

**The original documents are located in Box C24, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 7/16/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON

Trudy,

This is for the handwriting  
file as we discussed. I have  
sent a xerox with the retyped  
page <sup>in it</sup> back to Terry Wood as  
was requested.

Eleanor

7/16

July 16, 1975

TO: Terry Wood

FROM: Eleanor Connors

Per our conversation, I am returning the sketch of the President prepared by your office for inclusion in the book to be published by the National Park Service. It has been edited by the President and page 2 retyped to show the President's corrections. If you have any questions, please let me know. You can reach me at 456-6697.

encl.  
as noted

bcc: Dorothy Downton - FYI

Trudy Fry with original for Presidential Handwriting file



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM

FOR: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: DON RUMSFELD

Attached is a note I got from Terry Wood asking for a biog on the President and sending along this draft sketch of the President. The President has edited it. You should see that it is gotten over to Terry Wood.

Attachment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Washington

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Mr. Rumsfeld's office:

Please call me when this has been  
approved and I will have it picked up.

Thank you,

*Terry Wood*

Terry Wood - 343-8067 (183-38067) - 7-3-75

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of Terry Wood, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long vertical stroke extending upwards.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

K14-LS(PB)

JUL 3 1975

## Memorandum

To: Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Assistant to the President  
The White House

Through: Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Acting Director, National Park Service

Subject: "The Presidents"

We are enclosing for your clearance and approval a sketch of President Gerald R. Ford which is to appear in a hardcover book, "The Presidents," which will be published by the National Park Service as part of the series on The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings.

Previous volumes in the series include "Signers of the Declaration," "Soldier and Brave," and "Explorers and Settlers."

*Russell E. Dickinson*

Enclosure

Approved:

Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Assistant to the President



Gerald R. Ford

THIRTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENT (1974- )

Assuming office upon President Nixon's resignation, Ford moved quickly to foster a spirit of national unity. He also began creating programs to deal with the domestic problems of the Nation and enhance its role in world affairs. After 25 years of experience as a Member of the House of Representatives, he was appointed as Vice President under the 25th amendment to the Constitution. Although the first President to come to office who had never been a candidate in a nationwide election, he was the first Chief Executive to undergo an exhaustive congressional investigation into his qualifications.

Ford was born in 1913 at Omaha, Nebr. He was christened Leslie King, Jr., after his father, a wool dealer. About 2 years later, his parents divorced. His mother, Dorothy Gardner,

took the infant to her family home in Grand Rapids, Mich. The following year, she remarried. Her new husband, Gerald R. Ford, who was a paint salesman, adopted the child and gave him his own name. Along with three younger half-brothers, Ford, Jr., learned the value of hard work and community involvement.

Ford studied at public primary and secondary schools. At South High, he starred in football as center and team captain.

By 1929, his stepfather had organized a small paint manufacturing company, where young Gerald worked during vacations. *For three years while in high school*  
*In his senior*  
*year,* he was employed in a restaurant *part time.*

After graduation in 1931, Ford enrolled at the University of Michigan and concentrated in economics. Working year-round to help support himself, he held such jobs as a *bag-boy at the University Hospital + washing dishes in a fraternity house* (part-time waiter) and *(summer ranger at Yellowstone National Park.)* Despite this schedule and the attainment of a "B" average, he also managed to play football and was backup center on the school's national championship teams of 1932 and 1933. The next year, he made the first squad and was named as the team's "Most Valuable Player." In 1935 he took part in the College All-Star Game. That same year, he won his B.A. degree.

*this came while in Law School*  
Rejecting bids to play professional football, Ford joined the athletic staff of Yale University. While serving as an assistant football and boxing coach, *and a summer ranger at Yellowstone Park* he attended law school, where he ranked in the top third of his class. In 1941 he was awarded an LL.B degree.





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Before the year was out, Ford gained admittance to the Michigan bar and began practicing at Grand Rapids. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Navy as an ensign. He spent a substantial part of his tour of duty as an operations officer on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey in the Pacific. Early in 1946 he was discharged as a lieutenant commander.

Returning to Grand Rapids, Ford resumed his law career. His participation in civic organizations earned him two major awards for community service. In 1948 he married Elizabeth Bloomer Warren, a department-store fashion coordinator. They were to have three sons and one daughter.

Meanwhile, Ford's stepfather, a local Republican leader, and Michigan's U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, nationally known spokesman for a bipartisan internationalist foreign policy, had encouraged Ford in 1948 to challenge the district's incumbent U.S. Representative, an isolationist. After winning the Republican primary in a sweeping upset, Ford easily carried the general election.

In 12 subsequent bids for the same office, Ford regularly obtained more than 60 percent of the vote. During his 25 years of service in the House of Representatives (1949-73), the last 8 years of which he functioned as minority leader, he advanced Republican policies, figured prominently in party affairs, played a key role on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and

aspired to the House speakership. As a member of the Warren Commission, he helped investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

During the autumn of 1973, in the first application of the 25th amendment to the Constitution, President Nixon nominated Ford as Vice President to replace Spiro T. Agnew, who had resigned. After extensive hearings, both branches of Congress overwhelmingly confirmed the appointment.

On August 9, 1974, Nixon left office and Ford was inaugurated as the 38th President of the United States. One of his first actions, designed to contribute to national reconciliation in the wake of Watergate, was the pardon of his predecessor. Ford chose Nelson A. Rockefeller as his Vice President, and initiated the formulation of long-range domestic and international plans for his administration. Major emphasis was placed on programs to stimulate the economy, reduce inflation, insure ultimate U.S. independence in its energy needs, maintain global leadership, and help achieve world peace.

Beyond these commitments, President Ford sought to reaffirm and revitalize the Nation's sense of purpose as it prepared to celebrate its Bicentennial.