

## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: EILEEN SULLIVAN  
(202) 724-0088, EXT. 253

### PRESIDENT FORD DONATES 1963-64 CALENDAR DIARIES FROM WARREN COMMISSION SERVICE TO JFK ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

Former President Gerald R. Ford has donated to the JFK Assassination Records Review Board copies of pages from his 1963 and 1964 calendar diaries on which he made handwritten notes during his service as a member of the Warren Commission. All of the pages referring to Warren Commission activities will become available for the first time.

“President Ford has made an important donation to history and the American public by sharing the notes that chronicle how he viewed the assassination investigation while serving on the Warren Commission,” said Dr. Henry F. Graff, a member of the Review Board and noted Presidential scholar.

“His cooperation and generosity should serve as a model for other individuals who possess materials that would enrich the historical record surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.”

Beginning on November 29, 1963, the day that then Congressman Ford was selected by President Johnson to serve on the Warren Commission and continuing until the Commission’s final report was completed, he would make handwritten notes regarding witnesses and developments in the investigation in his daily calendar diary. The notes range in subject from short entries identifying witnesses before the Warren Commission to detailed fuller observations about the testimony given by a witness. Included with the calendar diary is a three page typewritten description of the June 1964 trip to Dallas made by Ford and Chief Justice Earl Warren to tour the Texas School Book Depository and interview Jack Ruby.

President Ford permitted the Review Board to make copies of all pages that it deemed relevant to the assassination. The Ford calendar diary notes acquired by the Review Board have been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the JFK Collection, which is housed at the National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

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These materials are now available to researchers. The original Ford calendar diaries will eventually be donated to the Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Copies of selected pages from the diaries are available from the Assassination Records Review Board, 600 E Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20530; telephone number: (202) 724-0088.

*The Assassination Records Review Board was established by the JFK Act, which was signed into law by President George Bush. The five members of the Board were*

*appointed by President Clinton, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and sworn in on April*

*11, 1994. The law gives the Review Board the mandate and the authority to identify, secure, and make available all records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. It is the responsibility of the Board to determine which records are to be made public immediately and which ones will have postponed release dates.*

The Review Board consists of the following members:

**Honorable John R. Tunheim**, Chair; U.S. District Court Judge, District of Minnesota.

**Dr. Henry F. Graff**; Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University.

**Dr. Kermit L. Hall**; Dean, College of Humanities, and Professor of History at The Ohio State University.

**Dr. William L. Joyce**; Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University.

**Dr. Anna K. Nelson**; Distinguished Adjunct Historian in Residence at The American University.