

Congressional Years, 1949-1973 Artifacts



Primary Title:

Orazel Clock - Capitol Hill Club 1968

Description:

A cylindrical, gold, metal clock faced upwards. The clock's face and hands are colored gold. There is a date number located on the bottom of the face and there are cylindrical rings engraved into the base.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Description:

A wood tobacco pipe with a carved wooden bowl. The majority of stem is diamond shaped and there is a silver metal band in the middle of the stem. There are two lines carved around the top of the bowl of the pipe.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Historical Attributions: This pipe was owned and used by Gerald R. Ford
Credit Line: Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Betty' Ford's Wedding Garter

Description:

The pale blue garter features a pale blue ribbon flower with a light pink ribbon in the center. She wore a sapphire blue satin dress for the occasion.

Historical Attributions:

Betty Ford wore this pale blue garter on her wedding day on October 15, 1948 at Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Gerald and Betty Ford remained happily married until his death in 2006.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title: Penny placed in Betty Ford's shoe during wedding
Description: The artifact is a penny penny dated 1947 S.
Historical Attributions: This penny was placed in Betty Ford's shoe during her wedding to Gerald R. Ford.
Credit Line: Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Minority Leader Desk Eagle Bookends

Description:

A pair of brass, federal eagle bookends. The eagles are standing with wings spread wide.

Historical Attributions:

The bookends were used by Congressman Gerald R. Ford on his desk during his time as Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Crystal Ashtray

Description:

A Fostoria crystal ashtray featuring the Presidential Seal and the signature of Richard Nixon which is square in shape with rounded corners.

Historical Attributions:

Congressman Gerald R. Ford used a similar ashtray on his Congressional desk as Minority Leader of the House. Staples & Charles (the design firm for the museum's original core exhibit) acquired two of these for use in the museum's recreation of Ford's Congressional desk.

Credit Line:

Gift of Judith Olert, Fostoria Glass Co.



Primary Title:
Label Text:

Cigarette Lighter Given to Gerald R. Ford by Betty Ford Before Gerald Ford left for Sun Valley, Idaho for the Christmas holiday in 1947, Betty gave him a Christmas stocking filled with small gifts. Amongst these gifts was this pipe lighter. Betty had it inscribed both with Gerald's monogram, GRF Jr., and "To the light of my life" in small, capitalized letters near the base of the lighter, but did so hesitantly due to the casual nature of their relationship at the time. Betty stuffed the lighter at the foot of the stocking for Gerald to find.

Robert W. Beattie manufactured this lighter in Brooklyn, New York between 1940 and 1961. Termed the jet lighter, its name reflected both public fascination with technology during the time of the Jet Age, and the jet pressurization of the lighter, which permitted a longer flame when tipped. This extended flame would have been useful for a pipe smoker like Gerald.

Description:

A metal, gold lighter made by Beattie Jet Lighter. The lighter inscribed at the center with Fords initials, "GRF JR.," and beneath the initials reads, "To the light of my life."

Historical Attributions:
Credit Line:

The lighter was given to Gerald R. Ford by Betty Ford,
Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Badge - 1964 Republican National Convention

Description:

A shield shaped plastic badge. The top and bottom are blue and the middle is divided into two sections both colored red. The back contains a metal pin and paper containing manufacturer info. The badge was for Gerald R. Ford at the 1964 Republican National Convention as depicted by the white text on all four sections.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Description:

Amvet Silver Helmet Trophy

A stainless steel helmet sits mounted on a stand with a leaf engraved on it. The stand attaches to a round base with an engraving that dedicates the piece to Congressman Ford. The piece is the Silver Helmet Congressional Award which recognizes individuals for enlightened service and leadership to the people of the nation as an outstanding legislator, civic leader, athlete, and American Citizen.

Credit Line:

Gift of Amvets



Primary Title:

1968 National Convention gavel - Gerald Ford

Description:

A wooden gavel with a brass plaque attached to the front which reads, "Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Permanent Chairman of the Republican National Convention, Miami Beach, Florida. 1968."

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Description:

Gerald R. Ford nomination pen and certificate

A commemorative certificate signed by President Nixon under the 25th Amendment nominating Gerald R. Ford as Vice President of the USA. Under the certificate is an official White House Pen Set displaying facsimile signature of Richard M. Nixon. Both certificate and pen set are contained

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Convention Badge - 1968

Description:

Gerald R. Ford's badge from the 1968 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida consists of five linked metal bars suspended from a metal bald eagle attached to a red, white, and blue striped ribbon. The medallion at the bottom of the ribbon features an elephant. At that time, Ford was the House Republican Minority Leader and a permanent chairman of the Republican National Conventions.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Description:

Ivory Signature Chops from Taiwan

Ivory Chinese language stamps for Gerald” and the seal of the “Ford” name presented to Congressman Gerald R. Ford by an advisor of Chang Kai Shek, president of free China when Ford visited Formosa (present day Taiwan) in 1953. The stamps are square elongated pillar shaped in red ink and are enclosed in a fabric covered bamboo presentation box lined in red velvet. More information is given in a letter by Ford to his wife and kids dated September 3, 1953. The letter states "As we left, one of President Chang's advisors presented me with two boxes of his special brands of red and green tea plus the Ford seal in Chinese. If my letters are signed in the future in Chinese, it will be through the courtesy of the anti-communist leader of the Chinese people."

Credit Line:

Gift of Chang Kai Shek



Primary Title:

Chowder and Marching Club chef's hat

Description:

A white chef's hat from the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the Chowder and Marching Club reception and dinner features the letters "C&M" embroidered on the front of the crown. The club members, composed of House

Credit Line:

Republicans, wear chef hats and aprons at their meetings.
Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Chowder and Marching Club Apron

Description:

A blue apron with white stripes features a felt patch at the top containing a red chef cartoon and the text "Chowder and Marching Club". Ford during his first year in Congress helped organize the "Chowder and Marching Club" of young Republican Congressmen with fellow House member Richard Nixon.

Credit Line:

Gift of Gerald R. Ford



Primary Title:

Burnt Piece Of 1814 White House

Description:

This is a piece of charred timber found during the Truman Administration's renovation of the White House from 1948-1952. The timber is a remnant from 1814, when the British burned down the building during James Madison's presidency.

Credit Line:

Gift of Charles and Pat Knop



Primary Title:

Description:

1963 Goldwater Michigan fundraiser wine glass

Wine glass from the November 23, 1963 (postponed to November 24th), Barry Goldwater West Michigan fundraiser dinner attended by Congressman Gerald R. Ford. Features black text near rim with small printed image of Barry Goldwater.

Credit Line:

Gift of Joyce Frenell



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Primary Title:

U.S. Navy Polaris model

Description:

This plastic model of the U.S. Navy Polaris missile features five parts. (a) The first part features the brown-bordered base and a green-blue color representing the ocean. It also features a presentation plate. (b) The second part depicts the second stage. (c.) The third part depicts the first stage and the war head. Both (d) and (e) depict fuel propellants.

Historical Attributions:

Congressman Gerald R. Ford was appointed to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Spending in 1953, and made Chairman of the Army Panel. He observed several experimental missile tests, including those for the early NIKE program. Ford became the ranking Republican on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in 1961.

Credit Line:

Gift of Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense



Primary Title: Glass apple paperweight from Gerald Ford's Congressional desk

Description: Glass red apple paperweight. Inner red glass has gold dots and markings completely surrounding it. The red glass is within a clear smooth outer glass that make up a leaf and design on the top of the apple. Bottom has two stickers, one on top of the other. The sticker on top says "0-16."

Credit Line: Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

United Air Lines Thermometer

Description:

Small circular gold colored thermometer. The inside gold-colored circle of the thermometer says "ST3-4020 United Air Lines Congressional Service." The actual temperature gauge is black with silver markings on it. At the bottom of the thermometer, it says "Honeywell." There is a sticker on the base that says "Honeywell Made in U.S.A." The thermometer is a half sphere with a hole at the back of the curve.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:
Description:

Medallion / paperweight - House of Representatives
Gold-colored medallion attached to a gold base. The medallion has a picture of the US Capital building on it and the words beneath it "House of Representative United States." The back of the medallion is blank. The base is triangular with a half-circle attached to the base and supporting the medallion. The very bottom has green felt material on it and a gold sticker that says "Jewelry's Finest Craftsman Balfour."

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

University of Michigan medallion

Description:

Gold-colored medallion mounted on a wooden base. The front of the medallion has the University of Michigan seal on it and says "The University of Michigan 1817-1967." The back of the medallion says "Knowledge Wisdom And The Courage To Serve."

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

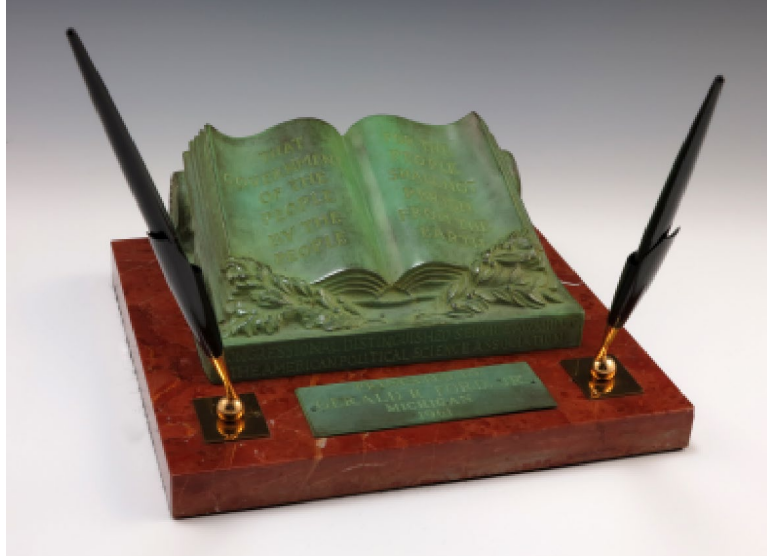
Gerald Ford Congressional Desk calendar

Description:

Wooden case containing a calendar. The case has two tones of wood and an angled top. The calendar currently in the case is for October. The bottom of the case has four green felt circles on each corner. The middle of the bottom comes out in order to get to the calendar. There are two stickers on the bottom stating who made the case.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:

Description:

Gerald Ford Congressional Desk set

This marble desk set contains two pens and sits on a brown marble base that features mounted on the base a green-colored marble scroll and book. The book lies open and states, "That government of the people shall not perish from the Earth."

The bottom edge of the scroll states, "Congressional Distinguished Service Award the American Political Science Association." The base also contains a green-colored plaque that states, "Presented to Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Michigan 1961."

On either side of this plaque are black pens in a gold stand that are mounted on the brown base. The very bottom of the base contains a black felt covering.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown



Primary Title:
Description:

Gerald R. Ford's Congressional Desk

Congressman Gerald R. Ford used this desk at his Grand Rapids, Michigan, office. A dark wood desk with four bronze colored handles on each side of the front. On the right side there are two smaller drawers at the top and one large drawer beneath. The left side has four smaller drawers. The top drawers are slightly smaller. There is a drawer in between the sides at the top of the desk that locks. The other drawers will not open until middle drawer is unlocked and opened slightly. Above each side drawers are extending panels. There are decorative carvings on the sides of the desk. Key is kept separate.

There is a silver sticker in the chair opening on the top right that says, "U.S. Gov't D.S.A. Property DCASR, Detroit 32"

On the inside middle drawer there is a stamp that says "Rishel Desks J.K. Rishel Furn. Co. Williamsport, PA".

Number engraved in middle desk drawer lock "4R11835C."

Middle drawer has two extra panels like those above side drawers. Also has wooden holder for pencils and supplies attached to inside. Top left drawer has one divider. Second left drawer has 9 dividers (not all attached) and one decorative wood piece. Third drawer has 1 skinny divider and one thicker divider. Last drawer has 1 skinny divider and 1 big divider. In the right top drawer there is one skinny divider. Second right drawer has 1 skinny divider and 1 thicker. Bottom (double) drawer has 1 tall thick divider and 1 short thick divider and a movable filing divider.

Credit Line:

Donor Unknown