spring newsletter or visit our website, [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org).

I also wish to thank Ford Foundation Senior Advisor Bob Hooker as well as Trustees David Hooker, J.C. Huizenga, Chairman Emeritus Marty and Sue Allen, and Earl and Donalee Holton for making it possible for students to attend the special viewing of the program at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park; also Trustee Bill McBride for finding a welcoming venue in Washington, DC, at which to videorecord several of the interviews.

Last of all, thanks to Rachel Siglow and the hardworking staff at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation for pulling this year's program off. It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team. The difficult circumstances and closure of our offices notwithstanding, they worked tirelessly to make this year's First Ladies Luncheon happen.

It goes without saying but I will say it: Thank you!—thank you so much for your dedication and service to the Ford. None of this would be possible without you. If you'd like to watch the 2021 America's First Ladies Luncheon before C-SPAN airs it on national TV, please visit <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/2021-americas-first-ladies-luncheon/>.

All my best,

Gleaves Whitney



Floral provided by Green NV





## 2021 Wreath Laying Ceremony Letter from Executive Director, Gleaves Whitney

Dear Friends of Ford,

It's a beautiful summer day in West Michigan. At nine o'clock this morning, in a private ceremony at President and Mrs. Ford's burial site adjacent to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, we honored a tradition that has roots more than one half-century old. In 1967 then-President Lyndon Johnson inaugurated the practice of the sitting commander in chief sending out wreaths of red, white, and blue flowers to the burial site of every deceased president on his birthday. The Ford family has been recognizing this tradition since July 14, 2007.

A meaningful complement has been added to the President's wreath-laying ceremony: the commemoration of First Lady Betty Ford, also on July 14, in accord with her instructions. Her tomb is next to her husband's under the words, "Lives Committed to God, Country, and Love."

Because of the recent passing of Donald Rumsfeld, President Ford's second secretary of defense, this year's event included a special tribute to "Rummy," as well. (In the photo above, see the cap on the white bench.)

It's heartening that our community remembers. After the wreath-laying ceremony, one mother brought her daughter, who shares President Ford's birthday, to see the two beautiful wreaths and floral arrangement. Each July 14 they pay their respects to President and Mrs. Ford at the burial site, and the mom said it was one of the highlights of their summer.

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Many individuals and organizations are involved in this meaningful annual tradition led by the Fords' daughter, Susan Ford Bales: the White House, Michigan Army and Air National Guard, and Eastern Floral, among them. You can see the video of the event that has been posted at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org>.

It's also a beautiful summer day in West Michigan because, starting at two o'clock this afternoon, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum opened up for the first time in 17 months. From my office windows I can see Friends of Ford gathering to visit the museum. One man was so eager to renew his membership that he lined up early to be the first to enter the museum and took \$35 out of his wallet to renew on the spot! Information about the reopening of the museum can be found at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org>. The library in Ann Arbor will be opening up August 2.

Earlier today, as I went through the exhibits for the first time in 17 months, I was reminded of what a remarkable first couple Jerry and Betty Ford were. The labels and images also reminded me of how desperately our nation needs their values in the public square. Integrity, candor, decency, respect, competence—it's all there, a shining example of the kind of leadership this nation once produced and can produce again. It's a great day to be associated with the Fords.

All my best,

Gleaves Whitney  
Executive Director  
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

## On July 9, 2021, the 34th annual Journalism Awards were presented virtually. Chairman Mike Ford hosted the program.

This year's recipient of The Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the Presidency is Jennifer Jacobs from *Bloomberg News*. Jennifer is a senior White House reporter covering the Biden Administration. Prior to her position at *Bloomberg News*, Jennifer covered presidential campaigns in Iowa.

The judges noted, "The final year of Donald Trump's presidency had all the drama of the first three, with a divisive political environment, turbulent relations with the press, and an unconventional decision-making process in the White House. Yet, a Senate impeachment trial and a long campaign for re-election at the start of 2020 were soon overshadowed by the story of the year: a once-in-a-century pandemic."

While commending Jacobs' reporting on the presidency, the judges said, "No challenge mattered more to the fate of Mr. Trump's presidency, and few journalists on the story showed greater resourcefulness than Jennifer Jacobs of *Bloomberg News*. After being the first to report that one of the president's closest advisors had tested positive for the coronavirus, Jacobs filed a series of exclusives on the spread of the virus among White House personnel. She followed up with accurate, well-sourced reports."

The Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on the National Defense recipient is W.J. Hennigan from *TIME* magazine. Hennigan covers national security issues for *TIME* magazine in Washington, D.C. Prior to his position at *TIME*, Hennigan worked at the *Los Angeles Times*, where he covered the Pentagon and the defense industry. Hennigan is a past winner of the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Reporting on National Defense for his work in 2014.

When awarding Hennigan, the judges said, "Hennigan's reports embedded him in the heart of the military's daily business—likely placing him at increased risk of contracting the novel coronavirus—to put a human face on national defense and public health issues that paralyzed the globe."

Additionally, the judges commended Hennigan for providing a look at the challenges the military faced, saying, "Hennigan's body of work provided a true, vivid, and apolitical representation of how the military lived through 2020—and the extraordinary challenges it faced. His stories calmly documented what Americans lived through during a year that most will remember for its extreme departure from life as we knew it. Hennigan's work treated the national security element in a unique and memorable way, highlighting the role of military organizations at the nexus of civil and military relations, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Guard, and military logisticians, in addition to the nascent U.S. Space Force."

Congratulations to both Jennifer Jacobs and W.J. Hennigan!



Jennifer Jacobs

Recipient of  
the Gerald R. Ford  
Journalism Prize for  
Distinguished Reporting  
on the Presidency



W.J. Hennigan

Recipient of  
the Gerald R. Ford  
Journalism Prize for  
Distinguished Reporting  
on National Defense

## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation 2020 Spring Research Grant Winners

Amy Fedeski Corcoran

Department of History, University of Virginia

Titus Firmin

Department of History, University of Kansas

Sarah R. Meiners

Department of History, Cornell University

Lubna Qureshi

Rohan Shah

Department of History, Columbia University

William A. Taylor

Department of Security Studies, Angelo State University

Klaudia Wegschaider

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford



*Gerald R. Ford*



# SAVE THE DATE

# FALL 2021

## SEPTEMBER

- 8 7 PM The Lingering Questions of 9/11 with **Garrett Graff** (virtual)
- 11 All-day Event 9/11 **Scout Salute** and Community Day of Remembrance
- 15 7 PM Constitution Day Celebration with **Akhil Reed Amar**
- 16 5:30 PM Celebrate our 40th! The Surprising Thing about Gerald R. Ford by **Richard Norton Smith**
- 17 12 – 7 PM The 40th at the Ford – **Birthday Bash** Celebration



THE HAUENSTEIN CENTER  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES  
AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

## OCTOBER

- 1 – 2 Two-day Event Progressive/Conservative Summit featuring **Jane Coaston, David French, and Matthew Yglesias**
- 22 7 PM Unlocking the Secrets of the Sistine Chapel with **Elizabeth Lev**
- 26 7 PM The Twists and Turns of the **Equal Rights Amendment** and the Quest to put Equality in the Constitution (virtual)



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## NOVEMBER

- 11 7 PM **First Sergeant Matt Eversmann** and Black Hawk Down: Veterans Day Celebration
- 18 7–10 PM **Wine and the White House** Celebration with the Ford



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## DECEMBER

- 7 7 PM Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor with **Ian Toll** (Grand Rapids)
- 8 7 PM Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor with **Ian Toll** (Ann Arbor)
- 9 7 PM **H.W. Brands: Our First Civil War**



THE HAUENSTEIN CENTER  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES  
AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information on our upcoming events and partnerships,  
please visit [www.GeraldRFordFoundation.org](http://www.GeraldRFordFoundation.org)



President Ford speaking at the dedication ceremony for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, September 18, 1981.

# THE 40TH AT THE FORD BIRTHDAY BASH CELEBRATION

On Friday, September 17th, join the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum opening!

“...this is not a monument to any one man or any one presidency. Rather, it is a classroom of American democracy, a place where school kids as well as scholars will enjoy privileged access to the innermost workings of their government.”  
~Gerald R. Ford

Join us for music, refreshments (while supplies last), and family activities!  
This event is open to the public, so bring your friends and family for an afternoon and early evening of fun along the Grand River.

**Friday, September 17th, 12 - 7 PM**  
**303 Pearl Street NW**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

View all upcoming events at <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/schedule-events/>



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



[www.facebook.com/geraldrford](http://www.facebook.com/geraldrford)



[www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)



[www.linkedin.com/company/gerald-r-ford-presidential-foundation](http://www.linkedin.com/company/gerald-r-ford-presidential-foundation)



[www.twitter.com/PresGeraldRFord](http://www.twitter.com/PresGeraldRFord)

# Updates



Betty (front left) in a class taught by Martha Hill (right center).  
Bennington College Summer School of Dance class in Bennington, Vermont, 1937.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.



Amy Wilcox

## Welcoming Our Newest Member to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation Staff

Amy Wilcox is the Ford Presidential Foundation's executive assistant and office manager. A lifelong resident of West Michigan, she is an avid student of American history and brings to the Foundation years of experience helping run for-profit and non-profit enterprises. Amy is passionate about education and for years has been part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas College. With her husband and three children she loves to travel, read, tour museums, and visit historic sites.

## Teacher Workshops: History Repeats

This summer, educators from across the country participated in a three-part virtual workshop titled, “History Repeats: Navigating Challenging Conversations in the Classroom.” The workshop was designed to provide an introduction to using historical deliberations as a way to teach national social studies standards and also develop students as civic actors. Engaging students in historical deliberation is an effective way to help them learn to communicate and solve problems as a group as they work to weigh the values and the trade-offs of potential solutions.

This program was presented in partnership with Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, David Mathews Center for Civic Life, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and Auburn University’s Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities. Representatives from each institution provided educators with resources and tools to help them create a classroom culture that encourages civil dialogue and deliberation about important community issues.

Dr. David Mathews, retired member of the board of trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, served as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Ford and is now president and chief executive officer of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation. Dr. Mathews has done extensive work in the area of deliberation and has been quoted to say, “Changing the way people talk can change the way they relate to each other and their problems – and that can eventually change the community.” With the “History Repeats” workshop, educators were given helpful tools to start this change with our youngest community members, our students.

To learn more about the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, visit: [www.mathewscenter.org](http://www.mathewscenter.org).

For more information about upcoming events for educators and students, please contact: [cshubert@38foundation.org](mailto:cshubert@38foundation.org)

## Rep. Liz Cheney Joins Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation *On Monday, June 7, the Daughter of the Former VP Replaces Her Father as Trustee*

Trustees of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation on June 7, 2021, welcomed Congresswoman Liz Cheney to their distinguished roster. In a unanimous vote at the Board of Trustees’ annual meeting Monday, the Wyoming representative became the second Cheney to serve on the board. Her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, retired from the board on Monday after forty years of service.

“It’s a great honor to follow in my father’s footsteps and to have the honor of serving on the Foundation that President Ford established,” said Liz Cheney. “His leadership in Congress and in the White House has inspired my own work on Capitol Hill. Gerald Ford is the type of public servant America needs today. He fearlessly modeled integrity, courage, loyalty, civility, and decency—all benchmarks of what good public service looks like in our American democracy.”

Board Chair Mike Ford, the oldest son of the 38th president, called it a red-letter day for the Foundation. “Not only did the board pass a resolution honoring Vice President Dick Cheney for more than four decades of outstanding service to my father and the foundation, but we also welcomed the next generation of the Cheney family to our team,” Ford said. “We have been impressed with Liz’s principled leadership, generous service, and unflinching courage while serving in Congress—traits my father valued highly.”

Congresswoman Liz Cheney’s three-year term of service with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is renewable and continues the Foundation’s tradition of having some of America’s most distinguished men and women serve as trustees. Long-serving trustees have included many who worked with President Ford when he was in the White House from 1974-1977, including Jim Baker, Dick Cheney, William Coleman, Alan Greenspan, Henry Kissinger, Carla Hills, Paul O’Neill Sr., Brent Scowcroft, and Donald Rumsfeld.



Congresswoman Liz Cheney  
Image provided by [cheney.house.gov](http://cheney.house.gov)

# Growing Democracy

## For our Youngest Readers and Leaders

### Learn About: The Three Branches of Government

Do you have trees in your neighborhood? Depending on where you live, you might look out the window to see palm trees, pine trees, or maybe you see trees with beautiful blossoms. The branches of those trees help it grow, giving us oxygen to breathe, pollen for the bees, and sometimes even fruit to eat. Did you know that our country's government has branches, too? Three branches to be exact! And just like the trees out your window, they have deep roots. Let me explain:

Long ago when our country had just been formed, our founders felt it was important that not one person, or small group of people, have too much power. They also wanted to make sure that the people living here were represented and that elected officials in the government would listen to them and make good choices for the whole country. It was decided that our government would be divided into three parts, or branches. The founders firmly "rooted" this into our Constitution and it is an important part of how our country runs.

The first branch is called the Legislative Branch, made up of our senators and representatives who create ideas for new laws, called bills. The Executive Branch includes the president and vice president. The president can decide if those bills should be made into laws or not. The Judicial Branch includes the Supreme Court. This branch ensures that we are always following the Constitution. They decide how we interpret laws and sometimes find that laws are unconstitutional and need to change!

Gerald R. Ford worked for 25 years in the Legislative Branch as a member of the United States Congress. He later served in the Executive Branch as both the vice president and president. In his many years of leadership, President Ford received thousands of letters from kids just like you! He loved to hear the questions, concerns, and ideas of young people. Remember that although you may not serve in one of the three branches, YOU are a very important part of our government!

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Can you name the three branches of government?
2. Which branch creates ideas for laws, called bills?
3. Would you like to serve in one of our three branches of government? If so, which one?

**CHALLENGE:** Do you know who represents you in the Legislative Branch today? To find out (and to write him or her a letter!) you can visit: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

### Valued Vocabulary:

**Constitution** (noun): the supreme law of the land in the United States; this document tells how our government works and how power is divided into three branches.

**Representative** (noun): a government official elected to represent the people in a certain area. Representatives serve in the legislative branch of government. The number of representatives from each state is decided by how many people live there.

**Senator** (noun): a government official elected to represent the people in a certain state. Senators serve in the legislative branch of government. Each state in the country elects two senators.

# 2021 PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD STUDENT WRITING CHALLENGE

*Reflecting on a life of Resilience*



Each year the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and Museum sponsor a writing competition for high school students. Young authors are asked to write 500 to 750 words focused on one of the character traits of President Ford. This year's theme was "resilience," which must have hit home with many of our students because we received more entries than ever before! 1,500 entries from Michigan and all across the country were entered into a three-round, blind judging process. Our judges were inspired as they listened to the voices of our young people and moved by the many powerful and personal stories of resilience that were shared.

Due to continued limitations from COVID-19, this year's award ceremony was held virtually. In addition to the reveal of award recipients, students were treated to a special presentation from keynote speaker John Agar. Born with cerebral palsy, Agar has continued to overcome physical adversity to become a recognized athlete, completing marathons and triathlons with his able-bodied teammate and father, Jeff Agar. John has appeared in television commercials with the likes of Michael Phelps and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and his story has been featured on ESPN's E:60. We think John is a shining example of resilience and we're honored to have him join us to recognize these outstanding students.

Students were awarded prize amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,000. With the generous support of Meijer, the teachers of the top three awardees received gift cards ranging from \$100 to \$500 for classroom use. We wish to extend our thanks to the teaching team from the Gerald R. Ford Foundation as well as many volunteers from the Gerald Ford Museum, Aquinas College, the OLLI program at Aquinas College, and other community members for lending their time and talent to the extensive process of reading and scoring our entries. A very special thanks goes to this year's final round judges: Mayor Rosalynn Bliss of Grand Rapids, Foundation Chairman Mike Ford, Shelly Irwin of WGVU Public Media, and Foundation Trustee Buzz Thomas.

## 2021 President Gerald R. Ford Student Writing Challenge Winners

### First Place

Khushi Patel, Wayne Memorial High School

### Second Place

Clara Riddering, Newaygo High School

### Third Place

Ella Tupper, Genesee Early College

### Out-of-State Awardee

Samantha Webster-Bernal, Winston Churchill High School, Eugene, Oregon

### Top Ten Finalists:

Samantha Cyr, Jenison Senior High School  
Joshua Gill, Cass Technical High School  
Emma Hart, Grand Rapids Christian High School  
Andrew Karafa, Forest Hills Eastern High School

Olivia Knibbe, Plymouth Christian High School  
Priyanka Malaker, City High Middle School  
Jenna Pegman, Grand Rapids Christian High School  
Lily Swinehart, Newaygo High School

To learn more about the President Gerald R. Ford Student Writing Challenge,  
please visit [www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/student-writing-challenge/](http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org/student-writing-challenge/)

# Library and Museum News



Ford family portrait, September 6, 1976.  
Mike, Gayle, President Ford, Mrs. Ford, Jack, Susan, and Steve.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum

## A Message from Acting Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum Brooke Clement

Happy summer to you and yours! I hope you all are enjoying the warmer weather—I know I am! (Or at least I was until I broke my ankle on July 4th!) Much has happened over the past few months. After not being able to welcome a single visitor for over a year, the Museum has finally reopened to the public! Please be sure to check out our website before visiting, as we have limited hours and require tickets to be pre-booked online.

We will also be opening our Research Room to researchers (by appointment only) in Ann Arbor in early August. We are certainly looking forward to being able to provide access to the records in our holdings!

Since my last letter, while the buildings remained closed we were able to provide support to Spectrum Health's West Michigan Vaccine Clinic that was operating out of the DeVos Place Convention Center by opening our Museum parking lot. The Library and Museum also presented or co-sponsored some truly wonderful virtual programs, including a discussion on leadership with General Jim Mattis. If you missed this or any of the other programs, you can watch the recordings on the Library and Museum's YouTube channel.

In addition, the Library hosted four Wayne State University students for virtual internships—one for an Alternative Spring Break and the others for the full winter semester. These interns worked on digital resource pages and audio descriptions. These internships are invaluable resources to a small archival staff in making the Ford Library's collections publicly available.

Our long-time Museum Curator, Don Holloway, retired at the end of May. We wish him all the best!! In the meantime, we also welcomed our first ever Museum Technician, Sara Zabriskie, to our staff in May! Please join us in welcoming her to the Grand Rapids area.

Thank you. We appreciate your support and have missed you all!

Brooke Clement  
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Brooke Clement



Ornately painted Bicentennial Commemorative tureen painted with red, blue, and gold. An image of the White House is painted on one side, while the other side depicts a side view of Independence Hall. The tureen is displayed on a specially designed wooden base with an engraved plaque.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.



The Bicentennial Jewel is made of white gold, diamonds, rubies, and sapphires and is in the shape of the official 1976 Bicentennial symbol. The neck support contains thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies. The pendant may be removed and worn as a pin.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

## “The 1976 American Bicentennial Celebration in Digital Format”

Photos and information provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library recently completed a digital resources web page featuring the Library’s impressive array of digitized content on the American Bicentennial Celebration. The web page provides links to numerous documents, photographs, and artifacts highlighting the 21 month Bicentennial celebration beginning with the launch of the American Freedom Train on April 1, 1975, and culminating with President Ford’s participation in official events at Valley Forge, Philadelphia, and New York City on July 4, 1976, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Along with President Ford’s activities and speeches, the materials provide a wide range of information on the activities of the First Lady, congratulatory messages and gifts received from foreign

countries and the American public, the numerous state and local celebrations across the country, the Bicentennial Wagon Train pilgrimage, and the state visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip of Great Britain, among other things. As we approach this year’s 4th of July celebration, these materials remind us of the feelings of patriotism and nostalgia, as well as a general sense of healing inspired by the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

The web page can be viewed on the Ford Library and Museum’s website at:

<https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/bicentennial/bicentennial.asp#visitors>

## Retirement of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Curator Don Holloway



Donald Holloway

What a privilege to have worked at the Ford Presidential Museum for a career. Twenty-five years have flown by, and now it is time to step aside so that a new curator can prepare for the coming fiftieth anniversaries. One would like to think that he leaves behind a little more than he has received. In my case, however, that cannot be possible. I am the beneficiary of all those who taught me and all who helped me. To them—those who have left and those who remain—I owe a debt. You are my colleagues and my friends.

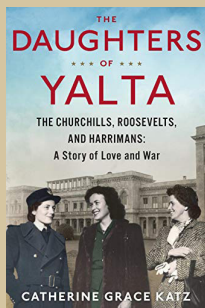
What a privilege to have worked at telling the Ford story. This institution is the repository of the inspiring legacies of Gerald and Betty Ford, legacies worth sharing. I was fortunate to have played a small role in this effort and can leave knowing with confidence that their stories rest in good hands eager to preserve and pass them on.

To each of you—from the Ford family, to the Foundation, our loyal contractors, our many interns and volunteers, and my fellow staff—I thank you. You have made mine a most rewarding career.

Donald Holloway

Learn more about the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum exhibits by visiting [www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)

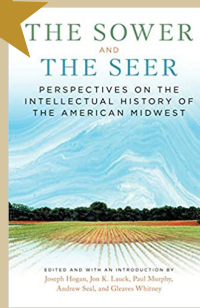
# Featured Books



## *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans*

by Catherine Grace Katz

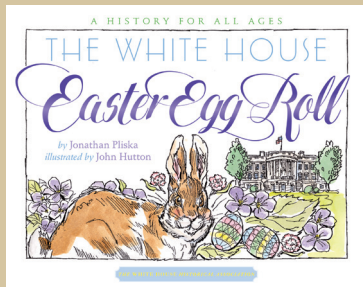
The untold story of the three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and of the conference's fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II.



## *The Sower and the Seer: Perspectives on the Intellectual History of the American Midwest*

by Joseph Hogan, Jon Lauck, Paul Murphy, Andrew Seal, and Gleaves Whitney

This collection of twenty-two essays, a product of recent revivals of interest in both Midwestern history and intellectual history, argues for the contributions of interior thinkers and ideas in forming an American identity.



## *The White House Easter Egg Roll: A History for all Ages*

by Jonathan Pliska

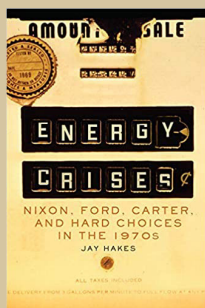
There could not be a more perfect spot in Washington, D.C., to enjoy the time-honored Easter Egg Roll tradition than the rolling lawns of the president's backyard. With more than seventy newly commissioned whimsical illustrations that bring the event to life, this new history of the White House Easter Egg Roll reveals how each administration from Rutherford B. Hayes through Donald J. Trump has staged the annual event.



## *A Garden for the President: A History of the White House Grounds*

by Jonathan Pliska

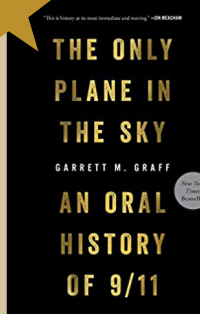
The White House, the official residence of the president, is also seen as the people's house, its grounds, the people's grounds. Heavily illustrated with historical images and newly commissioned photography by Bruce M. White, *A Garden for the President* explores not only the relationship between the White House and its landscape but also the evolution of its design; the public and private uses of the grounds in peace and wartime; and the cultivation of the grounds with a focus on the specimen trees, vegetable and ornamental gardens, and conservatories.



## *Energy Crises: Nixon, Ford, Carter, and the Hard Choices in the 1970s*

by Jay Hakes

The 1970s were a decade of historic American energy crises—major interruptions in oil supplies from the Middle East, the country's most dangerous nuclear accident, and chronic shortages of natural gas.

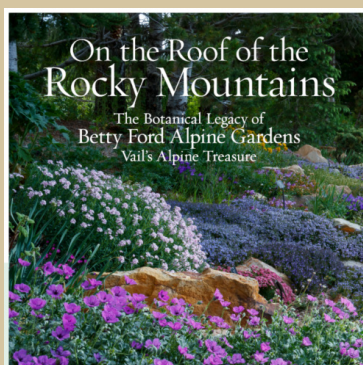


## *Only Plane in the Sky*

by Garrett Graff

Upcoming Event on September 7, 2021

Over the past eighteen years, monumental literature has been published about 9/11, from Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower*, which traced the rise of al-Qaeda, to The 9/11 Commission Report, the government's definitive factual retrospective of the attacks. But one perspective has been missing up to this point—a 360-degree account of the day told through the voices of the people who experienced it.



## *On the Roof of the Rocky Mountains*

by Sarah Chase Shaw

A new book celebrating Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, its stunning alpine botanic collections and its dedication to the conservation of high mountain plants and habitat. An informative narrative and photographic journey through one of the most beautiful and distinguished high altitude (8,200 feet) botanical gardens in the world.

When you purchase the book, you are supporting a team of scientists, educators, horticulturists, and volunteers who, together, work to conserve the alpine environment and curate a beautiful space for Vail's community.

## Independence Day Letter from Executive Director Gleaves Whitney

Dear Friends of Ford,

Gerald R. Ford's embattled presidency traveled through rough seas at home and abroad. Comparing our nation's ship of state to a battered ship on the high seas, we can identify five overlapping elements in the Ford years.

Starting with Richard Nixon's resignation on August 9, 1974, the nation first needed damage control after being shell-shocked by the worst constitutional crisis since the Civil War, the most dismal economic performance since the Great Depression, unprecedented lawlessness by an out-of-control CIA, and America's first defeat in the war in Southeast Asia.

The second element was major repairs, when President Ford undertook to rebuild civic trust by his example, a faltering marketplace by his policies, and America's global stature by his leadership.

The third element was the need to defend against the two governors who flanked our 38th President as the election of 1976 approached—Ronald Reagan attacking from his right and Jimmy Carter from his left.

Then came a sudden pivot on July 4, 1976, a time to anchor in bedrock, when President Ford led the nation in its bicentennial celebration and urged us to reflect on our world-historic mission. The argument had to prevail that America was not just another sordid empire in decline—indeed, that it had redeemed many of her mistakes in the past and would do so again in the future.

Having recovered some confidence and sense of purpose during the Bicentennial, the American people were eager to see their president chart a new course and set sail to a better future. These were the months when, as Richard Norton Smith observes, citizens were ready to learn more about President Ford's vision of the nation's future.

Each of these five elements was critical to national recovery, not least the time at anchor. As King Solomon observed,



President Ford boards the Michigan Wagon at the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage Encampment, Where Covered Wagon Trains Converged After Crossing the Nation on Historical Trails, Valley Forge State Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 7/4/1976.

(White House photograph B510-35)

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

This holiday weekend gives us occasion to revisit President Ford's message during the Fourth of July celebrations of 1976. After coming through years of crisis, Americans needed their President to revive the nation's purpose and resolve. Our ship of state was not then, nor is it now, ready for mothballs.

As President Ford led Americans to celebrate their country's 200th anniversary, one major theme he stressed was the enduring significance of the American founding: the men and women of 1776 articulated eternal truths that neither time nor chance could not destroy. All human beings are created equal under God. All stand equal before the law. All have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Without moral equivocation we must admit that America's promise is a work in progress, that for too many of her citizens the promise has been unfulfilled. And yet, with contrition comes regeneration. Again and again our nation has worked hard to redeem her mistakes and achieve greater liberty and justice for all. The founders' truths remain our truths.

Another major theme was the dynamic tension between past and future, the polarity between the heritage behind us and the frontier before us. We honor the founders but recognize that neither a nation nor its government can live in a mausoleum. Those who came before us teach us the errors we should avoid at the same time they serve as pathfinders to a better way.

America was a very different nation in 1976, when President Ford delivered a hopeful message to the American people during the bicentennial celebration. Our population then was 215 million; today it is north of 330 million. Our GDP then was \$1.9 trillion; today it is more than \$22 trillion. Despite statistical differences, many of our challenges remain the same. We must do better to recognize the dignity of every human being, to achieve unity in diversity, to use our freedom for the greater good, and to expand the promise of liberty and justice for all. President Ford's wise words 45 years ago can guide us today. For Americans still “believe in freedom and liberty [and can] lay the foundation for our third century predicated on the gifts we have received by the sacrifices and wisdom of those of the past 200 years.”

Happy Fourth of July holiday!

Gleaves Whitney



President Gerald Ford and First Lady Betty Ford Waving to the Crowd during Independence Day Ceremonies at Fort McHenry, Maryland, July 4, 1975. Provided by the National Archives.



Michigan Senator Carl Levin



"Man in Space" statue at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

## Remembering Carl Levin, Recalling Apollo 15 Message from Executive Director Gleaves Whitney

Dear Friends of Ford,

I am writing you today about two things—first, a Republican’s respect for a Democrat; and second, a NASA anniversary that meant much to President Ford.

The obituaries of Carl Levin, who passed away last Thursday in Detroit at the age of 87, inevitably highlight his longevity in the U.S. Senate. He served in the upper house from 1979 till 2015 and holds the record as Michigan’s longest serving senator. More significantly, the obituaries praise Sen. Levin for a character trait that he and Pres. Ford shared: integrity. The New York Times observed, “Mr. Levin was regarded by Senate colleagues and Washington observers as a paragon of probity....”

Although their service in Washington, DC, did not overlap, Gerald R. Ford held Carl Levin in high esteem. Our Foundation extended Pres. Ford’s esteem to Sen. Levin in 2015 when he received the Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Reading the citation, Trustee Carla Hills noted, “Throughout his successful public service career, Carl M. Levin demonstrated the personal and professional qualities exemplified by Pres. Gerald R. Ford—strength of character, diligence, patriotism, sound judgment, and integrity.” You can read the full citation here (which, in 2015, was also conferred upon retiring U.S. Representative John Dingell, the longest serving congressman in American history): <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/medal-for-distinguished-public-service-2015/>.

Given all the news about space travel in recent weeks, I also want to draw your attention to a NASA milestone that our nation is in the midst of commemorating: the 50th anniversary of Apollo 15. On July 26, 1971, Apollo 15 began its journey into outer space. Three days after its command module landed on the lunar surface, it lifted back off the Moon on August 2—50 years ago. Then House Minority Leader Ford took pride in the fact that all three Apollo 15 crew members—David Scott, Alfred Worden, and James Irwin—had attended his alma mater, the University of Michigan.

Gerald Ford was always a “stalwart supporter” of NASA. Indeed, in 1958, when he was a member of the House Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, then Rep. Ford helped draft the original Space Act that gave NASA its charter. You can read NASA’s appreciation for Pres. Ford here: [https://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/features/gerald\\_ford.html](https://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/features/gerald_ford.html). Today, when visitors approach the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, they encounter the sculpture of an astronaut leaving a spaceship. Called “Man in Space,” it is the first major sculpture in the history of art to depict weightlessness.

Now that the Ford Presidential Museum is once again open to the public, I hope you will come see it for yourself!

All my best,

Gleaves Whitney

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

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State Visit of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing & Betty Ford.  
Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

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First Lady's Trip to Michigan—Arrival in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 5 year old Valerie presenting Betty Bloomer Ford with bouquet of handpicked flowers. Image provided by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

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