

Youth, 1913-1948 Artifacts



Primary Title:

Gerald Ford's khaki Naval shirt

Description:

A khaki chino naval shirt with plastic buttons down the front and at the cuffs and collar. The shirt has long sleeves and a breast pocket. There are stamps on the inside of shirt that are illegible and a stamp at the hem of the shirt that reads, "Ford."

Historical Attributions:

This shirt was worn by Lt. Gerald R. Ford while he served in the U.S. Navy and on the USS Monterey during World War II.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Ford's Boy Scout Sash

Description:

This artifact is a brown Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge sash containing 26 merit badges and two rank advancements.

Historical Attributions:

This sash was used by Gerald R. Ford when he was in the Boy Scouts.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

WWII Medals in a Shadowbox - Gerald Ford WWII Medals
Three WWII medals, a pin, a small metal eagle and a small plaque are all housed inside a shadow box style frame. The frame is wooden with a royal blue cloth background. The medals have blue, yellow and red striped ribbons attached, and each medal depicts different scenes. The box contains an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal, along with a Philippine Liberation Ribbon and a Navy garrison cap insignia device. Engraved on the plaque is "Presented to LCDR Gerald R. Ford, Jr. / United States Naval Reserve / 1942-1963 / By J. William Middendorf II / Secretary of the Navy".

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Gerald R. Ford's Eagle Scout medal

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's Eagle Scout award medal features a metal eagle hanging from a red, white, and blue ribbon with the slogan "Be Prepared".

Historical Attributions:

Gerald R. Ford became an Eagle Scout on November 11, 1927 in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the age of 14.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



- Primary Title:* Gerald Ford's Medal - Michigan HS Athletic Assoc. Discus 1930
- Description:* The silver-colored medal hangs from a red, white, and blue ribbon. Around the rim of the medal, it reads, "Michigan High School / Athletic Assn".
- Historical Attributions:* Gerald R. Ford earned the discus medal in track at South High School in 1930 from the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- Credit Line:* Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title: Gerald Ford's Medal - Michigan HS Athletic Assoc. Javelin 1929

Description: The gold-colored medal reads, "29 / Michigan / H S A A / Regional Meet" and features a foot with wings.

Historical Attributions: Gerald R. Ford earned this medal in track at South High School from the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Awarded for javelin in 1929.

Credit Line: Gift of Gerald R. Ford



- Primary Title:* Gerald Ford's Medal - Michigan HS Athletic Assoc. Discus 1930
- Description:* The gold-medal reads, "30 / Michigan / HSAA / Regional Meet" and features a foot with wings.
- Historical Attributions:* Gerald R. Ford earned this discus medal in track at South High School in 1930 from the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- Credit Line:* Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Gerald Ford's MHSAA Medal - 1931 South High School

Formal Title:

Josten

Description:

The small circular high school athletic medal's front has a beveled look and shows the logo of the Michigan High School Athletic Association surrounded by five different sports. A small loop is at the top of medal. The back side has an engraving which reads "Class A / 2nd / Discus".

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



- Primary Title:* 1934 University of Michigan Most Valuable Player Award Football Medal
- Description:* Text on the front of the football reads, "Chicago Tribune Award," while text on the back reads, "Gerald Ford / Most Valuable / To Team."
- Historical Attributions:* The medal is from the University of Michigan for the Most Valuable Player Award given to Gerald R. Ford in 1934.
- Credit Line:* Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Gerald R. Ford's Baby Booties

Description:

The artifact is Gerald R. Ford's cream-colored baby booties.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

White Christening or baptismal gown

Description:

The baptismal / christening gown is a long white piece with a flower design on the bottom front.

Historical Attributions:

The white gown was worn by Gerald R. Ford during his baptism as a toddler.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

White baptismal baby gown

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's baptismal / christening gown is made of cotton, lace and plastic. The small white gown has a ruffled hem, lace at the sleeves and neck of the gown, and plastic buttons down the back.

Credit Line:

Gift of Elaine Thompson in memory of Charlotte Werner Burt



Primary Title:

Description:

Gerald Ford's 1931 South High School Indian Relays Medal
Gerald Ford's 1931 South High School Indian Relays Medal is a silver-tone metal with a loop at the top. The front shows a man with discus and laurel leaves on both sides. On the bottom of the front side is, "1931." On one side is an engraving that reads, "2nd / Indian Relays / WK Shcridde Co. Chicago."

Historical Attributions: From a meet on May 2, 1931, in which the South High "Trojans" competed against the Ottawa "Indians."

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Ceremonial Peace Pipe

Description:

A "ceremonial peace pipe" of the Michigamua secret society of the University of Michigan. The pipe is made of wood and features a long stem and has a symbol of crossed arrows under the bowl. The pipe was once stolen from the group but later returned.

Historical Attributions:

The pipe was presented by the Michigamua secret society to their former member Gerald "Flipp'um Back" Ford on his election to the House of Representatives in November 1948.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Commemorative Plate South High School

Description:

A white-colored, porcelain plate depicting South High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the front in red. The plate has a gold-colored rim and red text under the picture that reads, "South High School / Grand Rapids, Michigan". On the back of the piece is a brief history of the building typed in black.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Yale Helmet Plaque

Description:

A half of a Yale football helmet featured in a frame in addition with an engraved plate. The helmet is white with a grey mask and a blue "Y" located in the middle. The plate is located in the bottom-left on the front and reads, "Gerald R. Ford / Football Line Coach / Yale University 1935-1940 / For God, For Country and for Yale / From Yale Football Staff / February 7, 1977."

Credit Line:

Gift of Yale University



Primary Title: 1932 University of Michigan Team Football
Description: A worn dark brown leather football with a waffle pattern. The football features the signatures of the 1932 University of Michigan football team, including Gerald R. Ford.
Historical Attributions: Gift of Margaret Savage James, sister to Carl M. Savage (guard from the 1932 University of Michigan football team)
Credit Line: Gift of Margaret Savage James



Primary Title:

Discus from South High School

Description:

The outer edge of the discus consists of steel while the inner part contains mostly wood.

Historical Attributions:

A discus used by Gerald R. Ford in practice and competition 1930-1931 at South High School, Grand Rapids. Leon A. Joslin, one of Ford's football, basketball, and track teammates, donated the disc. Like Ford, Leon Joslin remained athletic all his life, breaking records in discus and shotput at age 98.

Credit Line:

Gift of Leon A. Joslin



Primary Title:

Life Ring - USS Monterey

Description:

A white life ring from the USS Monterey, which features black text printed on the front that reads, "USS MONTEREY" on the top and "CVL 26" along the bottom. A white colored rope attached to the bottom of the ring, there was rope across the top, but it has been lost. Gerald Ford served on the Monterey during WW2.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Description:

All State Football Trophy - South High School

The cup is made of metal (tin?) and is painted silver. It has an open mouth at the top, and two side handles. The front is engraved with information about the south high school all state football players. The theory (as of February 2013) is that this trophy lists South High football players that worked for Mr. Skougis over the years at Bill's Place - his burger joint/soda fountain/candy shop across the street from South High. The number following each name represents the year the player achieved "all state" in football. We confirmed Lester Nelson and Gerald Ford in the yearbooks. Further research is needed.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Gerald Ford silver football trophy

Formal Title:

Chicago Alumni Award

Description:

A Sterling silver football trophy of Gerald Ford's featuring a life size football on a pedestal, a top a black plastic base with a silver inscription plate on the side. This Chicago Alumni Award (later renamed the Meyer Morton Award) signifies the player that has shown the most progress in Spring drills. Meyer Morton presented it to 18-year-old Gerald Ford at a banquet on May 12, 1932. Ford was the first center to receive the award since it's inception in 1925. Also see newspaper - 1991.7.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:
Description:

Gerald Ford's University of Michigan football helmet
A leather football helmet believed to be Gerald Ford's from his University of Michigan days. The helmet features the Michigan Wolverines logo. The front is embossed, "MOS / Spaulding," with "Pat'D No 1.864.104" on the back. Ventilation holes are located along the top of the helmet.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Lighter - USS Monterey

Description:

This is a Zippo lighter which bears an image of the USS Monterey. Gerald R. Ford served on the USS Monterey in WWII. The lighter is silver, with a black etching of the Monterey on the front and "U.S.S MONTEREY" in red text beneath it.

Credit Line:

Gift of Isabelle Bauer



Primary Title:

Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity paddle

Description:

A wooden fraternity paddle featuring the Greek letters Delta, Kappa, and Epsilon, which was the fraternity that President Ford was a member of. An inscription is written in the corner. There is a rawhide hanging strap on top.

Credit Line:

Gift of Delta Pi Chapter, Delta Kappa Epsilon



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald Ford's Navy dog tags - USS Monterey
Gerald R. Ford's Navy Dog tags from World War II that feature a silver coloration with a long silver chain.
Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald Ford's Navy ID bracelet - USS Monterey

Gerald Ford's Navy ID Bracelet from World War II featuring etched on text on the flat metal part of the ID.

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald R. Ford's Navy bars - USS Monterey

Gerald R. Ford's Navy Lieutenant Bars featuring a silver coloration with two pins on the back.

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald Ford's Navy bars - USS Monterey

Gerald R. Ford's Navy bars that feature a silver coloration with two pins on the back.

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Credit Line:

Gerald Ford's Navy Pin-Oak Leaf

Gerald Ford's Lieutenant Commander gold oak leaf pin featuring two pin backings.

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:
Formal Title:
Description:

U of M map showing campus in 1933
University of Michigan Campus in 1933
A framed map of the campus of the University of Michigan in 1933 that is signed by the drawer, P. Bukovsky. It is framed behind glass and enclosed in a wooden frame. On the back is a key to identifying the buildings.

Credit Line:

Gift of A.F. Dyer



Primary Title:

Gerald R. Ford's baby bonnet

Description:

A light brown baby bonnet worn by Gerald R. Ford and made by his mother, Dorothy Ford. The bonnet features a lace exterior, a silk lining, and a light brown satin ribbon with a bow attached to the back. The lower portion contains blue and pink flowers made of cotton thread.

Historical Attributions:

Donor's Mother, Artie Seeley, was friend of Dorothy Ford. Together they made lolls and researched antique dolls. Time period covered 1960's -70's. Dorothy gave Artie the bonnet during this time Artie gave Susan a doll she made. Some of the objects in this collection were given to Artie a "thank you" for that doll.

Credit Line:

Gift of the estate of Artie Seeley



Primary Title:

Boy Scout Statue

Description:

A bronze statue of Gerald R. Ford as a 16-year-old Eagle Scout presented to Ford by the Gerald R. Ford Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The statue shows Ford in his Eagle Scout uniform, holding his hat in his left hand and looking forward. He stands on a square base. Charles Parks made the piece.

Historical Attributions:

This statue is a copy of the life-size statue that stands outside the DeVos Family Center for Scouting in Grand Rapids and is created by the same artist. A letter accompanying the statue notes that Ford is the only U.S. President to have earned an Eagle Scout rank.

Credit Line:

Gift of Boy Scouts of America



Primary Title:

Description:

Photograph - 1934 University of Michigan Football Team
A framed black and white team photograph of the 1934 University of Michigan football team. Each team member wears his uniform, including Gerald R. Ford, number 48, pictured at center. An inscription on the back lower left proper corner provides the names of each player. White matting and a black wooden frame house the photograph.
Gift of Gerald R. Ford

Credit Line:



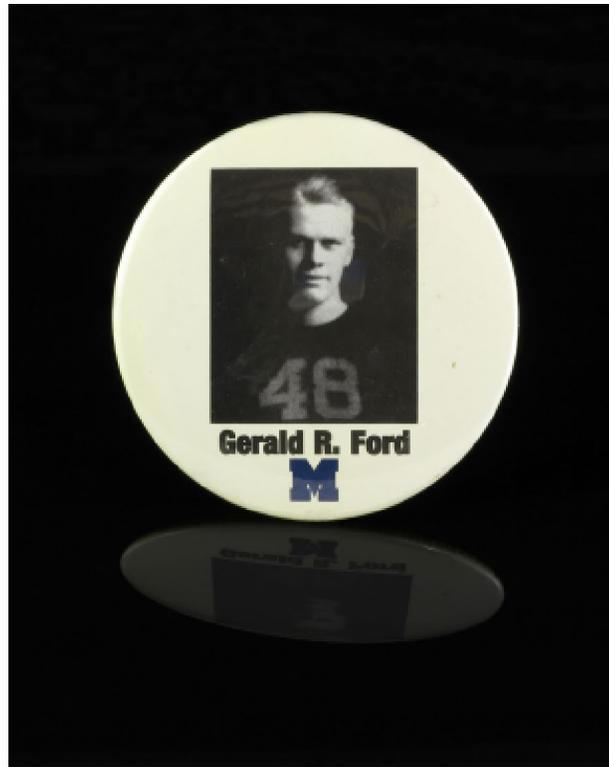
Primary Title:
Description:

1931 South High School Yearbook

A 1931 yearbook issued by South High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The book features a beige hardcover with gold-colored embossed text at center reading "Annual / Pioneer / 1931." Black and white photos of students, faculty, and academic and extracurricular activities appear throughout the book, along with the signatures of students. Gerald Ford appears in a football team photo on page 86.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Description:

Ford Football Button

A white Ford campaign button that features a black and white photo of a young Gerald Ford in his number 48 University of Michigan football jersey. The black text under the photo reads: "Gerald R. Ford," with the University of Michigan logo beneath it.

Credit Line:

Gift of Marty Allen



Primary Title:

Description:

Gerald Ford's Congressional Typewriter and Case

A typewriter owned and used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. (a) This manual typewriter features a black metal frame and silver circular keys which are covered with plastic and bear white lettering. The metal framing of the carriage and the carriage return contain silver metal handles. The key arms are silver metal as well and can be viewed through a cavity in the top plate. The typewriter rests on four legs with rubber pads on the bottom.

(b) The typewriter case is black, made of wood, and covered in black textile. It contains metal hinges on the outside and a black plastic handle with metal hinges. The inside contains two metal tracks, each of which have two fasteners that lock the typewriter in for transportation. A black metal frame appears to have held something; this is underneath the lid.

Credit Line:

Gift of Betty Ford



Primary Title:

Life-Size Gerald R. Ford Eagle Scout Statue - Boy Scouts of America

Formal Title:

Gerald R. Ford Eagle Scout

Description:

Life-Size Gerald R. Ford Eagle Scout Statue commissioned by the Gerald R. Ford Council of Boy Scouts of America in 2008. The bronze statue features a likeness of Gerald R. Ford at age 16 as an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and sits upon a red granite base.

Credit Line:

Gift of Mike Sulgrove, Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America



Primary Title:

Description:

Ford Paint & Varnish Co. paint can

This Ford Paint & Varnish Co. paint can features a paper label with the Ford family seal, the label contains an brown and white background and the paint inside is labeled as white gloss.

Credit Line:

Gift of Timothy J. Pietryga



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Gerald Ford's All-Star Football Helmet

On August 29, 1935, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan named Gerald R. Ford took the field with a collegiate all-star squad against the Chicago Bears. Around 77,500 fans endured rain that deteriorated into a downpour to watch the spectacle at Soldiers Field. The play-for-pay gridders snatched a 5 to 0 victory from their collegiate challengers. It was the last time Ford suited up for a football game – having turned down offers from the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers. This final football uniform worn by Ford highlights his athletic heritage and a unique football tradition that lasted decades.

Arch Ward, famous sports editor of the Chicago Tribune, devised the Chicago College All-Star Game the year prior to help professional football gain traction in the sports world. Ward tapped into his vast network of cooperating newspapers to draw national attention to the event. Hundreds of reporters would descend on Chicago each summer to cover the training, players, coaches, and the game itself. Once established, the All-Star game quickly became the most significant preseason event each year up to its demise in 1976. All proceeds, totaling millions of dollars over time, went to local Chicago charities.

One fascinating component to the event involved the selection process. All the collegiate all-stars were selected by a public vote held through participating newspapers across the nation. Football fans cast over 737,000 votes to pick the all-stars for the 1935 game. Hence, Gerald Ford's

participation in 1935 not only marked his athletic prowess, but also his ability to garner votes. He would put those skills to work over a decade later vying for Michigan's 5th district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Description:

An antiquated Spalding football helmet Gerald Ford wore during the 1935 Chicago College All-Star Game. The All-Star game placed the top senior collegiate football players against the runner up team in the NFL Championship for that year. (The runner up Chicago Bears would beat the All-Stars 5-0). The helmet has a faded yellow exterior color with red and blue stripes intersecting the top of the helmet. The top of the helmet also has eight holes evenly spaced around the helmet. The white stitching is noticeable throughout the exterior. The ear pads are considerably discolored and rough by the chin strap apertures. The ear pads also contain holes within the center. The exterior back center of the helmet is labeled "MOS" with "Spalding" directly beneath it. Above this label is a denotation for the helmet size reading "7 3/8." The inside of the helmet has straps running alongside the stripes of the exterior. The straps converge at the top center of the helmet into a stitched leather circle. A cotton exterior lies behind the straps. The cotton is dinged and depressed rings are noticeable around the helmet holes. The mark 7 3/8 appears again on the strap leading toward the back of the helmet. The interior lower portion of the back of helmet has a fitted patch of leather with a text written in black marker, "G - Ford - 1935 - Coll. - All Stars" The rest of the cotton on the interior lower portion bears fragmentary tan stains.

Credit Line:

Gift of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Gerald Ford's All-Star Football Jersey

On August 29, 1935, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan named Gerald R. Ford took the field with a collegiate all-star squad against the Chicago Bears. Around 77,500 fans endured rain that deteriorated into a downpour to watch the spectacle at Soldiers Field. The play-for-pay gridders snatched a 5 to 0 victory from their collegiate challengers. It was the last time Ford suited up for a football game – having turned down offers from the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers. This final football uniform worn by Ford highlights his athletic heritage and a unique football tradition that lasted decades.

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Description:

A gold durene wool-blend jersey that Gerald Ford wore during the 1935 Chicago College All-Star Game. The All-Star game placed the top senior collegiate football players against the runner up team in the NFL Championship for that year. (The runner up Chicago Bears would beat the All-Stars 5-0). The neck cuff is dark blue. Red, white, and blue stripes run from collar to cuff on the side of full length arm sleeves. A red polyester number twenty-three with a faint shine is imprinted across the chest area and on the upper back of the jersey. There are small holes throughout the sleeves along with fragmentary brown stains around the jersey.

Credit Line:

Gift of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation



Primary Title:

Label Text:

Gerald Ford's All-Star Football Uniform Pants

On August 29, 1935, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan named Gerald R. Ford took the field with a collegiate all-star squad against the Chicago Bears. Around 77,500 fans endured rain that deteriorated into a downpour to watch the spectacle at Soldiers Field. The play-for-pay gridders snatched a 5 to 0 victory from their collegiate challengers. It was the last time Ford suited up for a football game – having turned down offers from the Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers. This final football uniform worn by Ford highlights his athletic heritage and a unique football tradition that lasted decades.

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Description:

A pair of size 34 gold satin football pants Gerald Ford wore during the 1935 Chicago College All-Star Game. The All-Star game placed the top senior collegiate football players against the runner up team in the NFL Championship for that year. (The runner up Chicago Bears would beat the All-Stars 5-0). The pants contain the original leather belt with a metallic silver colored buckle. The belt is positioned within a belt compartment wrapping around the waist. Golden colored laces cover the crotch. Thigh pads and kneed pads are contained under the exterior. Red, white, and blue woolen stripes descend down from the belt to the calves. The pants are faded most noticeably below the knees. Small holes appear throughout the woolen stripes. Several other brown or black stains tinge the pants.

Credit Line:

Gift of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation