

# Gerald R. Ford Quotes

*Government, People, Men, President, Patriotic, Children, Believe, Thinking,  
War, Heart, Sports, Responsibility, Goal, Political, Opportunity, America,  
Determination, House, Golf, Real*

A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.

~Gerald R. Ford

Never be satisfied with less than your very best effort. If you strive for the top and miss, you'll still 'beat the pack.'

~Gerald R. Ford

An impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history.

~Gerald R. Ford

There is an old saying, The harder you try the luckier you get. I kind of like that definition of luck.

~Gerald R. Ford

I hope never to see the day that I cannot admit having made a mistake.

~Gerald R. Ford

Nothing in life is more important than the ability to communicate effectively.

~Gerald R. Ford

The spirit of seeking understanding through personal contact with people of other nations and other cultures deserves the respect and support of all.

~Gerald R. Ford

Teddy Roosevelt... once said, 'Speak softly and carry a big stick.' Jimmy Carter wants to speak loudly and carry a fly swatter.

~Gerald R. Ford

I believe that truth is the glue that holds government together, not only our government, but civilization itself.

~Gerald R. Ford

There is no undertaking more challenging, no responsibility more awesome, than that of being a mother.

~Gerald R. Ford

History and experience tell us that moral progress comes not in comfortable and complacent times, but out of trial and confusion.

~Gerald R. Ford

My goal is for a cooperative world at peace, using its resources to build, not to destroy.

~Gerald R. Ford

If compassion and mercy are not compatible with politics then something is the matter with politics.

~Gerald R. Ford

I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, so I ask you to confirm me with your prayers.

~Gerald R. Ford

Real assistance is to help people to help themselves. We can't do everything for everybody, but there is room for all who try to make it.

~Gerald R. Ford

Richard Nixon... was just offered \$2 million by Schick to do a television commercial - for Gillette.

~Gerald R. Ford

Ronald Regan doesn't dye his hair - he's just prematurely orange.

~Gerald R. Ford

For nearly two hundred years, our nation has derived its strength from

the diversity of its people and of their beliefs. That strength has been greatly enhanced by [the Islamic] religious heritage.

~Gerald R. Ford

Let us remember that our national unity is a most priceless asset.

~Gerald R. Ford

In the age-old contest between popularity and principle, only those willing to lose for their convictions are deserving of posterity's approval.

~Gerald R. Ford

The three-martini lunch is the epitome of American efficiency.

~Gerald R. Ford

There is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.

~Gerald R. Ford

For millions of men and women, the church has been the hospital for the soul, the school for the mind and the safe depository for moral ideas.

~Gerald R. Ford

The three-martini lunch is the epitome of American efficiency. Where else can you get an earful, a bellyful and a snootful at the same time?

~Gerald R. Ford

A great nation cannot abandon its responsibilities. Responsibilities abandoned today return as more acute crises tomorrow.

~Gerald R. Ford

I strongly support the feeding of children.

~Gerald R. Ford

In a democracy, the public has a right to know not only what the

government decides, but why and by what process.

~Gerald R. Ford

The American dream does not come to those who fall asleep.

~Gerald R. Ford

I don't know what the future may hold for me-or for any of us. But I want you to know that I am a man who likes having critics who are not enemies.

~Gerald R. Ford

Personal excellence can be achieved by a visionary goal, through planning, dedicated execution, and total follow-through.

~Gerald R. Ford

A coalition of groups is waging a massive propaganda campaign against the president of the United States. an all-out attack. Their aim is total victory for themselves and total defeat for him.

~Gerald R. Ford

All my children have spoken for themselves since they first learned to speak, and not always with my advance approval, and I expect that to continue in the future.

~Gerald R. Ford

We came from many roots, and we have many branches.

~Gerald R. Ford

My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over.

~Gerald R. Ford

America's leadership is essential. America's resources are vast. America's opportunities are unprecedented.

~Gerald R. Ford

Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life.

~Gerald R. Ford

I would hope that understanding and reconciliation are not limited to the 19th hole alone.

~Gerald R. Ford

Truth is the glue that holds government together.

~Gerald R. Ford

The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.

~Gerald R. Ford

If Lincoln were alive today, he'd be turning over in his grave.

~Gerald R. Ford

My commitment to the security and future of Israel is based upon basic morality as well as enlightened self-interest. Our role in supporting Israel honors our own heritage.

~Gerald R. Ford

I love sports. Whenever I can, I always watch the Detroit Tigers on the radio.

~Gerald R. Ford

Our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule.

~Gerald R. Ford

I am a Ford, not a Lincoln.

~Gerald R. Ford

It feels like getting a back massage from the Grim Reaper: one must get comfortable with the most horrifying things in the world.

~Gerald R. Ford

The pat on the back, the arm around the shoulder, the praise for what was done right and the sympathetic nod for what wasn't are as much a part of golf as life itself.

~Gerald R. Ford

I would like to deny all allegations by Bob Hope that during my last game of golf, I hit an eagle, a birdie, an elk and a moose.

~Gerald R. Ford

I know I am getting better at golf because I am hitting fewer spectators.

~Gerald R. Ford

We cannot stand still or slip backwards. We must go forward now together.

~Gerald R. Ford

Obviously, it's a great privilege and pleasure to be here at the Yale Law School Sesquicentennial Convocation. And I defy anyone to say that and chew gum at the same time.

~Gerald R. Ford

All of us who served in one war or another know very well that all wars are the glory and the agony of the young.

~Gerald R. Ford

In all my public and private acts as your president, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and candor with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy in the end.

~Gerald R. Ford

Compromise is the oil that makes governments go.

~Gerald R. Ford

When a man is asked to make a speech, the first thing he has to decide is what to say.

~Gerald R. Ford

I watch a lot of baseball on the radio.

~Gerald R. Ford

We are bound together by the most powerful of all ties, our fervent love for freedom and independence, which knows no homeland but the human heart.

~Gerald R. Ford

I do believe that the buck stops here, that I cannot rely upon public opinion polls to tell me what is right.

~Gerald R. Ford

If it is a cliché<sup>1</sup> to say athletics build character as well as muscle, then I subscribe to the cliché.

~Gerald R. Ford

There is an American tragedy in which we all have played a part.

~Gerald R. Ford

Today, America can regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam... These events, tragic as they are, portend neither the end of the world nor of America's leadership in the world.

~Gerald R. Ford

Frankly, I've never felt voting to be all that essential to the process.

~Gerald R. Ford



If I went back to college again, I'd concentrate on learning to write and to speak before an audience . Nothing is more important than the ability to communicate effectively.

~Gerald R. Ford

I believe in friendly compromise. I said over in the Senate hearings that truth is the glue that holds government together. Compromise is the oil that makes governments go.

~Gerald R. Ford

The length of one's days matters less than the love of one's family and friends.

~Gerald R. Ford

America needed recovery, not revenge. The hate had to be drained and the healing begun.

~Gerald R. Ford

I was dumbfounded by the stupidity of the Watergate break-in.

~Gerald R. Ford

This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

~Gerald R. Ford

The harder you work, the luckier you are, and I worked like hell.

~Gerald R. Ford

I do believe, with all my heart and mind and spirit, that I, not as President but as a humble servant of God, will receive justice without mercy if I fail to show mercy.

~Gerald R. Ford

Theirs is an American tragedy in which we all have played a part. It could go on and on, or someone must write "The End" to it. I have

concluded that only I can do that. And if I can, I must.

~Gerald R. Ford

I'm a Ford, not a Lincoln. My addresses will never be as eloquent as Mr. Lincoln's. But I will do my very best to equal his brevity and his plain speaking.

~Gerald R. Ford

I just don't think we should go hellfire damnation around the globe freeing people, unless it is directly related to our own national security.

~Gerald R. Ford

I had a life-long ambition to be a professional baseball player, but nobody would sign me.

~Gerald R. Ford

It's discouraging how hard it is for a President to slice away large chunks of a \$305 billion budget.

~Gerald R. Ford

I am the first to admit that I am no great orator or no person that got where I have gotten by any William Jennings Bryan technique.

~Gerald R. Ford

I am determined to seek self-sufficiency in energy as an urgent national priority. My goal is to make America independent of foreign energy sources by 1985.

~Gerald R. Ford

He was one of the few political leaders I have ever met whose public speeches revealed more than his private conversations. [On Ronald Reagan]

~Gerald R. Ford

My golf must be improving, I'm not hitting as many spectators.

~Gerald R. Ford

To me, the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency were not prizes to be won, but a duty to be done.

~Gerald R. Ford

I remain convinced that pardoning Nixon was the right thing to do.

~Gerald R. Ford

One of the enduring truths of the nation's capital is that bureaucrats survive.

~Gerald R. Ford

We . . . declared our independence 200 years ago, and we are not about to lose it now to paper shufflers and computers.

~Gerald R. Ford

It's more like it is now than it ever has been.

~Gerald R. Ford

In baseball when they say you're out, you're out. It's the same way in politics.

~Gerald R. Ford

I had a lot of experience with people smarter than I am.

~Gerald R. Ford

Sit down before facts as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion or you shall learn nothing.

~Gerald R. Ford

I think they ought to be treated equally. Period.

~Gerald R. Ford

The Constitution is the bedrock of all our freedoms; guard and cherish it; keep honor and order in your own house; and the republic will endure.

~Gerald R. Ford

I know I will go to hell, because I pardoned Richard Nixon.

~Gerald R. Ford

I recognize the need for technology that enriches life while preserving our natural environment. My goal is to stimulate productivity, but use technology to redeem, not to destroy our environment.

~Gerald R. Ford

I can assure you the National Federation is an organization of Republican women whose power, prestige, perception, and purpose will never be underestimated by anyone.

~Gerald R. Ford

I think that sports, particularly football, gave me an opportunity to be out front, to be a leader, which helped me later on, when I got into politics.

~Gerald R. Ford

Ronald Reagan was an excellent leader of our nation during challenging times at home and abroad.

~Gerald R. Ford

Conservatism has always meant more to me than simply sticking up for private property & free enterprise. It has also meant defending our heritage & preserving our values.

~Gerald R. Ford

As President, I am determined to offer leadership to overcome our current economic problems. My goal is for jobs for all who want to work and economic opportunity for all who want to achieve.

~Gerald R. Ford

Mr. President, putting it bluntly, wouldn't we just be continuing a bloodbath that already exists in Cambodia if we voted the 222 million in aid?

~Gerald R. Ford

We must introduce a new balance in the relationship between the individual and the government--a balance that favors greater individual freedom and self-reliance.

~Gerald R. Ford

I couldn't wait to start the day.

~Gerald R. Ford

The Federal role in overcoming barriers to needed health care should emphasize health care financing programs-such as Medicare and Medicaid.

~Gerald R. Ford

The old question still remains: Can a free people restrain crime without sacrificing fundamental liberties and a heritage of compassion?

~Gerald R. Ford

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