

Post Presidency, 1977-2006 Artifacts



Primary Title:

Gold eagle figurine

Formal Title:

Freedom Eagle

Description:

A gold and platinum bald eagle figurine, mounted to an oval wooden base entitled "Freedom Eagle" by Randy Disselkoe. The eagle has its wings spread and is "flying" over a pile of rocks made of gold. On the front of the rocks is the presidential seal with diamonds, rubies, and sapphires inlaid. Below the seal are the words "Gerald R. Ford".

Historical Attributions:

Handwritten note in accession file hints at material content of this piece. It may be composed of 3.6 lbs of precious metal, 3 lbs of which is 18K, 1/4 lbs pure platinum, 1/4 lb of which is 14K, 6.25 of diamonds, rubies, and sapphires.

Credit Line:

Gift of Randy Disselkoe



Primary Title:

Horatio Alger Award

Description:

A bronze sculpture featuring the head of Horatio Alger. This head is attached to a cube base covered in a black formica surface, with a gold colored plaque that reads, "Horatio Alger Award / 1983 / Gerald R. Ford, Jr."

Credit Line:

Gift of Horatio Alger Association



Primary Title:

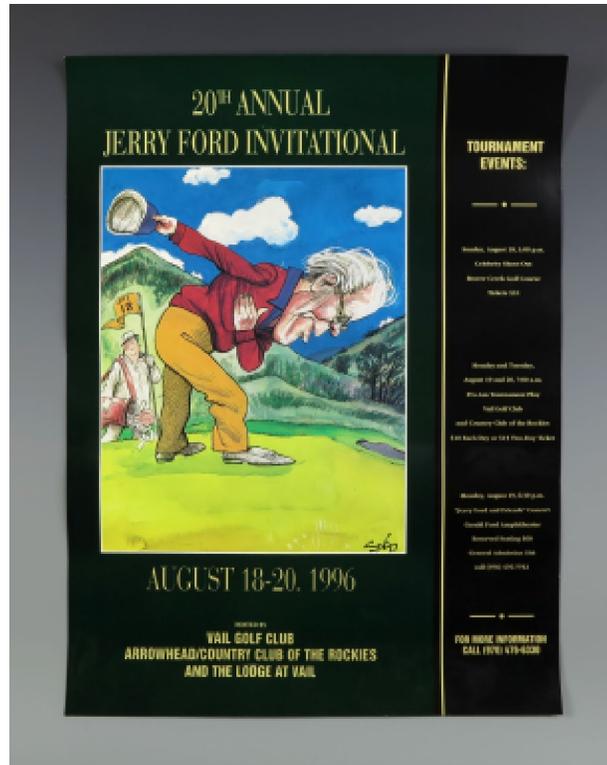
Jewish Memorial in box w/name plate

Description:

A wooden box lined with black velvet contains a bronze plate with a man's profile on the left side and a dedication to Lt. Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu for his rescue at Entebbe. The box also contains a loose gold-colored plate entitled "Yonatan Netanyahu Memorial Award" that was presented to Gerald R. Ford by the American Friends of the University of Jerusalem for his friendship to Israel and service to the advancement of human values.

Credit Line:

Gift of American Friends of the University of Jerusalem



Primary Title:

20th Jerry Ford Invitational Poster

Description:

A poster advertising the 20th Annual Jerry Ford Golf Invitational. At center is a full-color reprint of a caricature of Ford bowing on the golf green. The artist's signature is printed in the lower right corner. Above is text reading "20th Annual / Jerry Ford Invitational," while "August 18-20, 1996 / Hosted By / Vail Golf Club / Arrowhead/Country Club of the Rockies / And the Lodge at Vail" is printed below. A list of the tournament's events appears to the right of the image and text.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Formal Title:

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's Presidential Medal of Freedom and box
Presidential Medal of Freedom

This Presidential Medal of Freedom was awarded to Gerald R. Ford by President Bill Clinton, August 11, 1999, "for his legacy of healing and restored hope." The presidential Medal of Freedom was established in 1945 by President Harry Truman and is the nation's highest civilian honor. The medal and its accompanying parts are held within a wooden case.
Donor Unknown

Credit Line:



Primary Title:
Formal Title:
Description:

Gerald and Betty Ford Congressional Gold Medal
Congressional Gold Medal

The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Gerald and Betty Ford on October 27, 1999. The Congressional Gold Medal recognizes Americans for their dedication to public service and humanitarian contributions. President and Betty Ford received this honor for his work healing the nation after the Watergate scandal, and her contribution to breast cancer awareness and the hope she offered to substance abusers, due to her own recovery. The obverse of the medal features a portrait of Gerald and Betty Ford with the inscription "Gerald R. and Betty Ford" along the top border of the medal and "Act of Congress 1998" centered along the bottom border of the medal. The reverse features the motto "Liberty" centered along the top above the distinctive dome of the capitol building, with a swag of oak and laurel leaves underneath. The inscriptions, "Lives of Service", "Examples of Integrity", "President & First Lady" and "1949-1977" are in the center of the medal. Centered at the bottom of the reverse is our national symbol, the bald eagle. A star is arranged on both sides of the eagle to complete the design.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Ben Franklin Bust

In 1923 a young Warren Burger sculpted a bronze bust of Benjamin Franklin. In 1969 Burger became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and his bust of Franklin came to the attention of the Franklin Mint. The Mint, headquartered in Franklin's adopted home town of Philadelphia, cast twenty bronze and three silver copies of Burger's work in 1987, entrusting them to the artist to give as gifts to whomever he wished.

The Chief Justice gave one bronze replica to Gerald Ford sometime in his post-presidential years. Indeed, it was Burger who had administered the presidential oath to Ford in 1974. Ford had found Burger's conduct on the bench impressive, and when a seat of the Supreme Court had to be filled, Ford kept Burger's judicial views in mind. "Under Chief Justice (Earl) Warren, the Court had begun legislation by judicial decree instead of interpreting the law. Chief Justice Warren Burger had tried to limit federal jurisdiction and let state courts make more final judgments themselves. I thought his course was correct, and I sought someone who would agree with that view." Ford wanted to nominate someone who would work well with his Chief Justice.

The wooden base which the bust is affixed features a plaque

inscribed with, "Presented to Honorable Gerald R. Ford by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger".

Description:

This bronze-colored bust of Benjamin Franklin sits upon a wooden pedestal. The front of the base sports a brass plaque with an inscription reading "Presented to / Honorable Gerald R. Ford / by / Chief Justice Warren E. Burger." The bottom of the wood base features brown felt.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

CARE World Leadership Award

Formal Title:

The CARE World Leadership Award

Description:

This award (a) depicts a heavy metal circular structure with what resembles barbed wire spokes protruding from the sides. The metal is painted green and tarnished with smoky black coloring. An inscription on the front of the piece reads "The CARE World Leadership Award / in honor of / President Gerald Ford / for the Helsinki Accords / November 8, 1995." The award comes in a green felt box (b) secured by metal clasps.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:
Description:

Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana

This medal features a white, blue, and black cross that is mounted on a silver metal back with eight points and features a blue shield at the center of the cross. This piece is separate from the sash and a smaller medal. The smaller medal, also with a white, blue and black cross is mounted on a silver metal circle and attached to a blue sash. These pieces are for the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana for contributing to the freedom of the country Estonia. The sash and medals are encased in a white leather case with white satin and blue velvet within. The outside of the case features a small gold-colored symbol.

Historical Attributions:

This Order of The Cross of Terra Mariana was bestowed upon former President Gerald R. Ford in February 1996 by the Republic of Estonia as a decoration of the highest class on aliens who had rendered special services to the Republic of Estonia.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

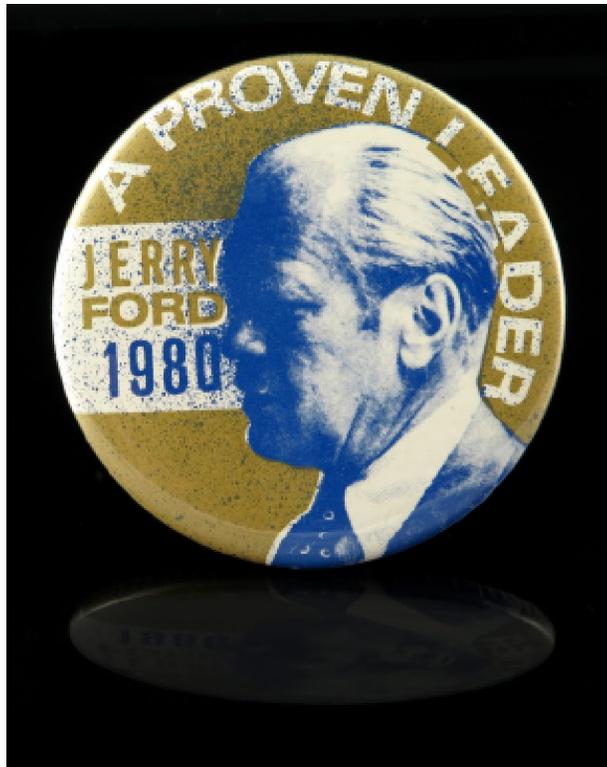
1980 Reagan/Ford Campaign Button

Description:

1980 Reagan/Ford Campaign Button. Button has a background of white and has red and blue letters printed on it. The buttons says "'Together... A New Beginning' Reagan & Ford July 17, 1980 Detroit Republican National Convention"

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

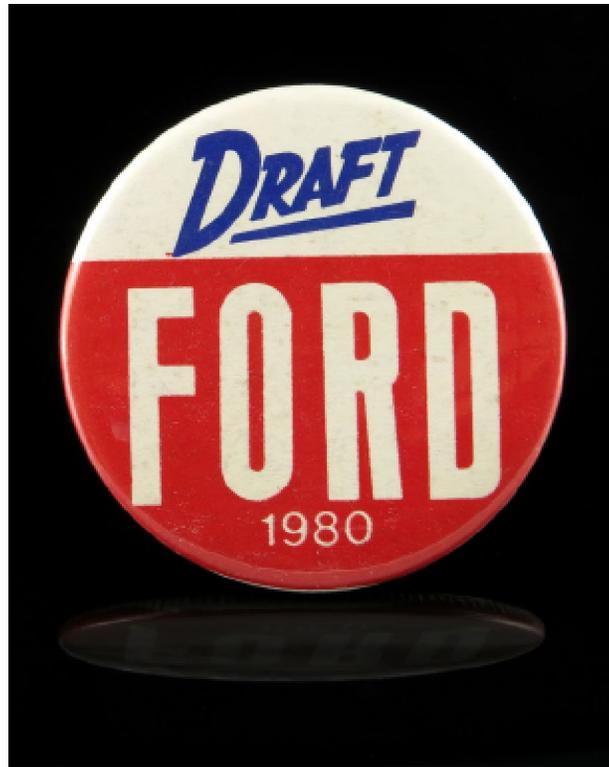
1980 Ford A Proven Leader Campaign Button

Description:

1980 Ford Campaign Button is printed in yellow, blue, and white. Button features a picture of Ford and says "Jerry Ford 1980 A Proven Leader."

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

1980 Draft Ford Campaign Button

Description:

Button is printed in red, white, and blue and says "Draft Ford 1980."

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

1980 Ford in Your Future Campaign Button

Button is printed in white, blue, and black and features a picture of President Ford. Writing on the button says "Put a Ford Back in Your Future Ford in 1980."

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

1980 Reagan / Ford Button

Description:

Button is printed in red and black on a white background and features a picture of Reagan and Ford. Buttons says "Put Them Together Reagan and Ford For Victory In 1980."

Credit Line:

Gift of Dr. Mark D. Griffith



Primary Title:

Ford Funeral artillery shell in display box

Description:

A wooden display box (a) reveals a silver-colored 105 millimeter expended artillery shell (b) through a glass window.

(a) This wooden display box with cherry finish features a front-facing glass window which reveals (b) atop a 2.5" tall wooden pedestal. Mounted on the front of the pedestal beneath the glass is a black-colored descriptive plaque, 5"x 2", commemorating the 21-gun salute at the final military honors for Gerald R. Ford at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The display box includes a removable back made of felt-lined particle board with a metal pin for securing (b). Four metal tabs twist to hold the backing in place. A gold-colored SpartaCraft, Inc. sticker is visible on the pedestal when backing is removed.

(b) A silver-colored 105 millimeter expended artillery shell sits upon a pedestal within the display box. There is text on the case head, side of the case, and the primer.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:
Description:

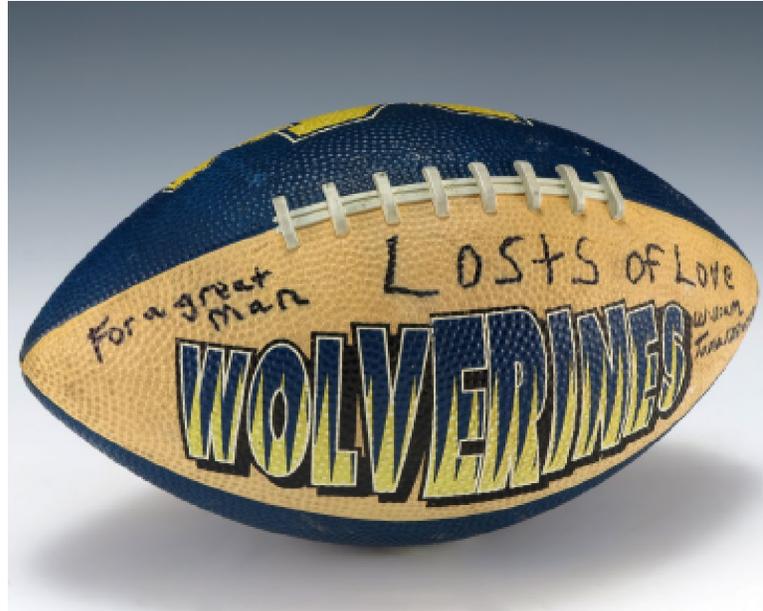
Ford Funeral rifle casing in display box
A wooden display box (a) reveals a brass rifle shell (b) through a glass window.

(a) This wooden display box with cherry finish features a front-facing glass window which reveals (b) encased in black (foam) and mounted on a wooden pedestal. On the front of the pedestal beneath the glass is a black-colored descriptive plaque, commemorating the 21-gun salute conducted January 3, 2007 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum during the Interment Service and final military honors for Gerald R. Ford. The display box includes a removable back made of felt-lined particle board. Four metal tabs twist to hold the backing in place. A gold-colored SpartaCraft, Inc. sticker is visible on the pedestal when backing is removed.

(b) A brass rifle shell sits within a cushioned encasement upon a pedestal within the display box. The shell features a cylindrical case that bevels to form a narrower, star-shaped nose.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

Wolverines Football

Description:

A University of Michigan football made of two yellow and two blue panels. One of the yellow panels features in large block letters the word "Wolverines" that contains both blue and yellow coloring inside them and one of the blue panels features a yellow "M". The football contains messages signed in black marker by fans of Gerald R. Ford.

Credit Line:

Gift of William Tomaszewski



Primary Title:

Boy Scout Belt Buckle

Description:

Silver colored belt buckle with text and stars surrounding an eagle on a red white and blue background

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Mini University of Michigan Football Helmet

Description:

This yellow University of Michigan mini football helmet features the number "03" on the left and right proper sides and the back contains a maker's sticker. The helmet contains five handwritten messages around the yellow section of the helmet.

Credit Line:

Gift of Belds and Vruginks



Primary Title:

Golf Ball

Description:

Golf ball with black printed text and blue handwritten text.

Credit Line:

Gift of BiLan Lian, Matt McDermott , Anita Man Lou, Sam McDermott, and Jeff McCarrel



Primary Title:

Golf Ball

Description:

White golf ball with printed text and handwritten text

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Golf Ball

Description:

White golf ball with printed and handwritten text.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

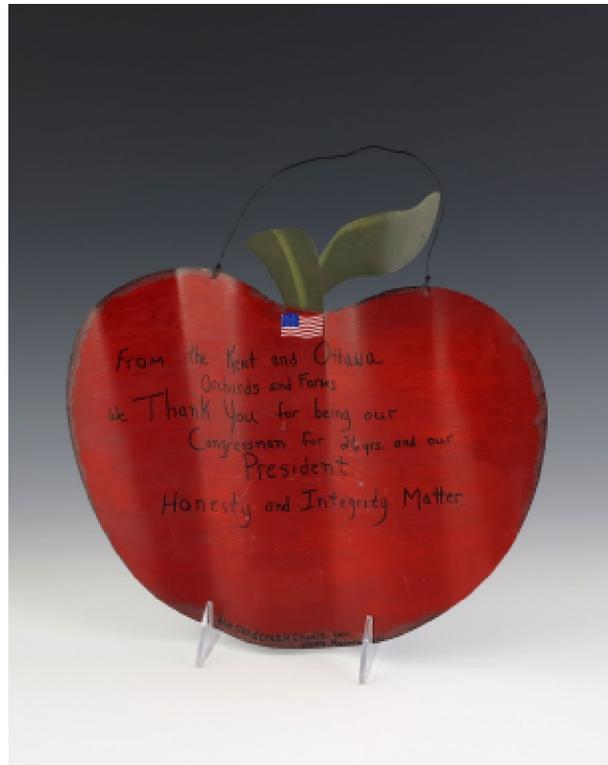
Golf Ball

Description:

White ball with printed and handwritten text.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Apple Sign

Description:

Apple shaped sign with text and an American flag below stem. The back of sign has stickers and hand written text

Credit Line:

Gift of Kent and Ottawa Orchards and Farms



Primary Title:

Metal Dove

Description:

Brass-colored metal dove holding an olive branch. Dove has text and a purple ribbon

Credit Line:

Gift of Chavez Family



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Michigan long-sleeved shirt

Yellow and blue University of Michigan long-sleeved shirt, signed in memorial. The right sleeve has a flag drawn on it.

Gift of the Zambrana Family



Primary Title:

Description:

Patriotic Bear

White bear with red hat with blue stringy band with white felt stars. There is text written under brim of hat. Bear has brown plastic eyes, black stitched nose and open pink mouth, red dress with white borders and bow in back, there is also a dark blue sash with gold stars on right shoulder is a yellow ribbon. Bear is holding a folded American Flag. Bear sings and sways to God Bless America when turned on and left paw pressed. A tag is on right proper side above zipper. Donor Unknown

Credit Line:



Primary Title:

Independence Hall Flag

Description:

American flag encased in a mahogany triangular case with a glass front and a gold-colored label. Three stars of the flag are showing from the front.

Credit Line:

Gift of Independence National Historical Park



Primary Title:

Flag Memorial Plaque

Description:

Plaque left at memorial. Plaque has a flag painted on the front with a wooden gold star attached to the blue field of the flag. Right proper edge of plaque has metal wire attached to make a hanger. Handwritten text is on flag stripes and back of flag.

Credit Line:

Gift of the Goldner Family



Primary Title:

Memorial Football

Description:

This brown practice football features the University of Michigan "M" drawn on it and the memorial text in silver ink of "Gerald R. Ford / A True American / and hometown / hero." The ball, made by Wilson, is official size. Julie Setlock left football at President Ford's memorial.

Credit Line:

Gift of Setlock Family