

Timeline of President Gerald R. Ford's Life and Career

July 14, 1913	Gerald R. Ford is born as Leslie Lynch King, Jr. in Omaha, Nebraska.
July 30, 1913	Fleeing an abusive relationship, Dorothy Gardner King and her two-week old son leave Omaha and with her parents relocate to Grand Rapids, Michigan.
December 19, 1913	Dorothy King's divorce from Leslie King is finalized in an Omaha court.
February 1, 1916	Dorothy King marries Gerald R. Ford, Sr., a Grand Rapids businessman.
1918-1925	Young Ford attends elementary school at Madison Elementary in Grand Rapids, MI. He briefly attends East Grand Rapids Elementary while the family lived there.
1925	On his twelfth birthday, Ford joins the local Boy Scout Troop 15 of Trinity Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, MI. In November 1927 he attains the rank of Eagle Scout.
1925-1931	Ford attends South High School in Grand Rapids, MI for junior high and high school. He excels at football, being named to the "All-City" and "All-State" teams. He also works at his father's paint factory and a local hamburger stand.
1931-1935	Ford attends the University of Michigan. He plays center on the football team and is named Most Valuable Player on the 1934 team. He also joins the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.
1935	Ford plays in the East-West Shrine Game and receives pro football contract offers from the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions.
June 1935	Ford graduates from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Economics.
September 1935	Yale University hires Ford to be an assistant football and boxing coach.
December 3, 1935	He legally changes his name to Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
Summer 1936	Ford works as an Intern Forest Ranger at Yellowstone Park's Canyon Station.
Summer 1937	Ford attends law classes at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.
February 1938	Ford is accepted to Yale University Law School. He begins classes in the fall while continuing to coach. While at Yale, Ford supports the isolationist America First Committee as America sees war spread across Europe.
Summer 1938	Ford attends law classes at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.
March 12, 1940	Ford appears in a photograph spread in Look Magazine with then girlfriend Phyllis Brown, a model for Cosmopolitan Magazine.
Fall 1940	Ford volunteers for the Wendell Willkie presidential campaign in New York City. As a volunteer, he attends his first Republican convention in Philadelphia.
Spring 1941	Ford graduates in the top third of his law school class at Yale.

May 1941	Ford returns to Grand Rapids and partners with friend Philip Buchen to open a law firm located in Suite 621 of the Michigan Trust Building. He also becomes active in local politics helping launch a reform group opposed to the Republican political machine of Frank D. McKay
February 1942- May 1942	With the U.S. entrance into World War II, Ford volunteers for the Navy. He is assigned to the Navy's V-5 pre-flight program in Annapolis, Maryland to become a physical training instructor. Upon completion, he is sent to Chapel Hill, North Carolina as an athletic training officer.
Summer 1943- December 1944	Ford is assigned to sea duty aboard the carrier USS Monterey as the ship's athletic officer and one of the ship's gunnery officers. He sees action in the Pacific Theater aboard the USS Monterey in the Battle of Makin. The ship also takes part in attacks against Kwajalein and Eniwetok, New Guinea, Saipan, Guam, and Formosa. He also survives a typhoon in the Pacific that batters the Monterey on December 18, 1944.
Spring 1945	Ford is promoted to Lieutenant Commander and assigned to Glenview, Illinois, to train new naval officers for sea duty.
February 1946	Ford is honorably discharged from active duty in the United States Navy. During his service he is award the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal with one Silver Star and four Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.
1946	Ford returns to Grand Rapids and rejoins his friend Philip Buchen with the law firm of Butterfield, Keeney, and Amberg. He becomes active in many civic affairs and charities including chapters of the Red Cross, the American Legion, and the VFW. Influenced by his experience in the war and the internationalist views of Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Ford resumes his involvement in reforming Grand Rapids politics.
August 1947	Ford is introduced to Elizabeth (Betty) Bloomer Warren by mutual friends.
June 1948	Ford announces his candidacy for the Republican nomination for U.S. House of Representatives, Fifth Congressional District of Michigan. He challenges the isolationist foreign policy approach of incumbent Bartel Jonkman, a McKay associate.
September 14, 1948	Ford defeats Jonkman 23,632 to 14,341 in the Republican primary.
October 15, 1948	Ford and Betty Bloomer Warren wed at Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids. Marrying in the middle of his congressional campaign, the couple honeymoon briefly in Ann Arbor, attend the University of Michigan-Northwestern football game, and then drive to Owosso, Michigan to attend a rally for Republican Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey.
November 2, 1948	Ford is elected to his first term as a U.S. Congressman from Grand Rapids, receiving 60.5% of the vote.
January 3, 1949-1950	Ford is sworn in as a member of the Eighty-First Congress. During his first year in the House, he is assigned to the Public Works Committee. As a member he is invited to tour the White House by President Truman. He also helps organize the "Chowder and Marching Club" of young Republican Congressmen with fellow House member Richard Nixon.

March 14, 1950	The Fords' first child, Michael Gerald Ford is born.
November 7, 1950	Ford wins his second term as Congressman from the fifth district with 66% of the vote.
January 1951-1952	At the start of his second term in the House, Ford is appointed to the Appropriations Committee. Ford invites Richard Nixon to Grand Rapids to give the annual Lincoln Day Speech. In February 1952 he and other young Republican Congressmen send a letter urging General Eisenhower to enter the Presidential race.
March 16, 1952	The Fords' second son, John Gardner "Jack" Ford is born.
November 4, 1952	Ford wins his third term as Congressman from Grand Rapids with 66% of the vote.
1953-1954	Ford is a member of the only Republican controlled House from 1949 to 1995. He is appointed to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Spending, and is made Chairman of the Army Panel on spending. As a member of this committee he witnesses test firings of project NIKE that developed the first operational anti-aircraft missile, the Nike-Ajax.
August 1953	Ford takes a three week tour of U.S. military installations in Asia and the Pacific. He visits Saigon in French Indochina, and during a visit to Korea, witnesses a POW exchange.
November 4, 1954	After declining a run for U.S. Senate, Ford wins his fourth term as Congressman.
1955-56	Ford continues to serve on the Appropriations Committee in the House, and in 1956 is appointed to the Intelligence Subcommittee, which oversees the CIA's budget. He serves on this subcommittee for ten years and learns of programs such as U-2 and Bay of Pigs. He also visits NATO headquarters in Paris, and the Allied and Russian Zones of Berlin. He visits a Hungarian refugee camp in Austria.
Spring 1955	The Fords move into their newly completed house in Alexandria, Virginia.
May 19, 1956	The Fords' third son, Steven Meigs Ford is born.
November 6, 1956	After declining an opportunity to run for Michigan Governor, Ford wins election to his fifth term as Congressman.
1957-1958	During his fifth term, Ford is appointed to the "Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration," chaired by Senator Lyndon Johnson, which would recommend the creation of NASA. He also attends an address of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem to a joint session of Congress in May 1957.
July 6, 1957	The Fords' youngest child, daughter Susan Elizabeth Ford is born.
November 4, 1958	Ford wins his sixth term as U.S. Congressman.

1959-1960	In January, Ford joins the Republican colleagues in replacing their House leader Joseph Martin with Charles Halleck. In September 1959 Ford spends 3 days touring Moscow and 10 days in Poland on fact-finding missions.
July 1960	The Michigan delegation at the Republican Convention in Chicago supports Ford as a favorite son candidate to Richard Nixon's running mate. Ford gives the nominating speech for the eventual Vice-Presidential nominee, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.
November 1960	Ford is re-elected to a seventh term in Congress.
1961-1962	Ford becomes the ranking Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. However, he supports many of President Kennedy's foreign aid initiatives. He is also awarded the Congressional Distinguished Service Award from the American Political Science Association.
January 26, 1962	Ford's stepfather, Gerald Ford, Sr., dies in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
November 6, 1962	Ford is re-elected to his eighth term, despite declining Republican numbers in the House.
January 2, 1963	In a Republican caucus revolution led by Congressmen Charles Goodell and Robert Griffin, Ford defeats Charles Hoeven of Iowa for House Republican Conference Chairman.
November 29, 1963	A week after President Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson appoints Ford to the seven member Warren Commission to investigate Kennedy's death. On September 27, 1964 they would publish their conclusion that there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy. Ford would later publish a book about the assassination, <i>Portrait of an Assassin</i> , with friend Jack Stiles.
November 3, 1964	Lyndon Johnson is elected President in a landslide over Barry Goldwater. Ford is elected to his ninth term as Congressman.
December 19, 1964	After meeting with fellow Republican House members Donald Rumsfeld, Robert Griffin, and Charles Goodell, Ford announces that he will challenge the incumbent, Charles Halleck of Indiana for the post of House Minority Leader.
January 4, 1965	Ford unseats Halleck as House Minority Leader by a vote of 73-67.
1965-1966	In his first term as House Minority Leader, Ford offers Republican alternatives to the Great Society legislation of the Johnson administration. He appears with Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois in weekly press conferences (known as the "Ev and Jerry Show") to offer critiques of Johnson administration policies. He also campaigns on behalf of Republican candidates during the 1966 midterm elections.
November 8, 1966	Ford wins his tenth election as Congressman with 68 percent of the vote. Republicans make strong gains in the mid term elections.
1967-1968	Ford in his second term as House Minority Leader begins attacking Johnson's position on the war in Vietnam asking in an August 8, 1967 speech, "Why are we pulling our best punches in Vietnam?"
September 17, 1967	Ford's mother, Dorothy Gardner Ford, dies in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

August 5, 1968	Ford presides as Permanent Chairman of the Republican Convention held in Miami Beach, Florida. Following Richard Nixon's nomination, Ford supports New York City Mayor John Lindsay for running mate in conversations with Nixon. Nixon, however, chooses Maryland Governor Spiro Agnew.
November 5, 1968	Nixon is elected President; Ford is elected to his eleventh term as House member.
1969-1970	As House Minority Leader under a Republican President, Ford consistently supports Nixon's policies in the House.
April 15, 1970	In a speech on the House floor, Ford calls for the removal of Justice William O. Douglas' from the Supreme Court for what Ford believes to be inappropriate judicial conduct. The matter is later turned over to the House Judiciary Committee where the issue dies.
November 3, 1970	Ford is elected to his twelfth term.
June 17, 1972	Five burglars break into Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C.
June 23-July 7, 1972	Building upon President Nixon's trip to the People's Republic of China in February 1972, Ford and Congressman Hale Boggs of Louisiana visit and meet with Premier Chou En-Lai.
August 19-22, 1972	Ford chairs the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida, where President Nixon and Vice-President Agnew are re-nominated.
November 7, 1972	Ford is elected to his thirteenth and final term as a Congressman from Michigan. Despite Nixon's landslide victory, the Republicans do not gain many House seats. Realizing he may never achieve his goal to become Speaker of the House, Ford contemplates retirement after 1976.
October 10, 1973	Spiro Agnew, under investigation for accepting bribes and income tax evasion, resigns as Vice President of the United States.
October 12, 1973	Ford is nominated to be Vice President by Richard Nixon. He is the first Vice President nominated under the 25 th amendment to the Constitution.
November 1, 1973	The Senate begins hearings on Ford's nomination as Vice President.
November 15, 1973	The House Judiciary Committee begins its hearings on Ford's nomination as Vice President.
November 27, 1973	The Senate approves Ford's nomination by a vote of 92-3.
December 6, 1973	The House approves Ford's nomination by a vote of 387-35. Ford takes the oath as the fortieth Vice President of the United States in front of a joint session of Congress.
January-July, 1974	With Nixon embroiled in the growing Watergate scandal, Vice President Ford travels the country speaking on behalf of the administration's policies. Ford remains an advocate and spokesman for the Republican Party, attending fundraisers and campaign events for Republican candidates.

April 30, 1974	Nixon releases edited versions of the Watergate tapes containing White House conversations.
May 9, 1974	The House Judiciary Committee begins impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.
July 24, 1974	The Supreme Court orders Nixon to turn over the unedited versions of the White House tapes.
July 27-30, 1974	The House Judiciary Committee approves three articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon.
August 1, 1974	Nixon's Chief of Staff, Al Haig, advises Ford that he should prepare for a transition to the Presidency.
August 6, 1974	Ford attends a cabinet meeting and tells Nixon that while he will continue to support Nixon's policies, he can no longer speak on the issue of Watergate to the media and the public.
August 8, 1974	Nixon announces his decision to resign in a televised address.
August 9, 1974	Ford is sworn in as the 38 th President of the United States. In his swearing-in remarks, Ford announces "Our long, national nightmare is over."
August 12, 1974	Ford addresses a Joint Session of Congress. He states, "I do not want a honeymoon with you. I want a good marriage." He also states his first priority is to bring inflation under control, declaring it "public enemy number one."
August 19, 1974	Ford delivers a major speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Chicago, supporting earned clemency for Vietnam War draft evaders.
August 20, 1974	Ford nominates Nelson Rockefeller, former Governor of New York, to be Vice President.
August 28, 1974	Ford holds his first press conference as President. Many of the questions concern unresolved issues surrounding Watergate.
September 8, 1974	Ford pardons Nixon for any crimes he may have committed as President. The surprise announcement stuns the country and Ford plummets in the polls.
September 26-28, 1974	Betty Ford is diagnosed with breast cancer and undergoes surgery.
September 27-28, 1974	The White House convenes a "summit conference" on inflation and the economy.
October 8, 1974	Ford announces his Whip Inflation Now program to a joint session of Congress.
October 15, 1974	Ford signs the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974, which seek to regulate campaign fundraising and spending.
October 17, 1974	Ford appears before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice to explain the facts and circumstances that were the basis for his pardon of former President Richard Nixon.

October 17, 1974	Ford vetoes the Freedom of Information Act Amendments believing not enough protection is given to sensitive and classified intelligence documents. Congress overrides Ford's veto on November 21, 1974 making the bill law.
November 1, 1974	Ford meets with an ailing Richard Nixon in a Long Beach, California hospital.
November 5, 1974	Republicans lose 40 seats in the House and 4 in the Senate, widening the Democratic majority in Congress during the mid-term elections.
November 17, 1974	Ford departs for a visit to Japan -- the first visit to that country by an American President -- and to South Korea and the Soviet Union.
November 23, 1974	Ford and Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., meet in Vladivostok, U.S.S.R.
December 19, 1974	Following Congressional approval, Nelson Rockefeller is sworn in as the forty-first Vice President of the United States.
January 1, 1975	Ford signs the Privacy Act of 1974.
January 4, 1975	Ford names a Blue Ribbon panel, chaired by Vice President Rockefeller, to review CIA activities within the United States in response to allegations made in a December New York Times article by Seymour Hersh.
January 13, 1975	Ford delivers a "fireside chat" to the nation, outlining his proposals to fight inflation, the economic recession, and energy dependence.
January 15, 1975	In his first State of the Union Address, Ford announces bluntly that "the state of the Union is not good: Millions of Americans are out of work. Recession and inflation are eroding the money of millions more. Prices are too high, and sales are too slow." To remedy these problems, Ford proposes tax cuts for American families and businesses, and strongly advocates for the reduction of government spending.
February 7, 1975	Ed Levi is sworn in as the new Attorney General of the United States replacing William Saxbe, whom Ford appoints as U.S. ambassador to India.
April 10, 1975	As North Vietnamese Army Divisions approach Saigon; Ford addresses a joint session of Congress to request, unsuccessfully, financial assistance for South Vietnam and Cambodia. During the speech two freshman Democrats, Toby Moffett of Connecticut and George Miller of California walk out in protest.
April 12, 1975	Ford evacuates the U.S. mission in Cambodia as the communist Khmer Rouge advance on the capital Phnom Penh. The Khmer Rouge take over the country on April 17, 1975.
April 23, 1975	In a speech at Tulane University, President Ford declares that the Vietnam War "is finished as far as America is concerned."
April 28, 1975	Ford orders the emergency evacuation of American personnel and high-risk South Vietnamese nationals, as Saigon falls to Communist forces.
May 12, 1975	Newly Communist Cambodia seizes the U.S. merchant ship, <i>Mayaguez</i> . Ford orders Marines to rescue the ship's crew.
May 28, 1975	Ford departs on trip to Europe for a NATO summit meeting, to visit Spain and Italy, and to meet in Austria with President Sadat of Egypt.

July 8, 1975	Ford formally announces his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination in 1976.
July 26, 1975	The President departs on his second trip to Europe -- "a mission of peace and progress" -- for visits to West Germany and Poland, and finally Helsinki to meet leaders of 34 other nations to sign the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He concludes his trip with visits to Romania and Yugoslavia.
September 1, 1975	Ford announces a joint Egyptian-Israeli agreement on troop disengagement in the Sinai Peninsula. The agreement is the culmination of 34 days of shuttle diplomacy by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.
September 5, 1975	Charles Manson follower, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme attempts to assassinate President Ford in Sacramento, California.
September 22, 1975	Sara Jane Moore, a woman with ties to leftwing radical groups, attempts to assassinate President Ford in San Francisco, California.
October 2-3, 1975	Ford hosts Japanese Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako for a state visit. This is the first state visit for an Emperor and Empress of Japan to the United States.
October 29, 1975	Ford urges financial restraint and a financial review for New York City during its budget crisis. Ford refuses to support Federal help for New York at this time. He proposes bankruptcy legislation to ensure the City undergoes an orderly default process. On November 26, 1975, after he believes city leaders have begun to adequately address the crisis, he authorizes Congress to extend the City a line of credit.
November 4, 1975	In what the press dubs the "Halloween Massacre," President Ford orders a reorganization of his cabinet. He names Donald Rumsfeld as Defense Secretary, Elliot Richardson as Commerce Secretary, George Bush as CIA Director, and Richard Cheney as White House Chief of Staff. Henry Kissinger remains Secretary of State; however, he turns over his duties as National Security Advisor to Brent Scowcroft. Under pressure from Republican Party Conservatives, Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller withdraws his name from consideration as Ford's 1976 running mate.
November 15-17, 1975	Ford attends an economic summit at Rambouillet, France with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Prime Minister Aldo Moro of Italy, Prime Minister Takeo Miki of Japan, and Prime Minister Harold Wilson of the United Kingdom.
November 20, 1975	Former California Governor Ronald Reagan announces that he will challenge Gerald Ford for the Republican presidential nomination in 1976.
November 28, 1975	Ford nominates Judge John Paul Stevens of the Seventh Circuit of the Court of Appeals in Chicago to the United States Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice William O. Douglas. The Senate unanimously approves Stevens by a 98-0 vote. He is sworn in on December 19, 1975.
November 29, 1975	Ford departs for visits to People's Republic of China, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

December 19, 1975	Ford opposes to the Tunney Amendments of the Defense Appropriations Bill but the Senate passes them. The amendments prohibit funding for US covert operations in Angola aimed at defeating the Soviet and Cuban backed MPLA factions in the Angolan Civil War.
January 2, 1976	Ford vetoes the Common Situs Picketing Bill.
February 18, 1976	In an effort to reform the U.S. intelligence community, Ford signs Executive Order 11905 to “establish policies to improve the quality of intelligence needed for national security, to clarify the authority and responsibilities of the intelligence departments and agencies, and to establish effective oversight to assure compliance with law in the management and direction of intelligence agencies and departments of the national government.” This executive order also prohibits the United States from engaging in political assassination.
February 26, 1976	Ford edges Reagan by 1,250 votes in New Hampshire primary, taking 17 of 21 delegates. This begins a string of primary victories for Ford which include Florida and Illinois before a series of losses from challenger Reagan in North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, and Indiana.
March 25, 1976	Ford sends a message to Congress requesting a special appropriation for the National Swine Flu Immunization Program. He signs the measure into law on August 12, 1976.
June 20, 1976	Ford orders the evacuation of the US embassy in Beirut, Lebanon following the assassination of embassy officials on June 16.
July 4, 1976	America’s Bicentennial of independence. The year is marked by numerous head of state visits and state gifts to the United States. On July 4, President Ford attends events at Valley Forge, PA; Operation Sail in New York City; and in Philadelphia, PA.
July 7, 1976	President and Mrs. Ford welcome Queen Elizabeth II to the White House for a state dinner as part of the Bicentennial celebration.
August 18, 1976	When North Korean soldiers axe-murder two U.S. soldiers on a tree-pruning mission in the Demilitarized Zone, Ford weighs strong military action but decides on other measures.
August 19, 1976	Ford is nominated at the Republican Convention edging out former California Governor Ronald Reagan. Ford names Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate. Public opinion polls following the convention have Ford trailing the Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter by wide margins. The Gallup poll favors Carter 56% to 33% and the Harris poll favors Carter 61% to 32%.
September 13, 1976	Ford signs the Government in the Sunshine Act requiring that many government regulatory agencies must give advance notice of meetings and hold open meetings. The new law also amends the Freedom of Information Act “by narrowing the authority of agencies to withhold information from the public.”
September 15, 1976	Ford kicks off his general election campaign at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.
September 23, 1976	First presidential campaign debate between President Ford and Governor Jimmy Carter in Philadelphia. This is the first presidential candidate debate since the Nixon-Kennedy debates in 1960.

October 6, 1976	Second presidential candidate debate, on foreign policy and defense issues, in San Francisco. During the debate Ford comments that, “there is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe and there never will be under a Ford administration.” This misstatement is fodder for the press and public for the next several days.
October 22, 1976	Third and final presidential candidate debate in Williamsburg, Virginia.
November 1-2, 1976	President Ford attends his final campaign rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Pantlind Hotel. He casts his vote on November 2 and attends the unveiling of the Gerald R. Ford mural by artist Paul Collins at the Kent County Airport before returning to Washington.
November 3, 1976	Ford concedes the Presidential election to Jimmy Carter of Georgia. Ford loses the Electoral College 297-240 and receives 39,147,793 votes (48% of the votes cast) to Carter’s 40,830,763 (50.1% of the votes cast).
December 14, 1976	Ford sends a letter to the Archivist of the United States and the President of the University of Michigan offering to deposit his papers in a Presidential Library to be built on the University of Michigan campus.
January 12, 1977	In his final State of the Union Address, Ford tells Congress and the American People, “I can report that the state of the union is good. There is room for improvement, as always, but today we have a more perfect Union than when my stewardship began.”
January 20, 1977	Carter is sworn in as the 39 th President of the United States. In his inaugural address, Carter states, “For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land.” Ford retires to Palm Springs, California and Vail, Colorado. During his retirement, Ford serves on various corporate boards, participates in many charitable causes, remains involved in many national and international causes and issues, participates in many Republican Party functions, and is called to service several times by later Presidents.
March 9, 1977	President and Mrs. Ford sign contracts to publish their memoirs.
March 24, 1977	Ford returns to the White House for the first time since he left office and meets with President Carter in the Oval Office. They meet for an hour and a half discussing a range of national and international issues.
June 6, 1979	Ford’s memoir, <i>A Time to Heal</i> , is published.
Fall 1979	Ford considers another run for the Presidency in the 1980 election.
March 16, 1980	Ford officially takes himself out of consideration for the Republican Presidential nomination, stating “...America needs a new President. I have determined that I can best help that cause by not being a candidate for President, which might further divide my party.”
July, 1980	At the Republican National Convention in Detroit, Michigan, representatives of Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford attempt to work out the details of having Ford on the ticket as Vice Presidential nominee, but to no avail. However, many newspapers inaccurately report that Ford has been selected for the post.

November 1, 1980	Ford appears on NBC's Meet the Press to discuss the Iranian hostage situation and stump for candidate Reagan.
April 27, 1981	Ford dedicates his Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
September 18, 1981	Ford dedicates his Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
October 10, 1981	At the request of President Reagan, Ford joins former Presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter as part of the official American delegation attending the funeral of assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.
October 3, 1982	The Betty Ford Center is dedicated.
November 10, 1982	Ford hosts a conference on the Presidency and the War Powers Act at the Ford Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
December 1983	Ford makes a cameo appearance with Henry Kissinger on the ABC show <i>Dynasty</i> .
November 15, 1984	Ford joins President Carter for a symposium at the University of Michigan on "New Weapons Technologies and Soviet-American Relations."
September 17-19, 1986	Ford hosts the symposium "Humor and the Presidency" at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
January-February, 1987	To mark the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, Ford participates in conferences with former President Carter at both the Carter and Ford Libraries entitled, "The Presidency and the Constitution."
October 1, 1987	Ford publishes <i>Humor and the Presidency</i> drawn from the September 1986 conference at the Ford Presidential Museum.
November 18, 1988	Former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford meet with President-Elect George H.W. Bush to present the recommendations of the American Agenda Group, an organization of experts and former administration officials who studied the most critical issues confronting the United States.
April 6-8, 1989	Ford and many members of his administration participate in a conference at Hofstra University that examines the Ford presidency.
October 8, 1994	The University of Michigan retires President Ford's football jersey number 48 at halftime of the Michigan State game. It is only the fifth football number to be retired by the university.
August 12, 1996	Ford speaks at the Republican National Convention in San Diego, California on behalf of his former running mate and Republican presidential nominee, Robert Dole.
December 22, 1998	Following by the House of Representatives' impeachment of President Clinton, Ford co-authors a New York Times Op-Ed piece with former President Carter. They argue for a bipartisan resolution of censure as an alternative to an impeachment trial.
August 8, 1999	Ford writes an Op-Ed piece in the New York Times defending the University of Michigan's system of admission standards that uses affirmative action.
August 11, 1999	President Ford is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, by President Clinton.

October 27, 1999	President Ford receives the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award bestowed by the Legislative branch.
April 7, 2000	In conjunction with the opening of nearly 40,000 pages from the Ford Library's holdings on the Vietnam War, President Ford hosts the conference "After the Fall: Vietnam Plus Twenty-Five," at the University of Michigan.
May 11, 2000	President Ford attends the ceremony that renames the Kent Country International Airport after him.
September 12, 2000	Ford is present as The University of Michigan's School of Public Policy is renamed for him.
January 30, 2001	Former Presidents Ford and Carter are honorary Co-Chairmen of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform. The Commission presents its findings to the White House on July 31, 2001.
May 21, 2001	The John F. Kennedy Foundation presents Ford with the Profiles in Courage Award for putting the nation's interest above his own political future with the pardon of Richard Nixon.
September 14, 2001	Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, President and Mrs. Ford attend the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.
October 2003	The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) establishes the "NCAA President's Gerald R. Ford Award." The award honors an individual who has provided significant leadership as an advocate for intercollegiate athletics on a continuous basis over the course of their career. The first recipient of the award was Father Theodore Hesburgh, former President of Notre Dame.
September 20, 2004	The State Bar of Michigan honors President Ford, recognizing him as the state's twenty-ninth legal milestone.
November 12, 2004	President Ford attends the groundbreaking for the new Joan and Sanford Weill building that will house the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.
March 2006	The NCAA names President Ford as the fourteenth most-influential student-athlete of the last 100 years.
June 19, 2006	The National Archives hosts a tribute to President Ford, entitled "President Ford's Washington and the World." The tribute featured presentations by former Ford administration officials including: Henry Kissinger, David Gergen, James Cannon, and Carla Hills.