

GERALD R. FORD



FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John G. Baab
James A. Baker, III
Susan Ford Bales
Vaden Bales
Robert E. Barrett
Benton L. Becker
Lee C. Bollinger
David Brandon
Robert W. Browne
James Cannon
Red Cavaney
Richard Cheney
Mary Sue Coleman
William T. Coleman, Jr.
Douglas DeVos
John M. Engler
Michael G. Ford
Richard A. Ford
Steven M. Ford
Danny Gaydou
Alan Greenspan
Robert P. Griffin
James P. Hackett
Carla A. Hills
Roderick M. Hills
Robert L. Hooker
G. Richard Katzenbach
Thomas E. Kauper
David H. Kennerly
Henry A. Kissinger
James T. Lynn
John O. Marsh, Jr.
F. David Mathews
Stephen McConahey
M. Peter McPherson
Mark A. Murray
Terrence O'Donnell
Paul H. O'Neill
Leon W. Parma
Peter H. Pocklington
Roger B. Porter
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Brent Scowcroft
Peter F. Secchia
L. William Seidman
Joseph M. Sweeney
Frank A. Ursomarso
Steve Van Andel
Ronald Weiser
Frank G. Zarb

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Peter C. Cook
Richard M. DeVos
Ralph W. Hauenstein
Frederik G.H. Meijer
Seymour K. Padnos

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joseph S. Calvaruso

EX OFFICIO

Elaine Didier, Library/Museum Director
David Hoogendoorn, Assistant Treasurer
Diane VanAllsburg, Administrative Assistant

Betty Ford, *Honorary Chairperson*

John G. Ford, *Chairman*

Martin J. Allen, Jr., *Chairman Emeritus*
Gregory D. Willard, *Secretary*

Hank Meijer, *Vice Chairman*
David G. Frey, *Treasurer*

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY HELD AT THE TOMB OF PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 14, 2009 – In commemoration of the 96th birthday of President Gerald R. Ford, individual wreaths from President Barack Obama and from Mrs. Betty Ford and the Ford family were placed at President Ford's Tomb on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan during a ceremony earlier today.

The ceremony included Major General Thomas G. Cutler, Adjutant General, Michigan National Guard, who presented the wreath from President Obama. Dick Ford, President Ford's brother, and Fred Meijer, Doug DeVos and Steve Van Andel, close friends of Mrs. Betty Ford and the Ford family, presented the personal wreath from Mrs. Ford. Susan Ford Bales and her husband Vaden Bales, President and Mrs. Ford's daughter and son-in-law, presented a wreath from the Ford children and grandchildren.

"To Mother and my family, today's Wreath Laying Ceremony here at Dad's Tomb and the words you see upon his tomb represent in a very personal way the boundless love he gave to Mother and me and my brothers and the similar degree of lasting friendships he shared with many of you here in Grand Rapids," said Susan Ford Bales, daughter of President and Mrs. Ford.

This year's ceremony was organized by Mrs. Ford and the family. It is an annual tradition conducted by the Ford family each July 14 and is part of a long-standing tradition in which the President of the United States sends a wreath to the tomb of each deceased president on that president's birthday. Mrs. Ford and the Ford family also have their personal wreaths presented.

President Ford passed away on December 26, 2006.

#

For more information contact: Timothy J. Pietryga (616) 240-1883

For more information regarding the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and Library and for images of the ceremony this morning visit: www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov