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January 1974

**BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL: VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD**

**BIRTH** Known to his friends as "Jerry", Vice President Ford was born July 14, 1913, at Omaha, Nebraska, but spent his childhood in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**VICE PRESIDENCY** Mr. Ford was nominated on October 12, 1973, to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as Vice President. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate on November 27, 1973, by a vote of 92 to 3, and by the House on December 6, 1973, by a vote of 387 to 35. Mr. Ford was sworn in as Vice President on December 6, 1973, the first person to be so selected according to provisions of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution.

**CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE** In November, 1972, he was re-elected to his thirteenth consecutive term as a Member of Congress, having served since January 3, 1949, resigning December 6, 1973 to become Vice President.

Chosen Minority Leader of the House of Representatives at the opening of the 89th Congress January 4, 1965. He served as a member of the Republican Leadership in Congress since January, 1963; was chairman of the Republican Conference of the House during the 88th Congress (1963-64) and had been a member of the House Republican Policy Committee for over nine years.

During his first term, was named to the House Public Works Committee. In 1951, was assigned to the Appropriations Committee where he served on the Army Civil Functions Subcommittee and the Emergency Agency Subcommittee. During the 83rd and 84th Congresses, was a member of the Subcommittees on Foreign Operations and the Department of Defense and was on the Army Panel, serving as Panel chairman in the 83rd Congress. During the 85th Congress, was appointed to the Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration. Remained a member of both the Defense and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee throughout the 85th, 86th, 87th and 88th Congresses. Was senior Republican on the Defense Subcommittee before becoming Minority Leader.

Maintained an attendance record of over 90 per cent throughout his 25-year tenure.

**EDUCATION** Was graduated from the former South High School in Grand Rapids. Later earned a B.A. degree in 1935 from the University of Michigan where he was a member of Michigamua, top senior honor. Received his law degree from Yale University Law School in 1941. Admitted to the Michigan State Bar (1941) and has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

In 1965, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Michigan State University and Albion, Aquinas and Spring Arbor Colleges; in 1968 by Buena Vista and Grove City Colleges; in 1972 by Belmont Abbey (N.C.) College; and in 1973 by Western Michigan University. Received a Doctor of Public Administration degree from American International College in 1968.

**SPORTS** Won all-city and all-state football honors in Grand Rapids during high school. While earning three varsity letters, was a member of the University of Michigan's undefeated national championship teams of 1932 and 1933, and was named Michigan's most valuable player in 1934, playing center.

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On New Year's Day, 1935, participated in the Shrine East-West Crippled Children's benefit classic in San Francisco. That August, played in the All-Star game against the Bears in Chicago. While a Yale law student, was assistant varsity football coach.

In 1959, was selected by "Sports Illustrated" to receive its Silver Anniversary All-American Award as one of the 25 football players in the preceding quarter century who had contributed most to their fellow citizens.

In 1972, was awarded the National Football Foundation's gold medal for close association with the game.

MILITARY SERVICE In 1942, entered the U.S. Navy, serving 47 months on active duty during World War II. Participated in 3rd and 5th Fleet carrier operations aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey (CVL-26) for two years. Following shore duty with the Naval Aviation Training Program, was released to inactive duty with rank of Lieutenant Commander in January, 1946.

POST WW-II CIVILIAN LIFE Returning to Grand Rapids, resumed law practice. Received the Grand Rapids JayCees Distinguished Service Award in 1948 for work in various community projects. The following year was named one of "America's Ten Outstanding Young Men" by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, receiving its Distinguished Service Award.

FAMILY On October 15, 1948, married Elizabeth Bloomer of Grand Rapids. The Fords have four children: Michael Gerald (born March 15, 1950); John Gardner (born March 16, 1952); Steven Meigs (born May 19, 1956); and Susan Elizabeth (born July 6, 1957).

Congressman Ford is a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids. He maintains active membership in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and AMVETS and is a 33rd Degree Mason.

FURTHER HONORS In November, 1963, was named by President Lyndon Johnson to the Warren Commission. Author (with John R. Stiles) of the book, "Portrait of the Assassin" (1965).

Served as permanent chairman of the 1968 and 1972 Republican National Conventions. Since becoming Minority House Leader, has delivered some 200 speeches annually throughout the country.

Visited The People's Republic of China in late June and early July 1972 on behalf of the President.

Lauded as a "Congressman's Congressman" by the American Political Science Association when it conferred on him its Distinguished Congressional Service Award in 1961. Was presented the George Washington Award by the American Good Government Society in May 1966.

Chosen by the American Academy of Achievement to receive the Golden Plate Award as one of fifty "giants of accomplishment," presented during the Academy's 10th annual Salute to Excellence in June, 1971.

Selected to receive the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award, that group's highest recognition of Congressional service, at ceremonies in Washington in April, 1971.

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ELECTIONS In the 1948 primary, Gerald Ford defeated the incumbent and went on to win his first term that November as Representative of Michigan's Fifth Congressional District. The district was then composed of Kent and Ottawa Counties. Due to reapportionment, which became effective with the 1964 election (for the following term), Ottawa was replaced by Ionia County. Another reapportionment slightly altered the district beginning with the 1972 election.

In the 1972 election, Ford received the highest vote total of any candidate in the area comprising the Fifth Congressional District.

5TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

<u>Election</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Ford</u>	<u>Opponents</u>	<u>Ford</u> <u>Majority</u>	<u>Winning</u> <u>Percentage</u>
1948 (Kent/Ottawa)-	74,191	-- 48,422	-- 27,219	--- 60.5
1950 -----	72,165	-- 36,303	-- 27,932	--- 66.7
1952 -----	109,807	-- 55,910	-- 54,660	--- 66.2
1954 -----	81,702	-- 47,453	-- 34,249	--- 63.3
1956 -----	120,349	-- 58,899	-- 61,450	--- 67.1
1958 -----	88,157	-- 50,203	-- 37,954	--- 63.7
1960 -----	131,461	-- 65,233	-- 66,228	--- 66.8
1962 -----	109,746	-- 54,044	-- 55,702	--- 67.0
1964 (Kent/Ionia)--	101,810	-- 64,488	-- 37,322	--- 61.2
1966 -----	92,794	-- 42,700	-- 50,094	--- 68.5
1968 -----	105,085	-- 62,219	-- 42,866	--- 62.8
1970 -----	88,208	-- 55,337	-- 32,871	--- 61.4
1972 -----	131,174	-- 81,573	-- 49,601	--- 61.7

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