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USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

Honoring a Legacy of Service

President Ford's U.S. Navy Service

- Born Leslie King Jr. July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska, he later received the name Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr. from his adoptive father. In 1935, Ford earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and in 1941 earned his law degree from Yale University.
- On April 13, 1942, Ford received his commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve and ultimately served 47 months of active duty during WWII.
- An accomplished athlete and coach, Ford was well suited as an instructor and on April 20, 1942, he reported for active duty to the Navy's V-5 Aviation school where he taught elementary seamanship, ordnance, gunnery, first aid, and military drill.
- In May 1943, after applying for sea duty, Ford was sent to the pre-commissioning detachment of USS Monterey (CVL 26) serving with the ship until it was severely damaged in a typhoon in December 1944.
- Ford completed his active duty service as a coach in Navy Pre-Flight School, followed by service as a physical and military training officer at the Naval Reserve Training Command.
- While on active duty, Ford achieved the rank of lieutenant commander and was out processed in January 1946 from the Separation Center, Great Lakes, Illinois..
- On June 28, 1963, the Secretary of the Navy accepted Ford's resignation from the Naval Reserve.



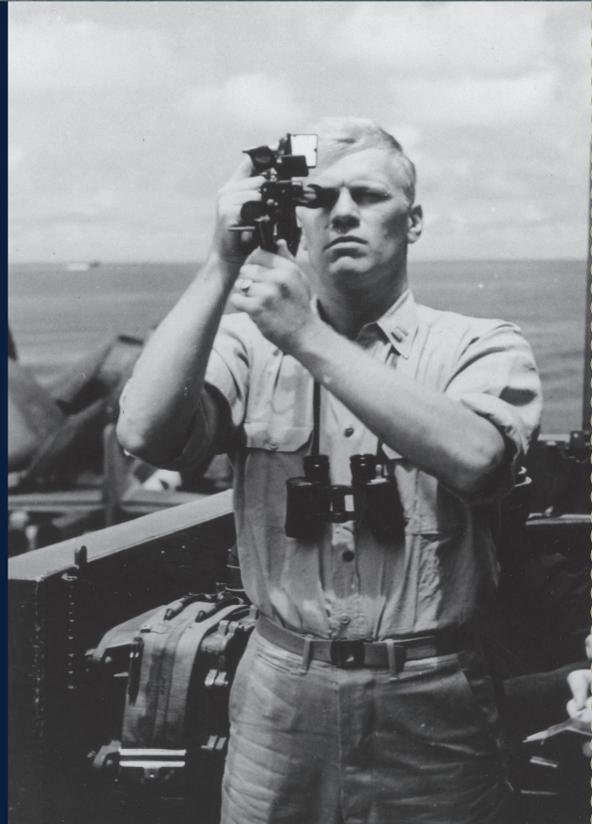
Ford Class Carrier Quick Facts:

Name: USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) **Length:** 1,092 feet
Class: Gerald R. Ford **Speed:** 30+ knots
Crew: 4,539 (ship, air wing and staff) **Aircraft:** 75+

Mission: The lead ship, Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), will be the premier forward asset for crisis response and early decisive striking power in a major combat operation. Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers and carrier strike groups will provide the core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance.



- Blue and Maize symbolize his alma mater, the University of Michigan
- 38 Stars signifies his tenure as the 38th president of the United States
- 26 Gold Stars note his WWII service aboard USS Monterey (CVL 26)
- Compass pointing north is a tribute to his Eagle Scout rank



"We are bound together by the most powerful of all ties, our fervent love for freedom and independence . . ."

- Gerald R. Ford