



THE WOLVERINE

FEBRUARY 2022

PREPARING FOR FLIGHT OPS

FORD COMPLETES PREFLIGHT
DECK CERTIFICATION INSPECTION

PLAYING FOR A PURPOSE

FORD SAILOR JOINS ARMED FORCES TEAM

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH INSIDE!

THE WOLVERINE

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

MEET THE TRIAD

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT Paul Lanzilotta

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CAPT Jeremy Shamblee

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

CMDCM Bryan Davis

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MC3 Adonica Mu oz
MC3 Riley McDowell
MCSA Manvir Gill

FRONT COVER PHOTO

Retail Services Specialist Seaman Quinn Adrian, from Scipio, Indiana, assigned to Ford's supply department, presses coveralls in the laundry bay, Jan. 13 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)



THIS MONTH IN NAVAL HISTORY

February 4, 1942

While the battle for the Bataan rages throughout the night, USS Trout (SS-202) loads 20 tons of gold bars and 18 tons of coins as a ballast to replace the weight of ammunition they had delivered to U.S. and Philippine forces.

February 9, 1960

USS Sargo (SSN 583) becomes the third submarine to surface through the ice at the North Pole.

February 12, 1935

USS Macon (ZRS-5) crashes into the sea off Point Sur, CA, after encountering a storm that tears off her upper fin, effectively ending the Navy's trouble-plagued rigid-airship program.



FOR MORE CONTENT

Want to see more about USS Gerald R. Ford?

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CVN78>



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PLAYING FOR A PURPOSE:
FORD SAILOR JOINS ARMED
FORCES BASKETBALL TEAM

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CNAL Inspection Team Completes PreFlight Deck Certification Inspection on Gerald R. Ford

Story by MC3 Riley McDowell

An inspection team from Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic (CNAL) visited USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), Jan. 10 - 14, to conduct a periodic inspection of the ship's air department and their progress toward flight deck certification as the command nears completion of a Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) at Huntington-Ingalls Industries Newport News Shipbuilding.

During a 120 day benchmark visit, CNAL inspects training jackets, equipment and tools to ensure that Ford will be ready for flight deck certification

- a U.S. Navy requirement to launch and recover aircraft from an aircraft carrier.

***"WITHOUT BEING
CERTIFIED, WE WOULD
DIMINISH THE COUNTRY'S
ABILITY TO RESPOND TO
WORLD-WIDE THREATS..."***

***-CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
SEAN DEVEREAUX***

"The department has been diligently working towards ensuring that we have completed all the necessary schools,

have all the required equipment and our training jackets are squared away ahead of the inspection," said Chief Warrant Officer Sean Devereaux, air department's crash and salvage bos'n. "We have also been conducting flight deck drills. Accomplishing all these things are vital to the success of the entire Ford team."

Ford is expected to recommence flight operations this Spring, to continue to support the Fleet with carrier qualifications for Fleet and Student Naval Aviators, and then to commence work-ups with Carrier Air Wing (CVW)



8 and the rest of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group.

Ford is the first aircraft carrier built with Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) to conduct flight operations with a variety of fixed wing aircraft including the C-2A Greyhounds, E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes, F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets and E/A-18G Growlers.

“Having a fully certified flight deck is what allows us to function as an aircraft carrier,” said Devereaux. “Without being certified, we would diminish the country’s ability to respond to world-wide threats and it would add a great deal of strain on the fleet. We aren’t about to let that happen.”

“Air department as a whole has been conducting flight deck fire drills as well as various fuel-centric drills to prepare for upcoming graded evolutions,”

added Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Jones, air department’s aircraft handler. “Ford has integrated over 22 brand new systems into design in-order to bring a next generation warship to the American people and pave the way for years to come.”

“ACCOMPLISHING ALL THESE THINGS ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ENTIRE FORD TEAM.”

***-CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
SEAN DEVEREAUX***

According to Ford’s aircraft handler, one of the many objectives of Ford’s new design is to create a platform that can support more efficient flight operations. Some of these implementations include: two consolidated hangar bays, in-deck fueling stations, advanced weapons

elevators, and an island that is located further aft on the flight deck. These design changes create new watch stations required for Ford too and will be evaluated by the CNAL inspection team.

“The flight deck certification process on Ford is a bit different from that of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier,” said Devereaux. “Ultimately it comes down to manning differences and upgraded equipment. Each of these components changes the way we are graded and will shape the certification process for all the future Ford-class aircraft carriers to come.”

Above: A collage of photos documenting Gerald R. Ford’s (CVN 78) flight deck operations from January 2020 through May 2021. Photos by MCCS RJ Stratchko, MCC Gary Prill, MC1 Ryan Seelbach, MC2 Zachary Melvin, MC3 Zack Guth, and MC3 Riley McDowell.

USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) celebrates

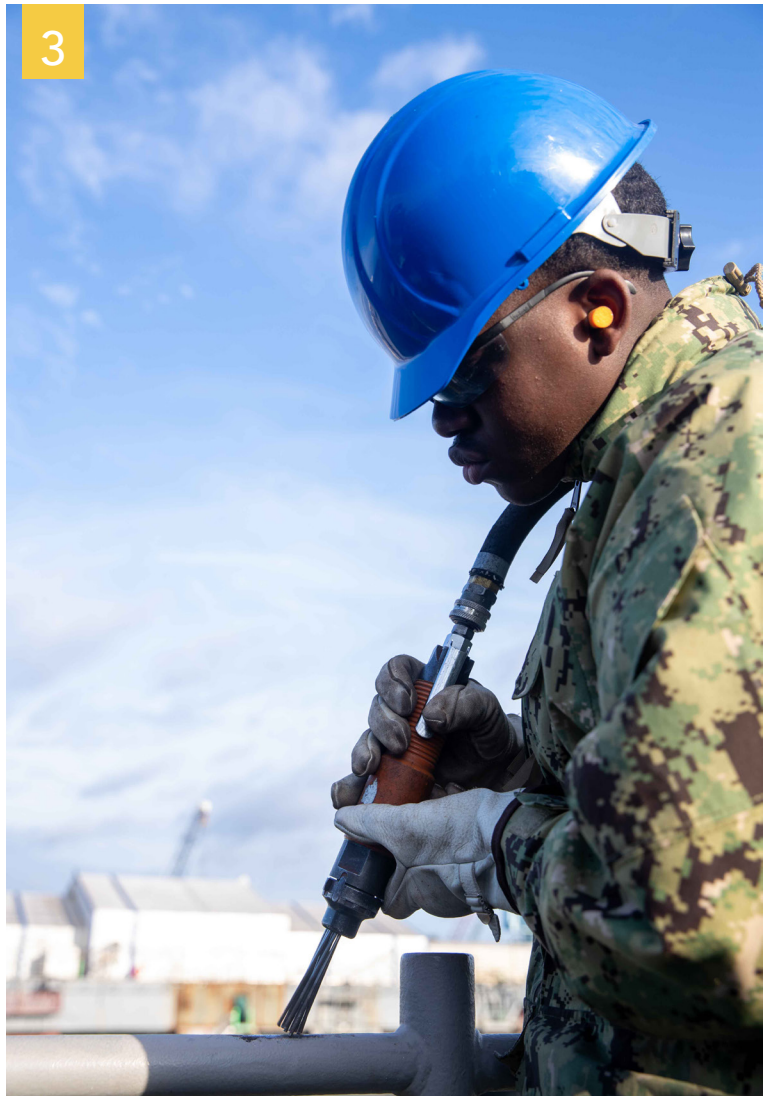
Lunar New Year 2022



USS GERALD R. FORD CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING BLACK
HEALTH AND WELLNESS





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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2022

1. Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Jaret Secquer, from Flint, Michigan, assigned to Ford's engineering department, stands refash watch during a general quarters training evolution in support of Crew Certification III, Jan. 26, 2022. (Photo by MC2 Zachary Melvin)

2. Retail Services Specialist Seaman Myles Scott, from Cleveland, assigned to Ford's supply department, breaks down boxes after restocking, Jan. 20, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)

3. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Malachi Williams, from Atlanta, assigned to Ford's air department, performs preservation with a needle impact scaler, Dec. 29, 2021. (Photo by MC3 Trenton Edly)

4. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Luis Girona, from Polk City, Florida, assigned to Ford's air department, lowers the ensign during evening colors on the flight deck, Jan. 21, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)

5. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Xavier Duran, left, from Tulare, California, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Amarui Callens, from Birmingham, Alabama, both assigned to Ford's air department, sort through donations during a community relations event at the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Norfolk, Virginia, Jan. 18, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)

6. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Jawan George, from Detroit, assigned to Ford's aircraft intermediate maintenance department, creates name tags for ship's company, Jan. 11, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Riley McDowell)

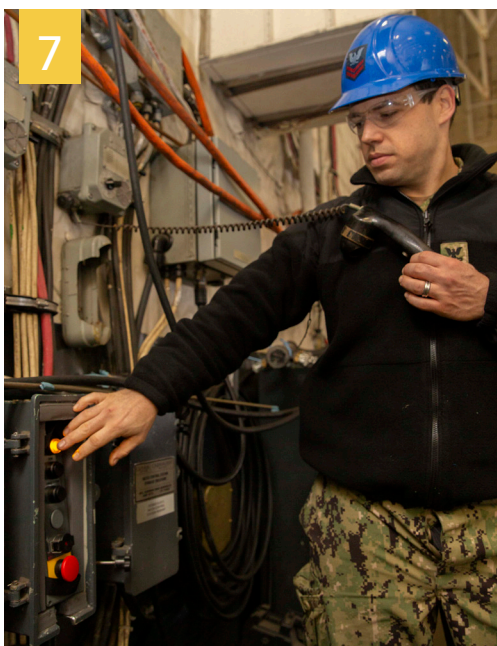
7. Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Tyler Neff, from Lehigh, Pennsylvania, assigned to Ford's supply department, conducts stores elevator operations in the hangar bay, Jan. 18, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Zack Guth)

8. Quartermaster 2nd Class Calvin Heinly, left, from Wernerville, Pennsylvania, assigned to Ford's navigation department, and Retail Services Specialist Seaman Daniela Solorzano, from Compton, Colorado, assigned to Ford's supply department, simulate emergency medical care during a Crew Certification III medical evaluation, Jan. 25, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)

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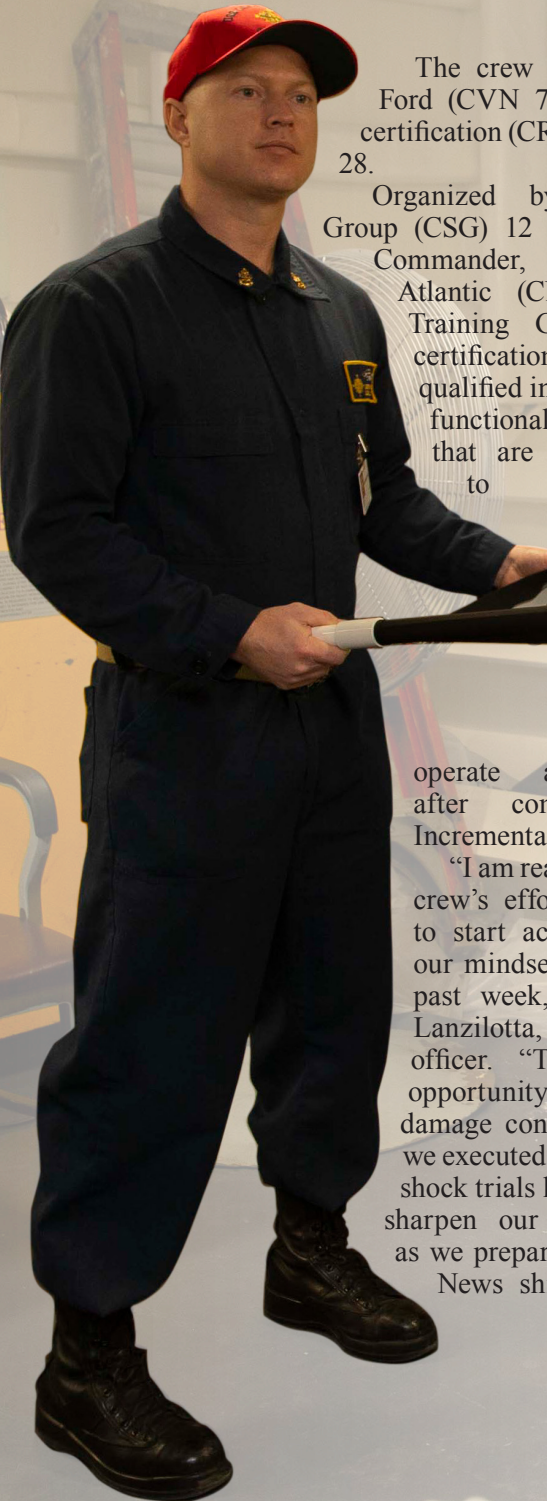


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USS GERALD R. FORD COMPLETES CREW CERTIFICATION III

From Lt. Cmdr. Desiree Frame, USS Gerald R. Ford Public Affairs



The crew of USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) completed crew certification (CREWCERT) III, Jan. 28.

Organized by Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12 with support from Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (CNAL) and Afloat Training Group (ATG), the certification ensures the crew is qualified in the underway functional areas that are essential to safely

operate at sea after completing Planned Incremental Availability (PIA).

"I am really pleased with the crew's efforts and motivation to start actively transitioning our mindset to operations this past week," said Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, Ford's commanding officer. "This was a great opportunity to build on the damage control response skills we executed successfully during shock trials last year and further sharpen our warfighting skills as we prepare to leave Newport News shipyard and resume

underway operations. This crew continues to set the standard for future Ford-class carriers."

Throughout the one-week assessment, multiple drills were conducted to evaluate the crew according to the ATG grading criteria. Drills covered functional areas such as medical, seamanship and navigation, ship-wide damage control, and tactical response. Some of the drills focused on specific tasks or casualties, while others involved the entire ship and crew - known as general quarters (GQ). The assessors were also critiquing Ford's Integrated Training Team's (ITT) ability to properly assess risk and implement controls to reduce risk associated with drills.

According to Chief Electrician's Mate Ligil Apuli, from Albay, Philippines, a member of Ford's Damage Control Training Team (DCTT), being part of a training team is a responsibility with many requirements before and during drills. DCTT members aren't just ship's force evaluators, they are also key players in building the skills and knowledge for all Sailors on how to properly respond to a casualty. Apuli believes training team members learned a lot from the ATG assessors during CREWCERT III.

"Working with ATG subject matter experts (SME) has always been a great experience when we get to practice responding to shipboard casualties," said Apuli. "Working with SMEs from ATG definitely improves the firefighting capabilities of the crew, which continues to increase proficiency for future evaluations and real-world scenarios."

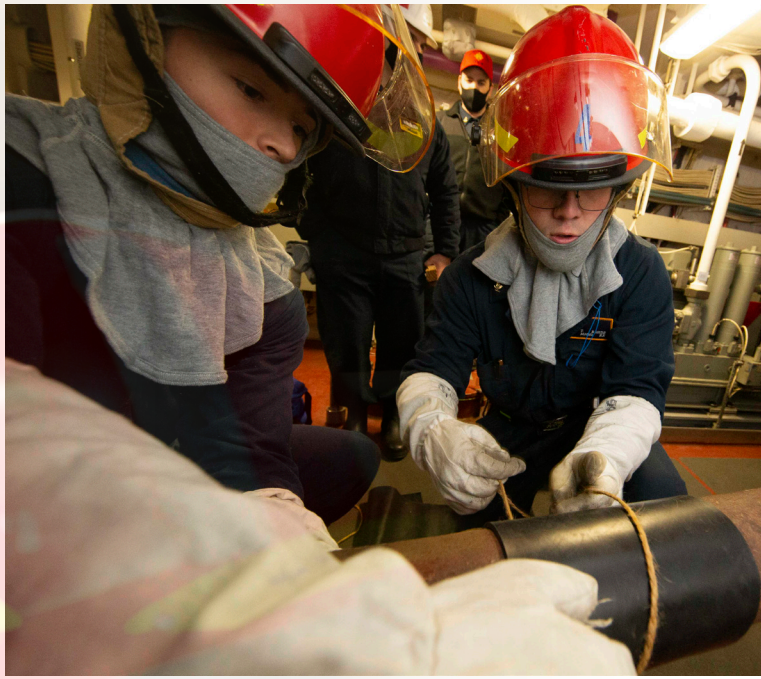
Following their final GQ drill of the week, Ford's Executive Officer, Capt. Jeremy Shamblee, gave the crew his feedback on the ship's announcing system.

"I've seen a dramatic improvement in the ship's response throughout the week," announced Shamblee. "The only way to get better is to practice and get in more 'reps and sets,' and that's what we're going to continue to do."

Completing CREWCERT III prepares Ford for a successful underway schedule with additional training cycle milestones in 2022. Ford is in port at Newport News Shipyard executing her PIA, a six-month period of modernization, maintenance, and repairs.

Right: Photos documenting Ford's Crew Certification III medical and damage control evolutions. (Photos by MC2 Zachary Melvin, MC3 Zack Guth, MC3 Jacob Mattingly and MC3 Adonica Muñoz.)

Chief Legalman Justin Hood, from Corpus Christi, Texas, assigned to Ford's legal department, simulates a class bravo fire during a phase III crew certification damage control evaluation, Jan 26, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Zack Guth)



Rear Adm. Rich Brophy, right, commander, Carrier Strike Group 4, is briefed by Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, Ford's commanding officer, during a ship visit in Newport News, Virginia, Jan. 4, 2022.



COMMANDER, CARRIER STRIKE GROUP FOUR VISITS FORD

Story and photos by
MC1 Ryan Seelbach

Rear Adm. Rich Brophy, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4, visited USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), Jan. 4, to conduct a familiarization tour of the ship to see first-hand the ship's advanced technology, and to provide him an opportunity to discuss the ship's 2022 training cycle.

While onboard Brophy visited various spaces around the ship to include primary flight control, the tactical flag command and control center, and the aft weapons handling transfer area. At each location, he received a brief on the capabilities of the equipment and learned how the training cycle for Ford's employment could be affected due to the ship's enhanced design and abilities.

"As we continue to advance our training at CSG-4, taking advantage of the Ford-class aircraft carrier's capabilities will enhance our ability to train an integrated naval force to win the high-end fight," said Brophy. "Our team looks forward to partnering with the Ford to mentor and train their Sailors and ensure the strike group is ready for global combat."



Rear Adm. Rich Brophy, center, commander, Carrier Strike Group 4, is briefed by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffery Towry, left, assigned to weapons department, on Ford's Advanced Weapons Elevators during a ship visit in Newport News, Virginia, Jan. 4, 2022.

Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, Ford's commanding officer, spoke with Brophy about his vision and goals for the crew and the ship beyond the current Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) at Newport News Shipyard.

"My goal for Ford's upcoming training cycle is to build momentum with the class that Ford began during her post-delivery test and trials," said Lanzilotta. "By the time 2022 is in the rear view mirror there should be no question in anyone's mind when they work with Ford that this class of ship is as or more capable than anything before."

Throughout the coming months, CSG-4 and Ford leadership will continue to plan and refine the scenarios that will be used to achieve their goals to ultimately ensure the entire Gerald R. Ford Strike Group is battle tested and ready for operational employment later this year.

Brophy added "I am eager to see how Ford's combat watchstanders integrate with the Destroyer Squadron and other warfare commanders. We look forward to ensuring Ford is a fully trained ship, effective, lethal and worldwide deployable."

According to Lanzilotta, Ford-class carriers and their advanced technology have changed the game on warfighting, and he is excited to take Naval Aviation to the next level.

"Ford brings a unique ability to really test the limits of our warfighter mindset," said Lanzilotta. "Our future iterations of integrated training drills need to fold her capabilities in, not just from the flight deck air perspective, but also in executing missions like maritime strike that can validate the improved tactics this platform will bring to the fleet."

#THIS IS FORD CLASS



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Koreena Barnes is assigned to Ford's Weapons department and serves as Ford's Multi Cultural Heritage Committee (MCHC) president.

Over the past eighteen months, Barnes has participated in four MCHC events, and led 50 Sailors in the coordination of all of those, increasing cultural awareness command-wide. With the help of MCHC, she created Ford's first step team. Her passion for boosting crew morale and taking care of Sailors are the driving force behind the committee's success.

Ford's MCHC is responsible for conducting monthly observances recognized by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management office.



PLAYING FOR A PURPOSE: FORD SAILOR REPRESENTS NAVY WITH ARMED FORCES BASKETBALL TEAM

STORY AND PHOTO BY MC2 ZACHARY MELVIN

Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Christian Barrett, from Houston, assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) engineering department, represented the U.S. as a member of the All Armed Forces basketball team during the SHAPE International Basketball Tournament from November 26 to December 4, 2021.

The annual tournament took place in Mons, Belgium at a NATO installation where teams representing eight NATO countries competed for the title.

While Barrett's time with the All American Armed Forces team has just begun, Barrett's basketball journey began years before he joined the Navy.

"I started playing basketball in seventh grade," said Barrett. "My coach at the time got me excited about the sport, and I started working out every morning at five. I did that all the way up until high school. I played varsity from my sophomore year on."

Barrett's team went on to win the state championship his senior year. Following high school, he received a scholarship to play college basketball.

"I had a scholarship to a division two college after high school, but I was not very focused at the time so I transferred to a junior college my sophomore year," said Barrett.

After graduating college with his Associate's in Science, Barrett played his final year of college basketball at Lamar University in Texas.

"Throughout all the challenges and

low points in life, basketball taught me discipline, toughness and commitment to battle through," said Barrett. "Whenever I was confronted with adversity or a challenging obstacle, those lessons I learned from the game transferred to making it through the challenging times."

Those lessons of toughness and determination pushed Barrett to follow his dream and enlist in the Navy as an electrician's mate.

**"I AM JUST GRATEFUL
TO GOD FOR THE TALENTS
AND HEALTH TO BE ABLE
TO PLAY THE SPORT I LOVE
WHILE ALSO BEING ABLE TO
SERVE MY COUNTRY."**

**- ELECTRICIAN'S MATE 3RD
CLASS CHRISTIAN BARRETT**

"I had wanted to join the Navy since I was young," said Barrett. "I wanted to travel and be financially stable while doing something positive with my life. I chose electrician's mate because there is a lot of knowledge that is applicable towards a career after the military."

After reporting to Ford for his first tour of duty, Barrett was encouraged by his shipmates to look into playing basketball for the All-Navy team, but tryouts were canceled due to COVID-19.

"I was down about it, because I was really looking forward to it," said Barrett. "I lost all hope for a few days, but I kept working so that I would be

ready if the opportunity presented itself."

Barrett received that opportunity after a coach for USA's All Armed Forces team saw him trying out for a local base team.

"I was trying out for a military base team, and a coach for the All-Navy team who is also a coach for USA's All Armed Forces team saw me," said Barrett. "They gave me the opportunity, and I made the team."

USA's All Armed Forces basketball team is made up of men and women from each of the military branches. During the tournament, Barrett averaged 18 points and 14 rebounds while helping USA's team place silver.

"Basketball has opened up so many doors and allowed me opportunities that I never would have imagined," said Barrett. "I am just grateful to God for the talents and health to be able to play the sport I love while also being able to serve my country."

Barrett credits basketball for his resiliency that has helped him to overcome obstacles during his time assigned to Ford's engineering department.

"There has and always will be low points in life," said Barrett. "Situations may seem overwhelmingly bigger than you, and it is during those times that it is easy to quit. Maintaining your resiliency is the key to pushing past those times. Basketball is my way of staying resilient."

Dearest Mom,

No written words can adequately express our deep, deep love. We know how great you are and we, the Children and Dad, will try to be as strong as you.

Our Faith in you and God will sustain us. Our total love for you is everlasting.

We will be at your side with our love for a wonderful Mom.

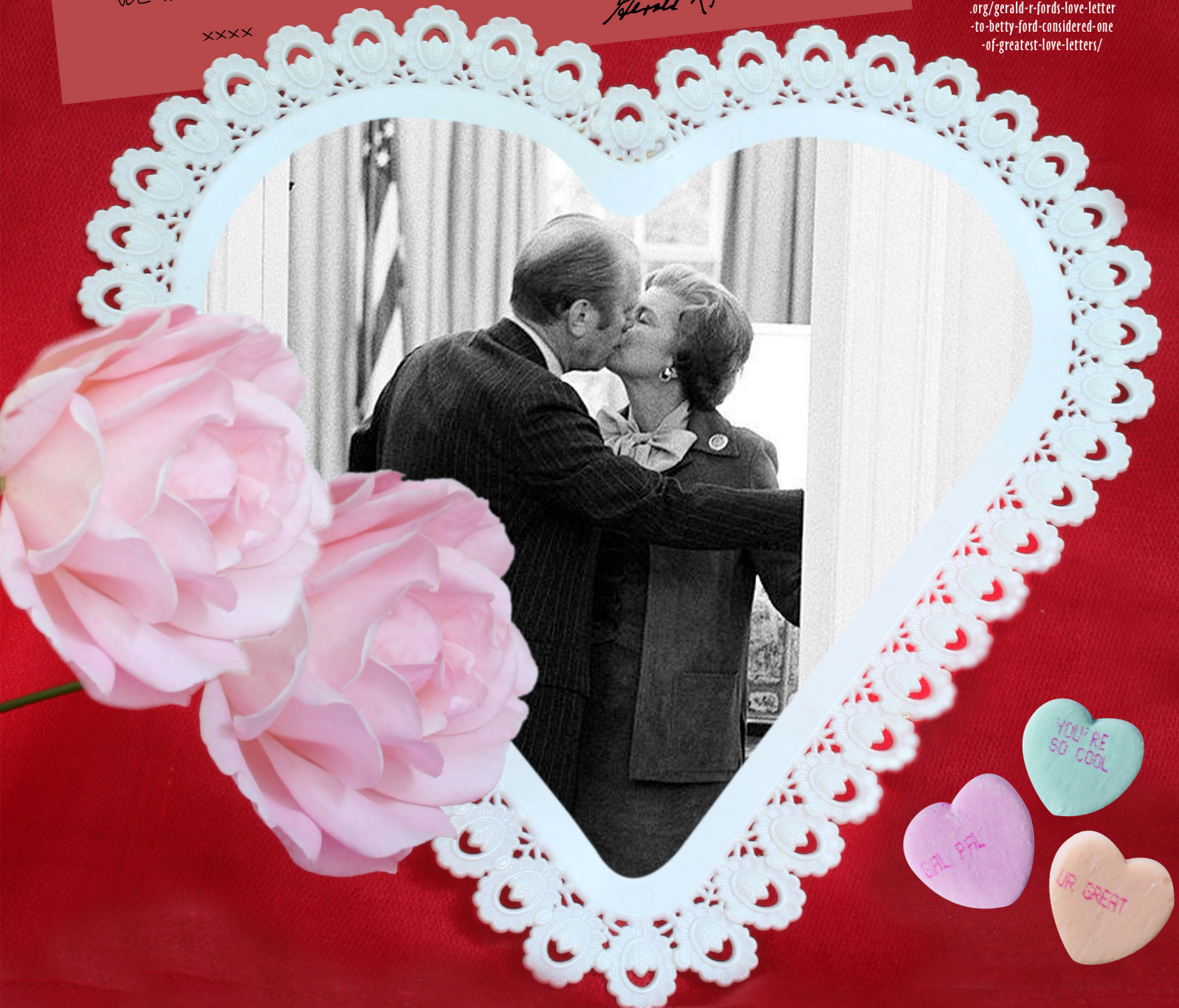
xxxx

Gerald R. Ford

WE
ARE
#WARSHIP
78

Love letter President Ford wrote to his wife while serving in the oval office.

<https://geraldrfoundation.org/gerald-r-fords-love-letter-to-betty-ford-considered-one-of-greatest-love-letters/>



Happy Valentine's Day from the crew of
USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78)