

**Guide to the Post-Presidential Correspondence with
Gerald R. Ford
(1976-1993)**

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

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Date Completed: December 2004

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Post-Presidential Correspondence with Gerald R. Ford (1976-1993)

Creator: Susan Naulty

Extent: .25 document box (.06 linear ft.)

Repository: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard
Yorba Linda, California 92886

Abstract: This collection contains correspondence relating to Gerald and Betty Ford and Richard Nixon from 1976 to 1993. Topics discussed include Presidential Museums and Libraries, a proposed Presidential pension increase, POW/MIA affairs, get well messages, and wedding announcements for the Ford children.

Administrative Information

Access: Open

Publication Rights: Copyright held by Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation.

Preferred Citation: "Folder title". Box #. Post-Presidential Correspondence with Gerald R. Ford (1976-1993). Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, Yorba Linda, California.

Acquisition Information: Gift of Richard Nixon

Processing History: Originally processed and separated by Susan Naulty prior to September 2003, reviewed by Greg Cumming December 2004, preservation and finding aid by Kirstin Julian February 2005.

Biography

Richard Nixon was born in Yorba Linda, California, on January 9, 1913. After graduating from Whittier College in 1934, he attended Duke University Law School. After passing the bar exam he joined the firm of Bewley, Knoop, & Nixon in Whittier, California, leaving to enter the Navy from 1942 to 1944. He was elected to Congress in 1947 serving until 1950. Nixon then became a Senator (1951-1953) and in 1952 joined Eisenhower as the Vice-presidential Candidate on the Republican presidential ticket. After losing a 1960 bid for the Presidency and a 1962 California Gubernatorial election, Nixon joined the law firm of Mudge, Stern, Baldwin, and Todd in New York. Nixon decided to enter the 1968 presidential election and was elected 37th President of the United States. He resigned; facing impeachment charges for possible involvement in a cover-up in August 1974 after the Watergate scandal broke.

After his resignation President Nixon wrote several best selling books. Beginning in the 1980's he served as an "elder statesman" offering his thoughts and opinions to various Presidents until his death in 1994.

Nixon biographical sketch compiled from *RN: A Memoir*, and the collection.

Gerald Ford was born Leslie Lynch King, Jr., the son of Leslie Lynch King and Dorothy Ayer Gardner King on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska. From 1931 to 1935 Ford attended The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he majored in economics and political science. Ford earned his LL.B. degree from Yale in 1941. His introduction to politics came in the summer of 1940 when he worked in Wendell Willkie's presidential campaign. In April 1942, Ford joined the U.S. Naval Reserve, receiving a commission as an ensign and was discharged as a lieutenant commander in February 1946. When he returned to Grand Rapids, Ford became a partner in the law firm of Butterfield, Keeney, and Amberg. Gerald Ford served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 1949 to December 6, 1973. In 1963 President Johnson appointed Ford to the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In both the 1968 and 1972 elections Ford was a loyal supporter of Richard Nixon, who had been a friend for many years. In 1968 Ford was again considered as a vice presidential candidate. Ford backed the President's economic and foreign policies and remained on good terms with both the conservative and liberal wings of the Republican Party. When Spiro Agnew resigned the office of Vice President of the United States late in 1973, Gerald R. Ford was chosen to fill the office. Following the most thorough background investigation in the history of the FBI, Ford was confirmed and sworn in on December 6, 1973.

Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as President of the United States on August 9, 1974, stating that "the long national nightmare is over. Our Constitution works." Ford decided to grant a pardon to Richard Nixon prior to the filing of any formal criminal charges. The decision may have cost him the election in 1976, but President Ford always maintained that it was the right thing to do for the good of the country. On two separate trips to California in September 1975, Ford was the target of assassination attempts by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme and Sara Jane Moore.

Upon returning to private life, President and Mrs. Ford moved to California where they built a new house in Rancho Mirage. President Ford's memoirs, *A Time to Heal: The Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford*, were published in 1979. Following the Humor and the Presidency Conference hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor, MI and the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, MI, President Ford's book *Humor and the Presidency* was published (1987). Since leaving office, President Ford continued to actively participate in the political process and to speak out on important political issues such as Congressional/White House relations, federal budget policies, and domestic and foreign policy.

Ford biographical sketch compiled from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum Website.

Scope and Content Summary: This collection contains correspondence relating to Gerald and Betty Ford and Richard Nixon from 1976 to 1993. The correspondence consists of letters, telegrams, a portion of dictation relating to Richard Nixon's 1972 trip to China, and invitations. Topics discussed include Presidential Museums and Libraries, a proposed Presidential pension increase, POW/MIA affairs, get well messages, and wedding announcements for the Ford children.

Related Collections: Post-Presidential Correspondence with Jimmy Carter (1976-1990)

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Ann Arbor, MI

Container List

Correspondence	Box:Folder
Photo	1:5
Ford, Gerald and Betty. [2 folders]	1:6-7

NB: Post-Presidential Correspondence with President Carter in the first half of the box.