

# Steve Ford

## *Leadership*

What makes a great leader? History shows that those who have sought service over self-interest in times of indecision, turmoil, and crisis are regarded as true leaders.

On August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the 38<sup>th</sup> President of the United States when President Richard Nixon resigned his office in disgrace because of the Watergate scandal.

Not long after taking over the reins of the country, President Ford issued a full legal pardon to Richard Nixon. Ford's pardon of Nixon was not a popular decision at the time, even among his own Republican party. Historians believe that this decision cost President Ford his bid for the presidency in 1976 when he lost a close election to Jimmy Carter.

Today, most historians and political observers agree that President Ford's tough decision to pardon Nixon was the right thing to do and was in the country's best interest. His leadership helped heal a nation and restore confidence in the office of the President of the United States.

President Ford's son, Steve, will talk about what it takes to be a good leader and some of the traits of leadership, such as trust, vision, integrity, the ability to listen, a willingness to compromise, developing a hard-work ethic, and the courage to make tough and sometimes unpopular decisions.