



Gerald R. Ford

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Gerald R. Ford Family and Presidential Foundation Remember President Jimmy Carter

Carter and Ford's friendship was a remarkable example of transcending partisan divides

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Gerald R. Ford family and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation mourn the loss of a dear friend, President Jimmy Carter, upon his passing at the age of 100 on December 29, 2024.

No two former presidents formed a closer friendship across party lines than Jimmy Carter and Gerald R. Ford.

Statement from the Ford Family on Jimmy Carter's death:

“With President Carter’s passing, the world has lost a great champion of human rights, a wise mediator of international peace, and a passionate proponent of the wellbeing, equality, and just treatment of all people. Though respected adversaries in the national political arena, our father’s and President Carter’s personal friendship grew and deepened through their shared faith and common vision for the healing and strengthening of our nation. Our Ford family celebrates the extraordinary life and legacy of President Carter. We send our love, prayers, and condolences to the Carter family.”

From Gleaves Whitney, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation:

“The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is saddened to hear of President Carter’s passing. In all American history, never did two former presidents enjoy a closer friendship than Jerry Ford and Jimmy Carter. Despite contending against one another in the fiercely fought 1976 election, the two men became unlikely friends. Their lives of integrity provided timeless examples of our nation at its best. Their spirit of civic friendship is desperately needed today. Requiescat in pace.”

Because of the great friendship between Presidents Ford and Carter, the foundation and center that carry on their work and legacy are proud to join forces on a number of pressing issues—trusted elections, civic education, and virtue-anchored leadership, among them. You can learn more about their collaborations in the most recent Ford Presidential Foundation magazine, The Brief, here: <https://geraldrfordfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-Ford-Presidential-Foundation-Brief-Magazine.pdf>.

President Ford had asked President Carter if he would deliver a eulogy at his funeral; President Carter delivered it in January 2007: <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/the-fords/gerald-r-ford/funeral-tributes-and-honors>

Resources and archived materials focusing on the Ford-Carter relationship from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum: <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/digital-research-room/library-collections/topic-guides/president-jimmy-carter>

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About the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation The mission of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation is to enlarge President Ford’s legacy in a world that desperately needs his example of leadership and service. As author James Cannon wrote, “From its beginning American democracy has had the good fortune to produce a leader, often from an unexpected quarter, whose character and actions fit the tide of history. So it was on August 9, 1974, when this good and honest man, this obscure and stolid workhorse of a Congressman from the heartland of the nation, came to the rescue of the American government. To Gerald Ford was given the responsibility to move America from untruth to truth, from darkness to light.”



Visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation: www.geraldrfordfoundation.org.