

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Federal Government.



## ELIZABETH ANN BLOOMER WARREN FORD

*First Lady (1974–1977)*

Elizabeth (Betty) was born on April 18, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of William Stephenson Bloomer and Hortense Neahr.

Betty began dancing when she was eight years old and when she graduated high school, she began studying with Martha Graham when she was attending the Bennington School of Dance in Vermont. Betty moved to New York where she performed at Carnegie Hall.

Betty's mother wanted her to move back home so Betty agreed to try it for six months. She taught dance and met and married Bill Warren in the spring of 1942. She divorced him in 1947. Her friends introduced her to Gerald Ford and they married on October 15, 1948 at Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Betty and Gerald had four children: Michael Gerald, John Gardner, Steven Meigs, and Susan Elizabeth.

Betty became First Lady when Richard Nixon resigned amid the Watergate scandal and followed in Pat Nixon's footsteps by supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights, and the nomination of a woman to the Supreme Court. She was open and frank about her opinions and her husband supported her in this.

Betty made a major contribution to American society after her time at the White House. She became addicted to alcohol and pills which resulted in a family intervention. She checked into the Long Beach Naval Hospital and credits that institution with saving her life.

Her experience in treatment motivated her to create her own center called the "Betty Ford Treatment Center" in Rancho Mirage, California.

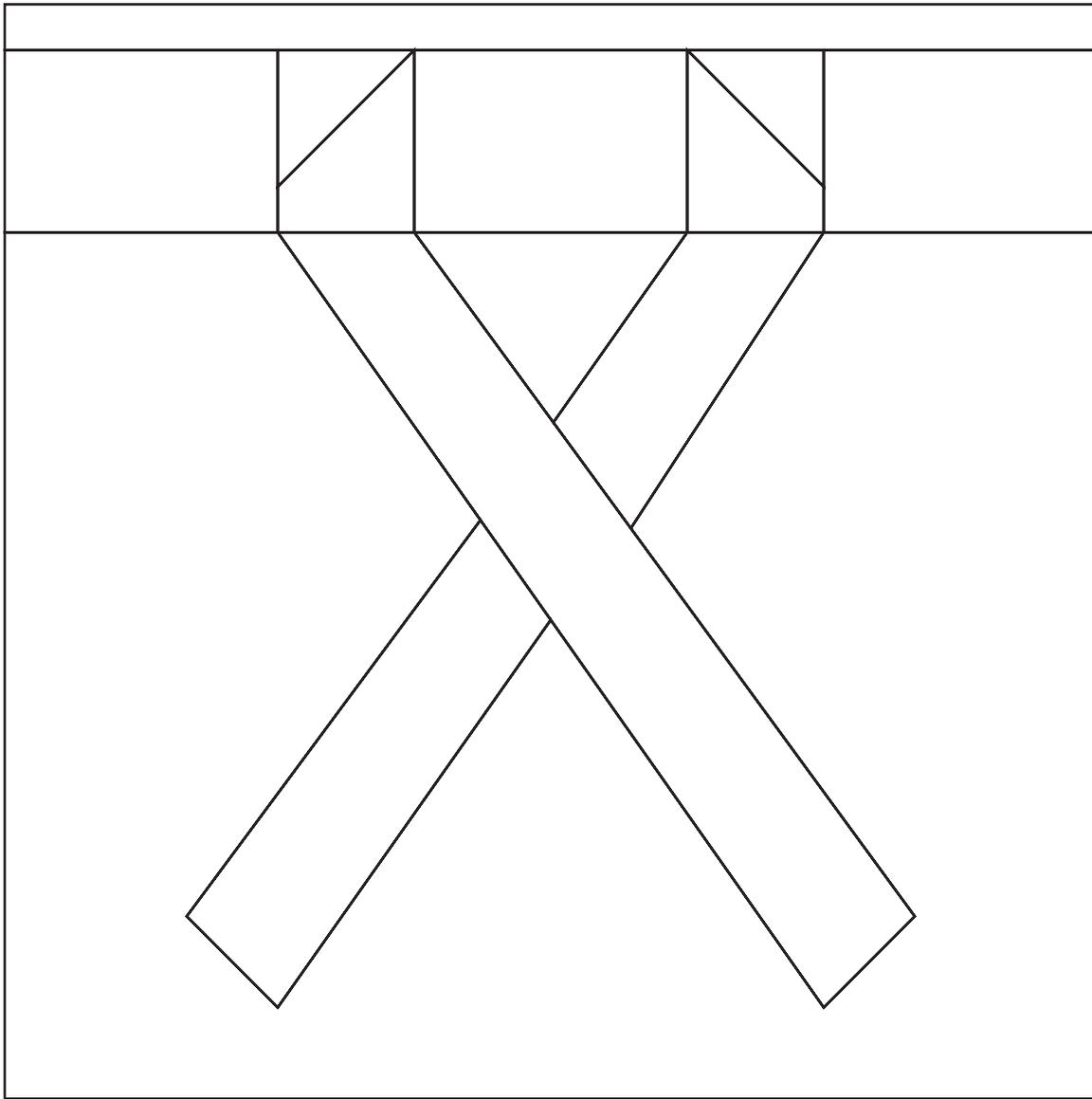
*"Lying in the hospital, thinking about all those women going for cancer checkups because of me, I'd come to recognize more clearly the power of the woman in the White House. Not my power, but the power of the position, a power which could be used to help."*

*~Betty Ford*



### **Betty's Boldness**

Betty's block honors another issue that she is known for: her battle with breast cancer. Shortly after she became First Lady, she discovered a lump in her breast. Instead of hiding this diagnosis, Betty spoke openly about it and made women around the country aware of the importance of breast exams and the importance of catching the disease early.



**Betty's Boldness**  
Making the Block

Using the diagram above, make templates and appliqué to a 7" square of background fabric according to the block design. Trim block to 6½" x 6½".