



Timeline: William Clay Ford

- Born March 14, 1925
- Married Martha Firestone on June 21, 1947
- Elected to Ford Motor Company board of directors on June 4, 1948
- Joined Ford Motor Company on the Sales and Advertising Staff in 1949 after graduating from Yale University
- After holding various management positions, appointed manager of Special Product Operations on July 17, 1952, and put in charge of a group of engineers and designers engaged in advanced planning of the Continental Mark II
- Named a vice president on May 12, 1953
- Served as vice president and general manager of the Continental Division from 1954 to 1956, when Continental operations were consolidated with the Lincoln Division.
- Assumed responsibility for corporate product planning and design in 1956
- Named first chairman of the newly formed Design Committee of the company's Policy and Strategy Committee in 1957. Holds that post until his retirement from the company in 1989
- Became president of the Detroit Lions football team in 1961. Purchases the team in November 1963 and serves as its chairman until his death
- Appointed vice president - Product Design in 1973
- Elected chairman of the Executive Committee and appointed a member of the Office of the Chief Executive in 1978
- Elected vice chairman of the Board in 1980
- Elected chairman of the Finance Committee in 1987
- Retired as vice chairman of the Board in 1989
- Retired as chairman of the Finance Committee in 1995
- Retired as a director of Ford in May 2005 and was named Director Emeritus

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