

# CVN 17 80

## Welcome Aboard USS Gerald R. Ford



# Our Namesake

Born in 1913, Gerald R. Ford grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the Boy Scout's highest rank. He attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he became a star football player for the Wolverines, with opportunities to pursue professional football. Instead, he chose the legal profession and went to Yale Law School, earning a Bachelors of Law degree in 1941.

## Naval Service

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ford joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and was assigned to USS Monterey (CVL 26). In 1943, he was sent to the South Pacific and took part in the battles for Truk, Guam, Formosa, Marianas and the Philippines. He was honorably released from active duty in 1946, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

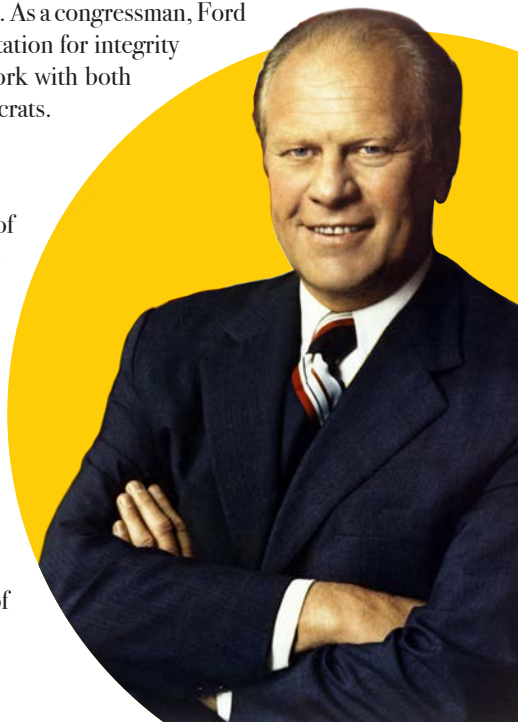
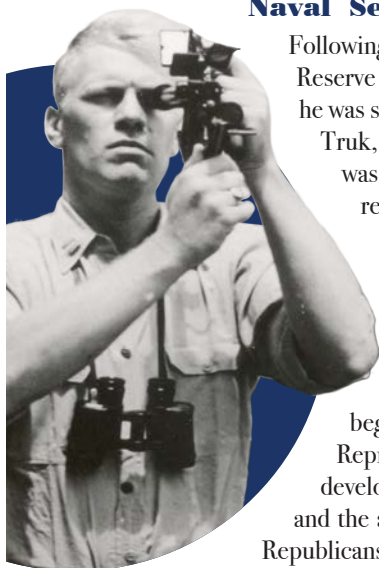
## House of Representatives

After World War II, Ford returned to Grand Rapids and he returned to the law firm he started with Pat Buchanan. In 1948 he ran for congressional office and began the first of 13 terms in the House of Representatives. As a congressman, Ford developed a reputation for integrity and the ability to work with both Republicans and Democrats.

## President

Gerald R. Ford became Vice President of the United States in 1973 following the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew. On Aug. 9, 1974, Ford became President following the resignation of President Nixon during the Watergate scandal.

As President, Ford strove to bring unity to a nation disillusioned by the Watergate scandal, Vietnam War and an economic recession. Ford's legacy is one of a man who placed service above self, and who served the nation with the highest level of personal integrity.



# Ford's Seal

**Fleur-de-Lis** pointing true north symbolizes the Boy Scouts of America.

**Map of the world** represents USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) global presence and ties to the Chief of Naval Operations' guiding principle of operating forward.

**Moral compass** represents President Gerald R. Ford's legacy built upon integrity and honesty.

**Azure** (blue) and **maize** (yellow) color scheme represent Ford's undergraduate university, the University of Michigan. The crest also contains Yale University's **blue** and **white**, to represent his graduate school.



**38 stars** represent that Ford was the 38th U.S. president and the **26 shaded stars** represent the hull number of USS Monterey (CVL-26).

**"Integrity at the Helm"** is the Ford's motto as it guides and defines the ship's service to the U.S. Navy and nation as a whole.

## Background

The USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) is a first-in-class aircraft carrier, and the first new aircraft carrier designed in over 40 years. The Sailors who serve aboard Ford are tasked with ensuring the ship is able to execute national tasking for decades to come.

Although it appears similar to a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, there are many features that make Ford unique. First-in-class technology includes a new nuclear plant, the ability to generate nearly three times the amount of electrical power, innovative advanced arresting gear and the electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS).

EMALS replaces the steam catapult system traditionally used to launch aircraft and will expand the aircraft launch envelope, paving the way for innovations in manned/unmanned aircraft as well as providing the opportunity for other technological advancements in the future.

# The Facts



**Flight Deck**

**Width:** 256 feet

**Keel Laid:** November 2009

**Christening:** November 9, 2013

**Commissioning:** July 22, 2017

**Armament:** Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile  
Rolling Airframe Missile  
CIWS (Close-In Weapons System)



**Propulsion:** Two nuclear reactors, four shafts

**Displacement:** 100,000 long tons full load

**Speed:** 30+ knots (34.5+ mph)

**Height:** 134 feet



**Length:** 1,106 feet



**Ship's Sponsor:**

Susan Ford Bales  
Daughter of Gerald R. Ford



**Builder:**

Huntington Ingalls  
Industries Newport  
News Shipbuilding

# TAC Numbers

## “Bullseyes”

### Frame Number

Frames run the length of the ship and indicate how far forward or aft you are, starting at frame 0 (bow) and ending at frame 265 (stern). Spaces forward of the bow are labeled with frame letters A-L.

### Deck Number

The Hangar Bay serves as the main deck (1). From there, the numbers increase the further away you get. An “0” is added to levels above the hangar bay.

### Most Forward Frame

### Owning Division

### Port/Starboard

If a number is odd, you’re on the ship’s starboard side, and if a number is even, you’re on the ship’s port side. A higher number indicates that you’re farther outboard from the center of the ship.

### Space Use

The specific use of a space is indicated by assigned letters.

- A** - Dry Stowage
- C** - Control Spaces
- L** - Living Spaces
- M** - Ammunition
- Q** - Offices
- T** - Vertical Access

### Most Aft Frame

02-195-3-Q  
195-200  
GM

## Did you know ...

During breakfast, Ford Sailors consume more than...



**7,000**  
strips of bacon



**5,000**  
sausage links



**960**  
eggs (80 dozen!)



**30**  
gallons of milk

**DAILY!**

# ***Flight Deck Colors***

## ***“Skittles”***



### **Red**

Crash and Salvage Crews

Ordnancemen

Explosive Ordnance

Disposal (EOD)



### **Green**

Arresting Gear

Catapult

Maintenance Crew

Media



### **Purple**

Aviation Fuels Crew

(“Grapes”)



### **Yellow**

Aircraft Handling  
Officer

Plane Directors

Catapult and  
Arresting Gear  
Officers



### **White**

Air Wing Quality  
Control Personnel

Safety Observers

Medical Personnel



### **Brown**

Air Wing Plane  
Captains

Air Wing Line  
Leading Petty  
Officers



### **Blue**

Aircraft Handlers

Aircraft Elevator  
Operators

Messengers and  
Phone Talkers

Tractor Drivers

When action on the flight deck is in full swing, it can be difficult to hear what the person next to you is saying. To help alleviate confusion, hand signals and different color jerseys are used to visually denote the different responsibilities of those wearing them.

# ***Nimitz vs. Ford***



## ***Nimitz***

- Steam catapult system
- Three hangar bays and four aircraft elevators
- Fueling stations only on flight deck catwalks
- Weapons elevators have a conveyor belt system



## ***Ford***

- Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS)
- Two hangar bays and three aircraft elevators
- In-deck fueling stations on flight deck
- Only ship with advanced weapons/stores elevators
- Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG)
- Dual-Band Radar (DBR)
- Island is smaller and further aft on the flight deck

# ***Everyday Life***

Aircraft carriers are considered to be like a “floating city” and provide a home-away-from-home for more than 4,500 Sailors when out to sea.

Aboard Ford, Sailors can enjoy eating in the cafeteria, grabbing a drink from Mac’s Coffee Shop, working out in one of our five gyms, receiving mail from our post office, getting a haircut in the barber shop, reading or emailing loved ones in the ship’s library, and buying everyday necessities from our ship’s store.





# Integrity at the Helm

Use a nearby J-dial to call **211**  
for medical emergencies.

Did you love your tour of USS Gerald R. Ford?  
Send comments or questions to:  
**PAO@cvn78.navy.mil**

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