

# Old Neighborhood Stands Up for Ford

By Ron Shaffer

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When Gerald R. Ford strode to the East Room podium to meet the Chief Justice yesterday and several hundred White House guests stood up and applauded, a group of Mr. Ford's Alexandria neighbors watching on television started to stand up and applaud also.

"I just feel like we should stand up, too, for this man," said Marjorie Rogers, a longtime neighbor of the new President.

"I'm just delighted and thrilled to think that the President of United States lived on Crown View Drive," said Marjorie Goodwin, who has lived on that street for 18 years.

Their reactions were typical of the awe and pride of Ford's neighbors yesterday as the man who lived in a two-story 20-year-old brick home at 514 Crown View Drive, the congressman who lived down the street or next door, became President.

"He's a great man, a wonderful family man," said Mrs. Rogers. "This is the greatest thing that ever happened to this country; we can look forward to settling down and leading normal lives again."

The Ford neighborhood, a collection of upper-income families that includes doctors, a dentist, a retired admiral, a U.S. judge and other government employees, was far from normal yesterday.

Police and secret service men barricaded Crown View Drive at each end and roped off the sidewalk in front of the Ford home. Two Alexandria policemen and a secret service agent stood guard in front of the home, while across the street television cameras were aimed at the house to catch the family as it arrived and departed.

A battery of telephones lay

on the sidewalk across the street and a dozen journalists napped, ate, and grabbed passersby and neighbors for interviews.

The neighbors had seen the fanfare before when Mr. Ford was named Vice President, but noted the street-side activities were handled better this time because the barricades kept away the endless stream of cars.

"My gosh, they've even got the streetsweeper out," Mrs. Goodwin noted as a city water truck washed Crown View Drive around 1 p.m. She said the street sweeper has been seldom seen before.

Some neighbors gathered at the home of Peter Abbruzzese, who lives across the street from Mr. Ford. They applauded at the end of the television ceremony and remarked how good the Ford family looked.

Many of the neighbors have lived alongside the Fords for 15 years or more. Their children have grown up together, they've attended the same PTA meetings, bumped into each other at the supermarket or at neighborhood parties, and seen the value of their houses increase from the \$25,000-\$30,000 purchase range to \$75,000 to \$85,000 now.

Many of them attend the same church, Immanuel Church on the Hill, where the President is a vestryman and Mrs. Ford taught Sunday School.

The neighbors described the Ford's as an average American family. "It's hard to write anything about them because they're such a normal family," said Jean Moore.

Mark Souder, 14, said he and his friends frequently play basketball in the street with Steven and, sometimes, Michael Ford. Susan Ford, he said, "babysits for my little brother," and "I helped Mike clean up his car after he was married. They're all

a fantastic family because they're so nice."

Mrs. Rogers, who said she had known Mrs. Ford for 19 years, said the new First Lady invited her to their home during the pre-resignation turmoil Thursday afternoon. For several hours, Mrs. Rogers said, she watched Mrs. Ford, appearing "calm as ever" answer telephone calls, marshal her children, and line up clothes to wear for the next few days. At one point, she said, Mrs. Ford clutched a prayer book and told Mrs. Rogers, "This is what helps me get through it all."

Susan Ford, according to

Mrs. Goodwin, visited the Abbruzzeses, where she frequently babysits, Thursday night, and several times, she said, "peered out the front window, seeing what was happening right in front of her own house. I don't think she could believe it."

## Nobel Nomination

Agence France-Presse

CARACAS, Aug. 9—The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, in a decision voted last night, has put forward the name of Arvid Pardo, a Maltese citizen, as a candidate for the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to insure a fairer distribution of underwater resources.





Associated Press

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford sips coffee as daughter Susan, in bathrobe, explains to a neighbor, Peter Abbruzzese, their schedule for yesterday's inauguration of Mr. Ford.