

# IKE INSIGHT

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[www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net)

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## You Did It!

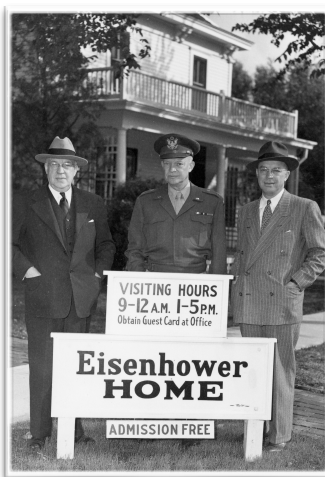
### Eisenhower Foundation Marks 75th Anniversary

As World War II entered its final months, the concept of a memorial to honor Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, Dwight D. Eisenhower, began to develop. A small group of Kansans worked diligently to create an organization to spearhead this project.

General Eisenhower embarked on a post-war victory tour in June of 1945. At London Guildhall, he said, "I come from the very heart of America." On June 22, the tour brought Ike home to a crowd of several thousand cheering citizens. In his Homecoming Speech, he said, "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene." Kansas' favorite son had returned and his words offered further encouragement to the effort to build a memorial. That day, a plan was presented establishing the Eisenhower Foundation, and Ike gave his approval.



*Abilene parade welcoming Ike home after World War II, June 22, 1945.*



*Eisenhower brothers Arthur, Ike, and Milton, June 7, 1947, prior to the public opening of their boyhood home.*

When their mother, Ida, passed away in September 1946, the Eisenhower brothers deeded the family home to the Eisenhower Foundation. Dedicated on June 22, 1947, more than 500 toured the home on opening day.

Over the next few years, fundraising for the memorial museum stalled until Kansas Gov. Edward Arn, Sen. Harry Darby, and Hallmark founder J.C. Hall combined efforts for a statewide campaign. Gen. Eisenhower laid the cornerstone of the Museum building on June 4, 1952, when he came to Abilene to announce his presidential candidacy, and returned as President to dedicate the building on November 11, 1954, the first official Veterans Day.

Eisenhower selected Abilene as the location for his Presidential Library, and the Foundation partnered with the State of Kansas to construct a building for this historic collection. Ike returned to Abilene to break ground on October 13, 1959, and chose May 1, 1962, for the formal dedication — the date of his mother Ida's 100th birthday.

In 1966, the Place of Meditation was completed and all campus buildings were donated to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Through your generous donations, the Eisenhower Foundation continues to provide funding for exhibits, public programs, and IKEducation. Launched in 2013, IKEducation has taught over 36,000 students and teachers about the Eisenhower era. And in 2019, your support made possible the complete redesign of the Museum exhibits.

For 75 years, the Eisenhower Foundation has been committed to ensuring the legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower is remembered. Thank you for supporting our efforts to secure Ike's legacy and honor the troops he led into battle. You are essential to the Eisenhower Foundation's past, present and future.

## Meredith's Memo

Today, the doors to our office remain closed and our staff is working remotely until further notice and guidance from authorities. I am pleased to share that even with our doors closed, we continue to provide IKEducation curriculum to K-12 teachers.

Thanks to the strategic vision of the Eisenhower Foundation's Board of Directors, we were already one step ahead. Our first step, which began even before this crisis surfaced, was making a commitment to building a Virtual IKEducation Classroom that provides digital resources to teachers throughout the United States and the world. These are teachers who suddenly find themselves scrambling to adjust to virtual learning through the end of this academic year. Even though students and guests cannot visit the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home for now, we are committed to providing quality digital resources through the duration of this hiatus and beyond.

The only way this can happen is through the generosity of our donors. There are brighter days ahead, and we will continue to need IKEducation when we come through this crisis. As a Friend of the Eisenhower Foundation, I want to personally thank you for your continued trust in our work, and I hope you will consider helping us rise to the challenges of these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Meredith Sleichter  
Executive Director

## Special Recognition

### Archivist's Award for Eisenhower Museum



*The D-Day planning table has a new, larger exhibit enclosure following the museum renovation project.*

The recent Eisenhower Presidential Museum exhibit renovation project is receiving high accolades. The Wall Street Journal's critic-at-large, Ed Rothstein, reviewed the exhibits, making it clear he likes Ike. The review is titled, "I Like Ike('s Museum)!"

The Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, is also impressed with the new exhibits. The Eisenhower Presidential Library team will receive an Archivist's Achievement Award for exemplary contributions to the exhibit

renovation project. The award ceremony will be held virtually on May 6, 2020.

The first comprehensive re-imagining of the Eisenhower story in almost 50 years, followed nearly five years of planning. Project construction began in May 2018 and concluded 14 months later. This prestigious award from the National Archives and Records Administration recognizes the teamwork and collaboration required to complete a project of this magnitude.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our generous donors. Your support made this historic renovation happen.

## Celebrating Our Heroes

### John F. "Jack" Curran

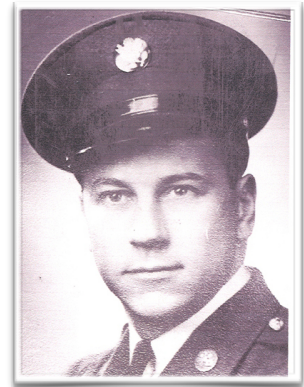
May 8, 2020, marks an important World War II date — the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, Victory in Europe. Lt. John F. "Jack" Curran (pictured right), born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, played an important role that day.

Jack received his training as a cryptographer at Ft. Monmouth and was transferred to Military Intelligence in the War Department in Washington, DC. He was soon promoted to Master Sergeant and sent to serve with the Military Attaché in London. In 1944 he became a member of SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) and went to Paris and Versailles as a 2nd Lieutenant at General Eisenhower's headquarters.

On May 7, 1945, in the early morning hours, in a little red schoolhouse in Rheims, France (Eisenhower's forward SHAEF headquarters), Jack found himself on duty and responsible for sending the initial "cease fire and surrender" messages announcing the German surrender. May 8th, V-E Day, celebrating the end of the war in Europe, will forever be a part of history.

Following the surrender, Jack went to Frankfurt, Germany, and concluded his career as a code officer at the Farben building. He received the Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European Theater ribbon, Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, European African Middle Eastern Campaign ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. Jack served his country with honor and was proud to have served under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Lt. Curran passed away in December 2000.

We are grateful for Lt. Curran's service, and to his family for sharing this summary. Find this veteran's story and more at [www.IkesSoldiers.com](http://www.IkesSoldiers.com).



## Spotlight Event

### 2020 Dickinson County Donate Day



DICKINSON COUNTY  
**DONATE DAY**

The Community Foundation of Dickinson County, Kansas, recently issued a challenge to our community of friends, with the opportunity to double their donations. Our local community foundation hosted its second annual *Donate Dickinson County Day* to help us raise money for our endowment fund. The

Eisenhower Foundation's goal was to secure \$10,000 on March 20, 2020. This would generate a \$5,000 match from the Community Foundation of Dickinson County, along with another \$5,000 match from a loyal donor.

All money raised through this matching gift opportunity was added to our endowment fund, which is invested and managed to secure our organization's future. These funds provide crucial support for IEducation, exhibits, and community events.

The Community Foundation of Dickinson County serves as an important resource for area nonprofits like ours, and believes that philanthropy is a community effort. We could not agree more, and we are thankful for a nationwide community who still likes Ike.

We were so pleased with the overwhelming support for Donate Dickinson County Day. Because of our steadfast donors, we met our match goal in record time. Your generous donations totaled \$29,740 on Donate Day! The Community Foundation of Dickinson County, Kansas, matched this with \$5,000, plus an additional match of \$5,000 from a loyal donor, resulting in nearly \$40,000 added to our endowment fund.

To our many friends, Meredith Sleichter, Executive Director, responded, "The Eisenhower Foundation staff is humbled by your generosity, especially during this time of uncertainty. With a grateful heart, I sincerely thank you for your support and your trust."



*Meredith Sleichter greets a donor at the Donate Day drive-thru window.*

## Special Exhibit

### Paint by Number in the Eisenhower Era

Millions of Americans joined the strong and growing middle class thanks to economic growth during the Eisenhower presidency. Shorter work weeks and a strong economy meant Americans had more leisure time and disposable income; time and money they used for new hobbies. One of the most popular hobbies of the 1950s was the Paint by Number phenomenon. Perhaps some of you remember paint by number kits.

Dan Robbins developed the paint by number kits for Palmer Paint Co. He got the idea from a method that Leonardo Da Vinci used to train new apprentices in his studio. The new kits came with a printed and numbered pattern as well as brushes and paints and went on sale in 1951. By 1954, the Palmer Paint Company sold over 12 million kits under the Craft Master brand.

Many famous artists of the era were not impressed and questioned if the kit paintings were even art. Robbins' replied "I never claimed that painting by number is art, but it is the experience of art, and it brings that experience to the individual who would normally not pick up a brush, not dip it in paint." The paint by number kits democratized the concept of art in a way that appealed to the masses.

The Eisenhower administration picked up the paint by number brush too. In 1954, President Eisenhower's Appointment Secretary Thomas Stephens handed out kits to cabinet members, government leaders, and visitors to the oval office. He collected the resulting paintings and displayed them in his office. Luminaries such as Fred Waring, Nelson Rockefeller, and Ethel Merman contributed paintings to the growing White House collection. That collection forms the core of a paint by numbers exhibit, *By the Numbers*. Originally scheduled to open in April, this art show has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The opening date will be announced when the Eisenhower Presidential Library exhibit areas are once again open to the public.



*Paint by number art by President Eisenhower's Attorney General Herbert Brownell. Eisenhower Presidential Library photo.*

# IKE INSIGHT

## IKEducation

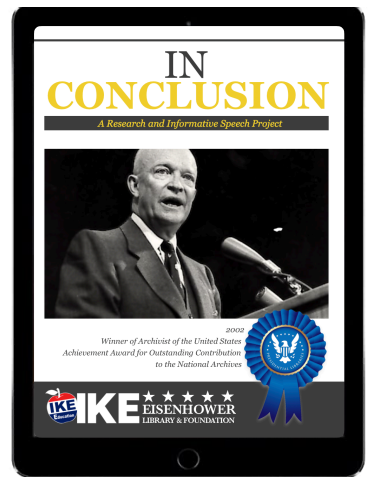
### As the World Goes Viral, IKEducation Goes Virtual

IKEducation's spring calendar was filled with a record number of field trips when COVID-19 hit the United States, shutting down schools, museums, and government institutions. While we are disappointed that we are not able to host all those students on our campus, virtual education was already in IKEducation's crosshairs. What is virtual education? There are many branches of virtual education, but at its most basic, it means instruction in a learning environment where teacher and students are separated by time and/or space and the teacher provides content through technological methods such as internet, multimedia resources, and video-conferencing. The teacher can interact with students on a live video feed, can post assignments online that the students complete and submit digitally, or a wide variety of combinations of these options. It is a platform that has slowly been growing over the past decade, but has now exploded as our country adapts to the new requirements of social distancing in an attempt to keep everyone healthy.



Take a virtual tour of the Ike's boyhood home without leaving your home. Find it in the Teacher Resources at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

This past winter, IKEducation started preparing to launch a new virtual classroom in time for the school year starting in August 2020. Sneak previews on our current site include the virtual tour of Ike's boyhood home, and *In Conclusion: A Research and Informative Speech Project*. We are working towards a digital library of primary sources, videos, and lesson plans that students and teachers can utilize from home, in the classroom, or wherever they may be.



Teach students to research documents from the Eisenhower Presidential Library using the resources in this lesson plan on [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).



Virtual student-teacher engagement through the laptop computer! Our IKEducator, Mrs. Reynolds, listens to students respond to her questions.

IKEducation recently piloted its first virtual field trip for a class at Eisenhower Elementary School in Enid, Oklahoma. The teacher asked if there were any educational materials we could provide for her K-5 students to help celebrate President's Day on February 16th. This proved to be the perfect opportunity to reach students hundreds of miles away with a virtual field trip. IKEducation worked with the teacher to create a personalized lesson that helped them celebrate President's Day and learn more about our favorite president — Ike!

On this field trip, students first engaged with our new virtual tour of Eisenhower's boyhood home. They were able to "walk through" Ike's home, look more closely at significant artifacts, and listen to information as they moved from room to room. Then, we used an online video-conferencing platform to interact from our classroom in the

Eisenhower Presidential Museum in Abilene, Kansas, to 120 students in the auditorium at Eisenhower Elementary School in Enid, Oklahoma! IKEducator, Donna Reynolds, provided an engaging lesson over Ike's boyhood years, including many of his hobbies and chores. The lesson ended with questions from the students. Prior to the field trip, IKEducation sent Eisenhower Elementary several authentic games and toys just like those that Ike would have played with. This provided students with another level of engagement and learning. The feedback we received from the teacher was very positive: "Oh my goodness, the kids loved, loved the lesson! We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us on this endeavor. Lots of teachers are excited to come up and visit in person now!"

IKEducation is working hard to build our virtual classroom in time for the next school year. Whether kids are coming to us on a school bus, from a classroom across the country, or from their homes, we can't wait to pass on the legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower!



Students experienced a live demonstration of the hand-cranked butter-making process during their virtual field trip.

## Support Our Cause

### Kansas Residents: Drive Ike's Legacy

Dwight D. Eisenhower enacted the National Interstate Highway and Defense Highway System Act in 1956, forever changing the landscape of America.

Kansas residents can celebrate and honor Ike's legacy by

purchasing an I LIKE IKE license plate that supports exhibits, programs, and events at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home in Abilene, Kansas.

The I LIKE IKE distinctive tag is an official license plate for the State of Kansas and can be obtained at any Kansas county treasurer/motor vehicle office. Plates are available anytime.

The cost of the tag is a \$50 annual donation that comes to the nonprofit Eisenhower Foundation. There is a one-time \$45 fee assessed by the State of Kansas when you initially select your I LIKE IKE license plate.

After purchasing your plate, you will receive a complimentary Friends of the Eisenhower Foundation membership as our way of saying thanks for "Driving Ike's Legacy."



## Upcoming Events

### NOTICE: COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home is closed to the public until further notice. All public events at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas, are cancelled through June. Regretfully, this also includes the *Symphony at Sunset Annual D-Day Commemoration Concert* slated for June 6.

"We deeply regret having to cancel this year's concert. We look forward to this event each year. However, the safety of our community is paramount. We are making efforts to either reschedule or move programs into a virtual capacity where possible. Unfortunately, the symphony concert does not lend itself to either of those options," states Dawn Hammatt, Director.

Events planned after June are pending as we await guidance from the National Archives and local officials.

Please visit our websites for updates:

[www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net)

[www.EisenhowerLibrary.gov](http://www.EisenhowerLibrary.gov)

## We Appreciate Your Support

Thank you for your support! To make a donation, simply send this form to: PO Box 295, Abilene, KS 67410. You can also make a contribution by calling our office at (785) 263-6771 or online at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

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# IKE INSIGHT

## Our Partners

### Read Across America

The Eisenhower Foundation teamed up with several partners including Abilene Rotary Club, Overland Park Rotary Club, Feed the Children, and Land Pride to bring thousands of books to local kids to celebrate Read Across America. This reading initiative was created to support enthusiasm for reading in schools. It is celebrated in March each year, honoring the birthday of the beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.

It was a team effort to move 15,000 books from Overland Park, Kansas, to Abilene, Kansas, and

to then disperse the books to four school districts including 14 schools and two early child-development centers in Dickinson and Geary County. We were able to get books in the hands of over 3,500 students! Land Pride, a manufacturing company with a plant located in Abilene, picked up the books in Overland Park and transported them to a warehouse in Abilene where Rotary Club volunteers and Eisenhower Foundation staff sorted and delivered boxes (and boxes and boxes) of books to schools.

On the morning of March 2nd, St. Andrew's Catholic Elementary School came to the Eisenhower Presidential Library to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with several reading activities including Story Time with Mary Jean Eisenhower! Representatives from Feed the Children along with the Abilene and Overland Park Rotary Clubs joined in the celebration. Students left with several books and huge smiles on their faces. In the afternoon, the Eisenhower Foundation and partners continued the fun by distributing books to over 200 students at Eisenhower Elementary in Abilene, Kansas.



Mary Jean Eisenhower reads "The Sandwich Swap" to students from Saint Andrews Elementary.



Students selecting their books.



Rotary Club volunteers help sort and box thousands of books in a Land Pride Warehouse.



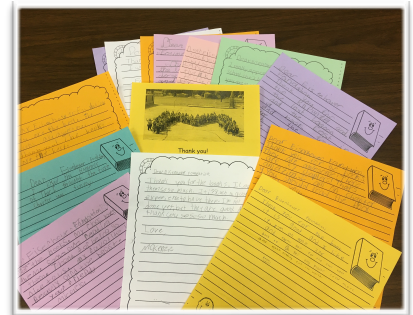
Students were challenged to see how high they could stack a Dr. Seuss hat.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss*

## Ike's Mail Call

### Students say Thank You for Books

The rewards of seeing students excited to get new books was multiplied as we received thank you letters from several teachers and students. Your donations played an important role in providing staff resources to distribute these books and coordinate the onsite activities. These letters are to *you* as well. Thank you for encouraging kids to read!



*Thank you for the book. It is good and I like it. I'm on page 375. Thank you for the Star Wars book, too. Please send more!*

*I liked the Hammer of Thor. I thought the first chapter was funny.*

*Thank you for the books. They are awesome! There are 57 chapters! That's amazing. I am on chapter 4. You should read the book. Thank you.*

## Did You Know?

### 75 Years of Bearing Witness

April 4th marked 75 years since the liberation of the Ohrdruf concentration camp, a sub-camp of Buchenwald camp, and the first Nazi camp to be liberated by American forces. When soldiers entered the camp, they found the starved, frail bodies of prisoners who had managed to survive, as well as the corpses of those who did not.

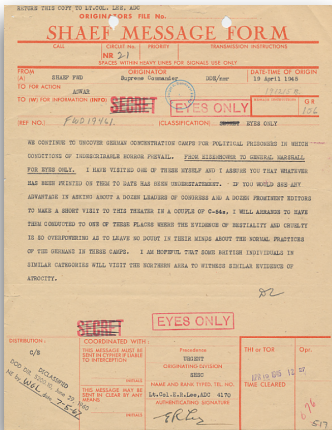
Days after the discovery, U.S. Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower, George Patton, and Omar Bradley traveled to Ohrdruf to bear witness. There, Eisenhower viewed various torture devices, a butcher's block for smashing gold fillings from the mouths of the dead, and thousands of emaciated bodies in shallow graves or partially cremated. On April 12, 1944, Eisenhower wrote to U.S. Army Chief of Staff George Marshall:



Generals Eisenhower, Patton, and Bradley at Ohrdruf concentration camp.

*“The things I saw beggar description. . . . The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick. In one room, where they were piled up twenty or thirty naked men, killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said that he would get sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to propaganda.”*

Eisenhower knew the importance of documenting history, and his outrage turned to resolve to tell the world about the camps. He brought in members of Congress, journalists, other American units, and local German citizens to witness and document the camps. Less than a week later, on April 19, 1945, Eisenhower sent a cable (pictured at left) to Marshall:



**“WE CONTINUE TO UNCOVER GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN WHICH CONDITIONS OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR PREVAIL. I HAVE VISITED ONE OF THESE MYSELF AND I ASSURE YOU THAT WHATEVER HAS BEEN PRINTED ON THEM TO DATE HAS BEEN UNDERSTATEMENT. . . . I WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE [CONGRESSMEN AND EDITORS] CONDUCTED TO ONE OF THESE PLACES WHERE THE EVIDENCE OF BESTIALITY AND CRUELTY IS SO OVERPOWERING AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE NORMAL PRACTICES OF THE GERMANS IN THESE CAMPS.”**

Adjunct Professor for Law School at the University of Pennsylvania, Harry Reicher, provided a speech at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in December of 2010 called, “General Eisenhower and the Documentation of the Holocaust.” Reicher (pictured at right) said:



*“History owes [Eisenhower] a tremendous debt of gratitude” for the “reservoir of film and photos of the Holocaust. . . . “As a result of his orders . . . we had a stack of archival footage that formed the basis of the most graphic, the most powerful, the most compelling evidence in the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials after the war. [That footage] is testimony to refute those who today would deny that there had before been a Holocaust.”*

Eisenhower’s documentation of the newly liberated concentration camps in April 1945 held Nazi criminals responsible for their atrocities and allows future generations to continue to bear witness and remember. This is critical, because if we choose to forget, we let ignorance and intolerance flourish. Reicher’s speech can be viewed in its entirety on [www.c-span.org](http://www.c-span.org). Many original Holocaust documents and photos can be viewed on our website, [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

*“We are told the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now at least he will know what he is fighting against.” - General Eisenhower, after Nazi war crimes came to light.*



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