

IKE INSIGHT

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INSIDE

Meredith's Memo

Celebrating our Heroes

Our Partners

Did You Know?

IKEducation

Support Our Cause

Upcoming Events

Spotlight Event

Featured Artifact

Special Delivery

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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You Did It!

Museum “Sneak Peak” Planned for World War II Veterans

Words cannot express how truly grateful we are to you, our loyal supporters. Thanks to your contributions, we will soon welcome guests to a new, engaging experience at the Eisenhower Presidential Museum in Abilene, KS.

While the public opening date has been postponed due to the recent government shutdown, we are pleased to announce a special museum “sneak peak” is being planned for all World War II veterans who attend the 75th D-Day Remembrance Ceremony on June 6, 2019.

Knowing it would be important to Dwight D. Eisenhower for World War II veterans to see the museum on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we have arranged a private tour for our most honored guests. For those unfamiliar with the Eisenhower Foundation’s 74-year history, our organization was first established as “The National Foundation to Honor General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the United States Armed Forces” — a name which Ike personally helped select.

Our original purpose was, “To recognize suitably the military achievements of that great American, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the victorious armed forces in Europe, to confer honor on the living members and on the memory of the deceased members of the armed forces of the United States, particularly the men and women who served in World War II...”

On June 4, 1952, the cornerstone of the Eisenhower Foundation — and what became the Eisenhower Presidential Museum — was laid. At the ceremony, Eisenhower explained that the purpose of the memorial was, “Not only to all of the servicemen of World War II on whatever front or in whatever station they served, or in what uniform, but to the purpose of developing the citizenship. A respect for all of the great rights and privileges of American citizenship.”

Through the years, our name has changed and our mission has evolved, but we still remain true to General Eisenhower’s original intent. We look forward to hosting one of the largest gatherings of World War II veterans and “Rosie the Riveters” at our 75th D-Day Commemoration Week. If you are or know someone who is a World War II veteran or Rosie who would like to join us, please contact our office.

For more information about the 75th D-Day Commemoration Week or the Eisenhower Presidential Museum, visit www.EisenhowerFoundation.net.



An early rendering of the Eisenhower Museum.



General Eisenhower setting the cornerstone of the Eisenhower Museum, June 1952. Eisenhower Presidential Library 65-241-66

Meredith's Memo

Ike often shared a statement he learned in the Army, "Plans are worthless, but planning is everything." This appropriately applies to our Museum renovation project. In our last issue, I shared that the project was on time to re-open to the public in early June, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Since then, we have experienced the effects of a five-week government shutdown. Even though this project is entirely funded by private donations, the Eisenhower Museum is located on federal property, so no project work occurred during the shutdown. As a result, the Eisenhower Presidential Museum will open in July.

Even though the Museum won't be open on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, there are fantastic commemorative activities and events scheduled on campus for June 1 - 6. You will find a schedule of events in this newsletter, and I invite you to join us.

I cannot thank you, our donors, enough for your support during this historic exhibit renovation project. As we push toward its opening, thank you for your loyalty and trust in our work, even when plans change.

Best Regards,



Meredith Sleichter
Executive Director

Celebrating Our Heroes

New Initiative Launched to Honor World War II Veterans

On June, 6, 1944, the world was changed forever. The D-Day landings in Normandy, France, altered the trajectory of World War II and resulted in one of the largest military successes in history. As the 75th anniversary of D-Day fast approaches on June 6, 2019, the Eisenhower Foundation turned to the words and thoughts of Dwight D. Eisenhower and asked themselves, what would Ike want us to do to commemorate this important anniversary? He would want the honor to be given to all World War II soldiers who served, not just himself.



In honor of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we've launched a new initiative called *Ike's Soldiers*. The mission of *Ike's Soldiers* is to honor General Eisenhower's legacy through the compelling stories of the soldiers he led and share them with the world through IEducation programs and digital media platforms. "This initiative provides students, teachers, historians, and citizens of the world the opportunity to become part of history by collecting and submitting these stories to the

Eisenhower Foundation's new *Ike's Soldiers* database," stated Meredith Sleichter, Executive Director. "By doing so, we honor the soldiers who led us to one of the biggest victories in world history and provide future generations with the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts about the experience."

The *Ike's Soldiers* team had an opportunity to visit with former Kansas Senator Bob Dole, pictured at right. His interview can be found on the *Ike's Soldiers* website: www.lkesSoldiers.com.

Sen. Dole said, "I am pleased that the *Ike's Soldiers* initiative is capturing these compelling stories of World War II veterans. For our disappearing generation, these first-hand accounts will ensure that history is preserved — reminding future generations of the sacrifices made to preserve our everyday freedoms."



Ike's Soldiers is currently focused on capturing video testimonies from our remaining World War II veterans. The program is open to all friends, family members, or fans of World War II veterans. Participants are asked to collect their World War II veteran's biographical information and story on video, then submit it to *Ike's Soldiers*. One of the driving forces behind *Ike's Soldiers* is inviting young people to get involved. The *Ike's Soldiers* student program is open to high school and college students. Visit www.lkesSoldiers.com for more information.

Ike's Soldiers was first made possible by a grant from The Cain Foundation (Austin, TX) in honor of Staff Sgt. Frank Denius (1925-2018), one of the 10 most decorated soldiers from the European Front in World War II, and the 30th Infantry Division, known as "Old Hickory." Recently, Crown Family Philanthropies (Chicago, IL) provided a grant in honor of Colonel Henry Crown (1896-1990), whose wartime efforts as a procurement officer earned him the Legion of Merit for saving America and her Allies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Our Partners

Jeffcoat and Pritzker Gifts Honor 75th D-Day Commemoration Week

We are honored to announce the two Presenting Sponsors for the 75th D-Day Commemoration Week, hosted at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home in Abilene, KS.

The Jeffcoat Memorial Foundation (Abilene, KS) is a longtime supporter of the programs and events at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Established by the Jeffcoat family, this foundation, through the diligent work of Secretary Hank Royer, continues to be one of the most important benefactors in the Abilene community.

The Pritzker Military Museum & Library (Chicago, IL) was founded by Colonel (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), with the mission to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and to develop appropriate programs focusing on the citizen soldier in the preservation of democracy. It is a privilege to partner with them for the first time on this historic anniversary.

As Library Director Dawn Hammatt stated, “Thanks to grants from these two organizations, the 75th anniversary of D-Day will be observed through a variety of programs, events, and activities by thousands of visitors from all walks of life who visit our campus during the Commemoration Week. We could not do this special work without Jeffcoat and Pritzker, and we look forward to an exciting partnership as we continue to commemorate notable anniversaries on the path to the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.”

You are invited to join us in Abilene for the 75th D-Day Commemoration Week. On Saturday, June 1, the annual *D-Day Symphony at Sunset Commemoration Concert* will kickoff a week of events on the grounds of the Eisenhower Presidential Campus. Throughout the week, scholar lectures, film presentations, and IKEducation programs will give visitors a sense of the courage and dedication Americans had in order to win World War II. The week will culminate with a Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday, June 6. See a full schedule of events on Page 5.



Did You Know?

Fifty Years Ago, General Eisenhower Laid to Rest

Dwight D. Eisenhower died at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C., 50 years ago on March 28, 1969. On March 30, a horse-drawn caisson carried his flag-draped coffin to the U.S. Capitol where his body lay in state. Thousands paid their respects at the funeral service at Washington National Cathedral. President Richard M. Nixon delivered the eulogy, stating:

Dwight Eisenhower was that rarest of men — an authentic hero...the ideals he stood for...were bigger than his own country...he [was] the world's most admired and respected man, truly the first citizen of the world.

The funeral train departed Washington, D.C., for Abilene, KS, on March 31. The Eisenhower funeral train was the seventh in U.S. history and the last until the recent passing of President George H.W. Bush. Arriving in Abilene on April 2, the burial service began on the grounds of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. The funeral procession started on the steps of the Library and concluded inside the Place of Meditation, where Eisenhower is interred. The Place of Meditation, located across from the Eisenhower Home, is also the final resting place of Mamie Doud Eisenhower and their first-born son, Doud Dwight.

Proudest of his military service, Dwight D. Eisenhower chose military burial rites. He was interred in uniform in a standard issue casket modified only by a glass lining. His “Ike” jacket was modestly adorned with his three most cherished decorations: the Army Distinguished Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.



The flag-draped coffin of Dwight D. Eisenhower is carried from the funeral train in Abilene, Kansas.



Ike's final resting place is just yards from his boyhood home on the grounds of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

IKE INSIGHT

IKEducation

Remembering D-Day

The story of D-Day is vast in scope and intricate in detail, but IKEducation programs will make this epic day relatable to learners of all ages through hands-on artifacts, first-hand accounts, and meaningful activities. We hope you will join us June 1st through the 6th!

Because it was the toughest and the bloodiest, Omaha Beach has come to represent all of the Normandy invasion. Nothing seemed to go right for the troops who landed there, so how did they manage to win? Join us for IKEducation's program, *Primarily Omaha Beach*, where participants examine documents, artifacts, and personal stories from Omaha Beach.

Or, participate in our *Code Talkers* program, where students learn the unbroken secret code developed and used by Native American soldiers during World War II. In fact, one of the first messages sent from Utah Beach on June 6, 1944, was via a Comanche code talker!

Using code names such as Fortitude, Bodyguard, Quicksilver, and Double-Cross, General Eisenhower commanded a series of covert operations that played a crucial role in the victorious Allied invasion of Europe. The program *In Plain Sight* presents how the concept that “*the best deception is attained by feeding an opponent with falsehoods which he wants to believe*” was key to tricking the Nazis. Participants will examine primary sources from several D-Day deception plans.

Following World War II, many Americans kept souvenirs of lost loved ones or of their time in the war. Many of these articles were stored in boxes and tucked away in attics, basements, and garages for decades. In our *Attic Artifacts* programs, students critically evaluate a variety of artifacts from either the *101st Airborne* or many aspects of the lives of *World War II Kids* on the home front.

If you are interested in learning more about the American home front, IKEducation offers *Rosie the Riveter* and *Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, or Do Without*. In these programs, participants handle primary sources like ration books and propaganda posters to learn how almost every aspect of American life was focused towards supporting the Allied troops. Students are able to play a rationing game or star in their own “You Can Do It” poster.



A student gets his hands on a SCR-536, or “handie-talkie” as it was called. It was carried among the first waves to hit Omaha Beach and by Native American code-talkers.



Participants can investigate a canvas paratrooper called “Rupert.” These 3 ft-tall dummies were designed to create a minor explosion upon landing. Called Operation Titanic, around 500 Ruperts were dropped at areas away from the Normandy beaches. This was done to lead the Nazi troops to believe there were far more Allied troopers than were actually there, and to divert them from the real D-Day drop zones.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Big Sonia

At the age of 15, Sonia Warshawski watched her mother disappear into a gas chamber. Her teenage years were a blur of concentration camps and death marches, but on April 15, 1945, Sonia was liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Seventy-four years later to the day, IKEducation proudly featured the unforgettable documentary film, *Big Sonia*.

A poignant story of trauma and healing, *Big Sonia* offers a laugh-out-loud-funny portrait of the power of love to triumph over bigotry. Sonia sets a glowing example of how an ordinary person can move past deep personal trauma to find peace and heal others.

Sonia's daughter, Regina, introduced the award-winning film and answered students' questions afterwards. Students also engaged in two IKEducation programs: *From A Name to a Number* and *inHUMANITY and the Holocaust*. These stories exposed students to first-hand Holocaust stories of humanity at its worst and its best, and inspired them to realize what a difference each one of them can make.



Support Our Cause

Ike's Field Trip Fund

Field trip season is in full-swing at the Eisenhower Presidential Library! Many of our visiting schools apply to Ike's Field Trip Fund to help offset expenses.

Since launching in 2017, over \$20,000 has been donated to this special fund. This has made it possible for 56 schools to visit Ike's hometown.

As school budgets tighten, the demand for Ike's Field Trip Fund continues to rise. As a result, we have depleted all available funding for the remaining school year.

If you would like to help us bring additional school groups to experience IKEducation and learn about the life and times of Dwight D. Eisenhower, we ask you to consider making a donation to Ike's Field Trip Fund. Simply check IKEducation on the donation form below or visit our website at www.EisenhowerFoundation.net.

As one teacher wrote on their evaluation, "Fantastic facilitators, lessons, and experience. My students continue to make connections to Dwight Eisenhower. Without the support of Ike's Field Trip Fund, we would not be able to bring our kids to this one-of-a-kind program."



Students in the "Rosie the Riveter" IKEducation program.

Upcoming Events

May 2019

- 1 *Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society*, Law Day program
- 11 Mother's Day Tea with William Snyder, Museum Curator, RSVP by May 6, **\$20/person**
- 14 Ike Book TALK: *The Gardens of Kyoto* by Kate Walbert
- 22 *The Road to Abilene* with Tim Rives and William Snyder, **Location: Central KC Public Library**
- 23 Lunch & Learn: *The Road to Abilene* with Tim Rives and William Snyder, **Location: Abilene, KS**
- 27 Memorial Day Ceremony: VFW and American Legion

June

- 1-6 75th D-Day Commemoration Week, see schedule at: <http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.net/640/75th-D-Day-Commemoration>
- 11 Evenings at Ease: *34 and 42: Going to Bat for Equality* with Tim Rives, Deputy Director
- 14 Flag Day: Ft. Riley Army Wreath Laying Ceremony
- 27 Lunch & Learn: Topic TBD

July

- 9 Ike Book TALK: *Our Mothers' War* by Emily Yellin
- 25 Lunch & Learn: *The First Marine One: The White House Historical Association and the 2019 Eisenhower Christmas Ornament*

August

- 3 Vintage Base Ball Game
- 13 Ike Book TALK: *Once Upon a Town* by Bob Greene
- 22 Lunch & Learn: Topic TBD

Unless noted, programs listed are in Abilene, KS. Please see our website calendar for more information.

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.

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IKE INSIGHT



Spotlight Event

75th D-Day Commemoration Week Schedule

To mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, KS, will host a variety of programs and activities from Saturday, June 1, to Thursday, June 6, 2019. Please join us!



Saturday, June 1 — Symphony at Sunset Annual D-Day Commemoration Concert

12:00 p.m.	Outdoor Activities Begin World War II Re-enactors Food Vendors Open
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Tables: <i>Omaha Beach & Wally Strobel</i>
12:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 p.m.	Little Ike Story Time at Boyhood Home
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Presentation by World War II Veteran, Louis Graziano
5:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Outdoor Music: Everyday Lights - 5:30 p.m. 1st Infantry Division Band - 7:00 p.m. Salina Symphony - 8:30 p.m.
6:30 & 8:00 p.m.	Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard Demonstrations

Sunday, June 2

11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Carts: <i>101st Airborne World War II Kids</i>
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	IKEducation Program: <i>Code Talkers</i>
3:00 p.m.	Abilene City Band Concert

Monday, June 3

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	IKEducation Program: <i>World War II Kids</i>
11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Carts: <i>V-Mail Rosie the Riveter</i>
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Film: <i>Ike: Countdown to D-Day</i>
6:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Reception Keynote Address: Dr. Nigel Hamilton, <i>FDR at War</i>

Tuesday, June 4

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	IKEducation Program: <i>Rosie the Riveter</i>
11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Carts: <i>Dogs for Defense Use it Up</i>
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Film: <i>The Longest Day</i>
6:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Reception Keynote Address: Dr. Adrian Lewis, <i>Omaha Beach: A Flawed Victory</i>

Wednesday, June 5

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	IKEducation Program: <i>Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, or Do Without</i>
11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Carts: <i>V-Mail Dogs for Defense</i>
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Film: <i>D-Day +20: Eisenhower Returns to Normandy with Walter Cronkite</i>
6:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Reception Keynote Address: Dr. Dennis Okerstrom, <i>War on Silent Wings: Gliders Into Normandy, D-Day 1944</i>
8:30 p.m.	VFW Vigil

Thursday, June 6 — 75th D-Day Anniversary Commemoration

9:30 a.m.	Remembrance Ceremony: Remarks by General Richard Myers, USAF Ret.
11:00 a.m.	Thank a Veteran Reception following the Remembrance Ceremony
11:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	IKEducation Hands on History Carts: <i>Code Talkers 101st Airborne</i>
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	World War II Veteran Museum "Sneak Peak" — <i>by invitation only, please</i>
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	IKEducation Program: <i>Primarily Omaha Beach</i>
6:30 p.m.	Hope & Liberty Concert, <i>Kansas State University School of Music, Theatre and Dance and 41st Summer Choral Institute. Reception following the concert.</i>



Operation OVERLORD
1944-2019



Above, the USS Meredith. Below, the destroyer sinking on June 9, 1944. All photos courtesy of Eisenhower Presidential Library.



conducted during Operation OVERLORD. Shock from the explosion further damaged the wounded ship. Her keel broken, the ship snapped in half and sank within an hour.

The mess tray pictured at right was recovered from the wreck of the USS *Meredith* during salvage operations in 1960. It is typical of the steel trays used onboard naval vessels in the enlisted mess, or dining room. We thank Julie Kemper Foyer for donating this artifact to the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.



Featured Artifact

Mess Tray from a D-Day Destroyer

The USS *Meredith* was one of 58 Allen M. Sumner-class destroyers built during World War II. She was the third ship named for Marine Corps Sgt. Jonathan Meredith, who was credited for saving a young lieutenant's life during shipboard combat against the Barbary Pirates in 1805.

After launch, the *Meredith* conducted its sea trials around Bermuda and then began its only trans-Atlantic voyage in May 1944. Escorting a convoy to Plymouth, England, the *Meredith* arrived just in time to participate in Operation OVERLORD. One of 34 U.S. Destroyers and Destroyer escorts, the *Meredith* accompanied the 7,000-vessel invasion fleet. Between June 5 and 6, the *Meredith* protected 16 LSTs and 6 Rhino ferries carrying 7,500 troops in convoy U-3 as they sailed for France. The *Meredith* then moved close to Utah Beach to provide naval gunfire for the landing.

Early in the morning of June 7, the *Meredith* struck a floating mine, resulting in a serious list to the starboard. With 35 sailors killed or missing and another 30 wounded, the remaining crew was evacuated and the *Meredith* was towed to the Bay of the Seine to be salvaged. Two days later, the *Meredith* suffered a near miss during one of the few successful German air raids

Special Delivery

Unique Collection From Married World War II Officers

Recently, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum received a remarkable collection from the estate of Lt. Col. Oscar Lee Morse (USAF ret.) and Ellen "Annie" (Gardner) Morse of McCook, NE.

Annie and Oscar met in 1942 at the Barnes General Hospital in Vancouver Barracks, WA, where Lt. Gardner was an Army nurse and Lt. Morse was being treated for serious injuries incurred when his P-38E Lightning crashed on April 2, 1942. The two were married in Alabama on December 14, 1942, on their way to new assignments. The Army transferred Annie to Fort Rucker, AL, and Oscar was en route to an Army Air Corps school in Orlando, FL. Due to his injuries, Oscar was transferred to an intelligence section. They kept their marriage a secret for the next few years as they continued in service to their country. They transferred to England, where Annie stayed for the duration of the war. The Army Air Corps moved Oscar to France as the war progressed.

After the war, Annie left the Army but continued her nursing career. Oscar transferred to the newly formed United States Air Force, where he remained until retiring in 1971. Oscar passed away on June 24, 1981. Annie lived to be 101 years old, passing on November 17, 2018.

The extensive collection from two officers married during World War II will provide researchers with excellent study material for years to come. Included in the donation are uniforms belonging to Oscar and Annie, orders and other papers issued by the Army and Air Force, medals and ribbons, maps, original squadron insignia, and various mementos of their duty stations through 30 years of military life.

We would like to thank Carol Vlasin of Crete, NE, and Kathy Bieker of McCook, NE, for arranging the deposit of the Morse collection in the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.





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