

Tribute Gallery Artifacts



Primary Title:

Label Text:

Helsinki Medal - Finland

Urho Kekkonen, president of Finland and host of the 1975 Helsinki Accords, gave this solid brass medallion to President Ford during his time in Finland in 1975. Thirty-five states came together on August 1, 1975 to sign the Helsinki Accords, the first act of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This major step on the road to ending the Cold War called for compromise between the Soviet and Western blocs. The Soviet Union gained recognition of their new national boundaries; however, they had to accept clauses calling for the protection of basic human rights, especially in their Eastern European countries. Four inches in diameter, this small medal depicts on its front side Finlandia Hall, the building where the historical meeting took place. The back features a raised geometric pattern. Text etched onto the sides of the medallion reads, "Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe," the group of countries that organized the Helsinki Accords. This group eventually became today's Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the world's largest security-focused intergovernmental organization. The medal sits in a wooden box lined with brown velvet. A gold plaque on the lid

also displays the name of the conference and "Helsinki 1975." A small envelope accompanies the item. Addressed on the front to "S. Exc. M. Gerald Ford," it contains a note with President Kekkonen's name and his title written in French.

It remains a mystery if President Kekkonen gave this gift exclusively to President Ford, or if every signatory to the Helsinki Accords received the same one. However, it represents a successful moment in President Ford's foreign policy in the easing of tensions with the Soviet Union amidst the Cold War.

Description:

A wooden box with an engraved metal panel in front that reads, "Conference on Security / and Cooperation in Europe / Helsinki 1975". The inside of box has a brown velvet interior as well as a white envelope, which in black ink reads, "S. Exec. M. Gerald Ford".

Historical Attributions:

The Helsinki medal was presented at the conference on Security and Cooperation in Finland by President Urho Kekkonen.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Sculpture of David slaying Goliath - Israel

Description:

A sterling silver statue of David slaying Goliath by Yaacov Heller. The sculpture is mounted on an orange marble base. A metal plate on the front of the base reads "Yaacov Heller" in script and "Jerusalem Israel" in print.

Credit Line:

Gift of Yitzhak Rabin



Primary Title:

Description:

Mini barrel of crude oil with plaque

This transparent plastic replica of oil barrel filled with crude oil sits mounted on a wooden base with a gold-colored metal plaque. This is the first shipment of crude oil from the North Crude Oil, via the Alaskan Pipeline. Sent to President Ford by Lodwick M. Cook, President of ARCO Transportation Company, on February 26, 1980.

Credit Line:

Gift of Lodwick M. Cook, President, ARCO Transportation Company



Primary Title:

Formal Title:

Description:

Kennedy Profile in Courage award - Gerald R. Ford

John F Kennedy Profile in Courage Award

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is annually awarded to those in elected office who, acting in accord with their conscience, risk their careers by pursuing a larger vision of the national, state or local interest in opposition to popular or powerful pressures from their constituents or other groups. Gerald R. Ford was the 2001 recipient of the award for his decision to pardon former President Richard M. Nixon after the Watergate scandal, this choice contributed to his loss of in 1976 election to Jimmy Carter. The award is a silver lantern, crafted by Tiffany & Co., and is styled after a Lantern from the USS Constitution, America's oldest commissioned warship.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford