

IKE INSIGHT

P.O. Box 295 200 SE 4th St. Abilene, KS 67410

785-263-6771

www.EisenhowerFoundation.net

INSIDE

- Meredith's Memo
- Special Recognition
- Celebrating our Heroes
- IKEducation
- Breaking News
- Spotlight Event
- Featured Artifact
- Our Partners
- Upcoming Events
- Did You Know?
- In the Mailbox

See Bret Baier *LIVE* in February!
See page 4 for details.

Check out our new website at
www.eisenhowerfoundation.net.

If you would like to receive Ike
Insight electronically, please email
info@eisenhowerfoundation.net.



You Did It!

Renovation Plans for Eisenhower Presidential Museum Progress

Thanks to commitments from our generous donors, the Eisenhower Foundation, in partnership with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, is pleased to announce some very exciting news regarding the renovation plans for the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.

Later this month, we will begin the second of three stages, the *Design Phase*. During this 16-month period, the Museum Redesign Steering Committee will work with our exhibit firm, The PRD Group, to design exhibits that tell Ike's story through his own words.

This will be the first time since the Museum was dedicated in 1954 that it will have a comprehensive storyline that fully describes the unparalleled accomplishments of the man from Abilene, Dwight D. Eisenhower. The new exhibits will create a world-class teaching Museum, complementing the lessons students learn in IKEducation.

The Eisenhower Foundation is currently in the early stages of a major fundraising campaign — *Dwight D. Eisenhower: A Legacy of Leadership* — to continue securing the funding that will make it possible to move into the third and final stage, the *Implementation Phase*. We have been very encouraged by the support received so far as we move closer to our goal of reopening the new Eisenhower Presidential Museum by the 75th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2019.

Throughout the course of the renovation process, we will provide you with updates and behind-the-scenes information in each issue of *IKE INSIGHT*.

The below sketch of *The Heart of America* exhibit tells the story of Ike's childhood growing up in rural America. His early years instilled in him a strong commitment and determination to lead a purposeful life. Featured in this area of the Museum will be a replica of Ike's modest bedroom that he shared with his brothers while interactive touch screens provide access to documents and photos that tell the story of his formative years in Abilene, Kansas.

"The history of free men is never really written by chance - but by choice - their choice."

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Address in Pittsburgh, October 9, 1956



The above renovation concept was approved by the Archivist of the United States in 2015.

IKE INSIGHT

Meredith's Memo

As we begin 2017, 60 years after Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated for the second time as President of the United States, I continue to be overwhelmed by the number of people who still hold Ike in such high esteem. This is reflected through the support and generosity from you, our friends.

The Eisenhower Foundation has experienced transformational growth over the course of the last five years. Our donor base continues to expand, and students participating in our signature IKEducation program doubles each year. To build on this momentum, we are pursuing our most ambitious project to date: a complete renovation of the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower: *A Legacy of Leadership* Campaign was launched in order to secure the funding necessary to renovate the Museum and further the reach of IKEducation, both online and onsite.

Few people have had a greater impact on their own generation and on the future than Dwight D. Eisenhower. As this generation rediscovers how much they "like Ike," the Eisenhower Foundation recognizes our responsibility to preserve and present his life and legacy. We thank you for your support and look forward to updating you on our progress throughout the coming year.

Meredith

Meredith Sleichter
Executive Director

Special Recognition

Eisenhower Legacy Awards

After World War II, a group of prominent citizens wrote Ike to ask if they could build a war memorial in his hometown of Abilene, Kansas. He agreed, but stipulated that the memorial honor all veterans and soon plans were underway. Five years later, however, the fundraising campaign had stalled and it was beginning to look like the Eisenhower Museum would never be realized.

Then, in 1950, three important men formed what was known as the "Arn-Darby-Hall Campaign" to raise the remaining funds needed. It is very possible that, without the support and leadership of Governor Arn, Senator Darby, and Mr. Hall, the Museum would not have been completed.

This year's Eisenhower Legacy Awards honored these men for their efforts to help build the original Eisenhower Museum in the early 1950s. Representatives from the families of Kansas Governor Edward Arn, U.S. Senator Harry Darby, and J.C. Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, were the recipients of the Eisenhower Legacy Awards. Ike's granddaughters, Anne and Mary Jean, and great-grandson, Merrill Atwater, presented the awards at the annual Eisenhower Legacy Gala on October 15, 2016.



Photos by Emily Barnes Photography

Celebrating Our Heroes

Robert "Bob" W. Robson

Robert "Bob" Robson entered the United States Navy in January, 1945 and was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Station, IL. There, he went to boot camp and received technical training in Fire Control. This was a specialized course in the control systems that coordinated all types of guns on naval vessels as they moved through the sea.

From training, Bob was sent to Treasure Island Naval Station, CA, where he boarded a troop carrier for Guam. There, he went out to various ships that came into harbor and repaired weapons control systems. These included the quad 40 mm cannons and the Mark 51 directional control units (photo on right).



Bob was then sent aboard the newly launched Aircraft Carrier *USS Antietam* (CV36) and was in Manila for the first Celebration of the Philippine Islands' Independence Day from the U.S. on July 4, 1946.

After his discharge on August 18, 1946, Bob used the GI Bill to attend Kansas State University where he earned a degree in Business Administration. Bob then taught at Abilene High School, Kansas, for four years before joining the family business at Robson Oil Company, Inc., where he eventually became president and owner.

We salute and celebrate Bob Robson's heroic service to our country! To learn about other World War II heroes, or honor a veteran, visit the *World War II Honor Roll* on our website.

IKEducation

inHUMANITY and the Holocaust: *The Butterfly Project*

Driven by the desire to show students the acts of humanity that occurred within the hell of the Holocaust, IKEducation was led to the story of Terezín concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Among the amazing stories of adults who used art to help the children of Terezín deal with the trauma of their experiences was Jewish artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, who secretly taught more than 600 children to draw, paint, sew, and make puppets. Before being transported to Auschwitz in 1944, Friedl hid two suitcases containing the artwork of more than 4,000 children. Found after the war, these poems and pictures depict the daily misery of those uprooted, tortured children, as well as their courage and optimism, their hopes and fears. Among the artwork was the poem "The Last Butterfly" by Pavel Freidman. At war's end, over 1.5 million Jewish children had been murdered by the Nazis. A total of 15,000 passed through Terezín. Of those, only 100 children survived to tell the story.



Inspired by the poem, artwork, and events at Terezín, *The Butterfly Project* was developed. The mission of *The Butterfly Project* is to paint and display 1.5 million ceramic butterflies to honor and remember each child killed in the Holocaust. It fosters education and awareness of the dangers of hate and bigotry by mobilizing the global community to stand up against injustice and create a more compassionate and peaceful world. The project was co-founded in 2006 in San Diego by educator Jan Landau and artist Cheryl Rattner Price as an initiative to take Holocaust education out of the textbook and bring it to life in a way that inspires students to make the world a better place. As of 2016, nearly 150,000 butterflies have been created in communities of all faiths across the United States and around the world.

This summer, IKEducation partnered with teachers and students from Abilene High School as well as local 4-H's, to learn about the Holocaust and Terezín by participating in the painting of ceramic butterflies for *The Butterfly Project*. The resulting butterflies are meaningfully displayed at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Since then, IKEducation has opened The Butterfly Project to school field trip groups and plans to contribute over 200 butterflies to the project's goal by the end of this school year.

Additionally, IKEducation is excited to announce that a new film documentary of Terezín, *NOT The Last Butterfly*, will be screened at the Eisenhower Presidential Center on April 2, 2017. Both a moving account of survival and a lesson in the healing power of art, *NOT The Last Butterfly* offers young and old alike a new way to find hope in one of history's greatest tragedies.



History for the Future

Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary Students Remember Pearl Harbor

December 7th, 2016, marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the United States' entry into World War II. IKEducation and the Eisenhower Presidential Library marked this occasion with a class of fifth grade students from Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School in Abilene, Kansas. These land-locked learners were able to go on a live-streamed electronic field trip called "Remember Pearl Harbor: How Students Like You Experienced The Day of Infamy" to the *USS Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor where student reporters interviewed survivors and witnesses of the attacks. Additionally, students in this group and across the United States submitted their own questions to historians and participated in live polls during the field trip.

Mitzi Bankes Gose, Director of Education for the Eisenhower Foundation, collaborated with Eisenhower Elementary School teacher, Dan Brown, to facilitate this meaningful learning experience. IKEducation gave students the book *A Boy At War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*, by Harry Mazer, to read at school while they also conducted Google Earth projects to learn about the attack on Pearl Harbor prior to the field trip. During the field trip, IKEducation provided materials to help students connect the dots between the novel they read, the scene of the attack, primary sources referred to by historians, and the Eisenhower Museum's exhibit about Japanese internment camps following Pearl Harbor.

This Electronic Field Trip was developed by the New Orleans PBS member station WYES and the National World War II Museum. Over 120,000 students and teachers participated across the country. To the delight of the class participating via IKEducation, one of its own student's questions was chosen to be answered by a historian. The question was, "How long did the attack last?" Do you know the answer? *About two hours.*



Spotlight Event

Eisenhower Legacy Gala

The Eisenhower Legacy Gala was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 in the Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard. Being an election year, the theme for the event was, "Everybody Likes Ike," taken from the 1952 video produced by Walt Disney and his brother Roy that was ranked by *Time* magazine as one of the ten-best campaign spots ever. Guests watched the commercial as they entered the Courtyard and were greeted by the Disney characters that decorated the walls — a baker, a farmer, a fireman, a housewife, and even a baby elephant beating a drum — all marching to the tune of, "You like Ike, I like Ike, everybody likes Ike for president."

The Eisenhower Foundation's Executive Director, Meredith Sleichter, served as emcee and opened the evening with facts about Ike's road to the presidency. Attendees learned that both the Democrat and Republican Parties recruited Ike to run as their nominee, and heard about the Eisenhower Bandwagon — a 25-ton branded semi-trailer carrying a jeep, barrage balloons, tanks of helium, searchlights, 500,000 I LIKE IKE buttons and two dozen Ike dresses — that traveled 35,000 miles through 26 states.

Foundation Treasurer, Stephen Hauge, welcomed guests on behalf of the Board of Directors and shared a special memory from his father, Gabriel Hauge's, experience as a campaign speechwriter. The Courtyard filled with laughter, listening to Ike's favorite stunt on the campaign trail — a three-foot length of white pine, which had been sawed almost through in two places. Ike would hold it up and say, "Now, in 1945 you could buy this for 15 cents." Then he would break it in half over his knee and say, "Now, this is how much you can get for 15 cents today." Then he would break it again and say, "And this is what 15 cents will buy if a Democratic administration is returned to the White House."



One of the evening's special guests, six year-old Macey Hensley, stole the hearts of all in the room. A regular on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, Macey awed Gala guests with her knowledge and charm as she answered presidential trivia questions. Ike's granddaughter, Mary Jean, presented Macey with a lifetime membership to the Eisenhower Foundation, noting how proud her grandfather would be of this clever Kansas girl who also has aspirations of the Presidency.

Carol Bales of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Abilene native Nancy Jarecki, and Rebecca Hall of the Hall Family Foundation, all of whom are very special friends of the Eisenhower Foundation, offered their own reasons for "Liking Ike," and again, two outstanding crew members from the USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER were honored with the Eisenhower Leadership Awards.

The event culminated with a toast using the slogan from a favorite 1952 campaign bumper sticker, "All in favor, say Ike!"

Featured Artifact

Bret Baier Visits Abilene and the D-Day Planning Table

On May 8, 1955 — the 10th anniversary of VE Day — Nelson Rockefeller presented the "D-Day table" to President Eisenhower. This table was the site of high-level SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) planning meetings convened by General Eisenhower during the run-up to D-Day.

A portion of the D-Day table is on permanent display in the Eisenhower Presidential Museum, but due to space limitations, the extra leaves and 10 matching chairs are kept in storage. For two weeks in October 2016, this historic artifact was removed from its encasement, expanded to its full impressive length complete with the chair settings, covered with D-Day planning maps and documents, and displayed with a life-size photo backdrop of a planning session. The result was a stunning exhibit that allowed observers to feel they were in the room with General Eisenhower and the Allied commanders as D-Day was planned.

Pictured next to the "D-Day table" is Bret Baier, host of Fox News Channel's *Special Report with Bret Baier*. Baier was at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home filming a companion documentary to his new book, *Three Days in January*, which will be released on January 10, 2017. Mr. Baier will return to Abilene on February 2, 2017, for a special book signing and live broadcast.



Support our Cause

Bret Baier LIVE Broadcast Fundraiser

On February 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. CT, Bret Baier will broadcast his top-rated Fox News cable series, *Special Report with Bret Baier*, LIVE from the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Mr. Baier has generously agreed to hold this live broadcast as a fundraiser for the Eisenhower Foundation and is allowing a limited number of audience tickets to be sold. Immediately following the live broadcast, guests will enjoy an exclusive reception with Mr. Baier.



Photo courtesy of Fox News.

At 7:30 p.m., a separate public book signing and program will be held in the Visitors Center Auditorium for Mr. Baier's new book, *Three Days in January*. Those who have purchased tickets to the live broadcast will also enjoy VIP seating at this public program.

We are first announcing this event to you, our most loyal friends, and will open ticket sales to the public beginning January 12th. Seating for the LIVE broadcast is *extremely* limited. Tickets are \$250 per person and are available by calling our office at 785-263-6771 or can be purchased online at www.EisenhowerFoundation.net. Ticket holders will have access to the following activities:

- 4 - 4:30 p.m. Arrive at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum
- 5:00 p.m. LIVE *Special Report with Bret Baier* Broadcast
- 6:00 p.m. Exclusive Reception with Bret Baier
- 7:30 p.m. VIP Seating at *Three Days in January* Book Signing and Program

The I Like Ike Gift Shop at the Visitors Center will begin selling *Three Days in January* when it is released on January 10th. Friends of the Eisenhower Foundation receive 20% off purchases both in store and online. Books will also be available for sale before the live broadcast and the free public book signing.

In the unlikely event of cancellation, tickets will not be refunded.

Upcoming Events

January

- 8: *Shane* TALK Film
- 9: *Shane* TALK Program
- 15: *Monuments Men*, ACDC (Arts Council of Dickinson County) Film Festival
- 22: *Woman in Gold*, ACDC Film Festival
- 29: *Brooklyn*, ACDC Film Festival

February

- 2: Bret Baier LIVE Broadcast Fundraiser & *Three Days in January* Book Signing
- 5: *Inside Out*, ACDC Film Festival
- 12: *Bridge of Spies*, ACDC Film Festival
- 13: *Little House on the Prairie* TALK Program
- 19: *The Martian*, ACDC Film Festival

March

- 2: Royer Film Festival*
- 9: Royer Film Festival
- 13: *Good Land* TALK Program
- 16: Royer Film Festival

April

- 1: *Chisholm Trail 150* Exhibit Opening*
- 2: *NOT The Last Butterfly* Film Screening & The Butterfly Project Program
- 9: *Buffalo Girls* TALK Film
- 10: *Buffalo Girls* TALK Program
- 15: 5th Annual Eisenhower Egg Roll

*Friends Event (FREE)

For more details, check out our website at www.EisenhowerFoundation.net.

We Appreciate Your Support

Check out our new website at www.EisenhowerFoundation.net to make a donation online! You can also make a contribution by calling our office at 785-263-6771 or by sending this form to: P.O. Box 295, Abilene, KS 67410. We thank you for your support!

First & Last Name(s)

Email Address Preferred

Phone Number Preferred

Street Address Preferred

City

State & Zip

Enclosed is my check, made payable to the *Eisenhower Foundation* OR please charge my:

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express
- \$ _____ Amount

Name on Card

Card Number

Authorized Signature

Expiration Date

Security Code

IKE INSIGHT

Did You Know?

Drive the Legacy: 60th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System Act

In the summer of 1919, Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower participated in the first Army Transcontinental Motor Convoy. The expedition included 81 vehicles that crossed the United States from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco. It was on this venture — covering a distance of 3,251 miles in 62 days — that Eisenhower learned first-hand the difficulties faced in traveling great distances on roads that were often impassable. In sharp contrast, when the Allies reached Germany in 1945, the high-speed Autobahn provided them with dependable supply routes and efficient troop movement.

These early experiences influenced Eisenhower as President when he enacted the Interstate Highway System Act during his Presidential administration. Ike believed that an Interstate Highway System was "...as necessary to defense as it is to our national economy and personal safety." The new *Presidential Gallery* of the renovated Eisenhower Presidential Museum will feature an Interstate Highway System Exhibit, emphasizing that the dual purpose of establishing the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways was to defend against the fear of a Cold War attack and to promote economic growth.

Residents and businesses in Dwight D. Eisenhower's home state of Kansas are encouraged to "Drive the Legacy" in celebration of this 60th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System. Kansans can purchase I LIKE IKE license plates from their county motor vehicle office at any time. In addition to regular vehicle registration fees, the cost of the I LIKE IKE license plate includes a \$50 annual, tax-deductible donation to the Eisenhower Foundation in support of educational programs, exhibits, and events at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home.

The Eisenhower Foundation must sell a total of 500 I LIKE IKE plates before April 2017 to ensure continued availability. Hurry to get yours before April 2017 and receive a free hat!



All distinctive license plates in Kansas also require a one-time \$45 production fee.

The Eisenhower Foundation wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Holm Automotive** in Abilene, Kansas, for purchasing I LIKE IKE license plates for their entire company fleet!

Our Partners

Abilene Bridge Club Helps Raise Funds for IKEducation

The Eisenhower Bridge Benefit was created to pique people's interest in the incredibly challenging and rewarding game of duplicate bridge. The tournament promotes the extraordinary legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who earned the unofficial nicknames of Bridge Player in Chief and The Patron President of Bridge Players over the 56 years he played the game.

Each summer the Abilene American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) Club and the Eisenhower Foundation partner to organize the Dwight D. Eisenhower Bridge Benefit. On July 30, 2016, the 3rd annual event was held to benefit IKEducation, the Foundation's K-12 program that provides free, curriculum-based activities to schools, both online and onsite at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home.

A record 86 people played in the beautiful Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard and partners Ardy Alexander, of Hutchinson, Kansas, and Beverly Gochis, of Wichita, Kansas, were awarded the traveling trophy for winning the overall game with a score of 66.22% (pictured receiving their trophy from David Mills of the Abilene ACBL Club).

The Abilene ACBL and the Eisenhower Foundation are thrilled this has become a tradition and look forward to meeting others who share a passion for bridge and Ike. This year's event will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard.



In the Mailbox

John Morgan, Sr.

In recent letters to Ike's granddaughter, Mary Jean, John Morgan, Sr., who is 93 years young, shared his admiration for Ike and his support of the Eisenhower Foundation's mission: *to honor and champion the relevance today of the life and leadership of Dwight D. Eisenhower through compelling programs and events that celebrate his legacy.* Through his involvement with a Young Scholars program, John Morgan, Sr., offers Ike as a role model of character and leadership to new generations. We appreciate John Morgan's enthusiasm and his efforts in educating our nation's next leaders.

Dear Mary Jean,

I want you to know that I appreciate what you are doing: To "Preserve the Legacy and Values of General Eisenhower For Generations to Come."

I just want to help in the best way I can. I am spreading the good word about "IKE" and the debt of gratitude we owe him for what he accomplished in World War II. To me — he stopped Hitler from taking over Europe and eventually the world. I believe that it was General Eisenhower's decision to send the 82nd Airborne Troops behind the enemy lines the night before D-Day, so as to prevent the German reinforcements and supplies from arriving — that was the beginning of the end to Hitler, as far as I am concerned.

I am in contact with a lot of my Young Scholars and I am telling them all about what General Eisenhower did to win the war, and the peace after the war — as President of the United States.

We are here to "CARRY ON" what has to be done for America and the World, but these Young Scholars are a wonderful bunch of leaders and I love them all.

Now, most of the time, my tennis buddies and some of my Young Scholars are proudly wearing their Eisenhower hats. They know about General Eisenhower's role in defeating Hitler and the Germans in World War II, and we are joining with you guys in trying to tell the story about that great Supreme Allied Commander — General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Keep up the great work and we will, too.



All the best,
John Morgan

Special Deliveries

Flags Fly to Honor Ike and Veterans

Donors from across the country sent hundreds of small flags to line the sidewalks near Eisenhower's Boyhood Home for his birthday on October 14th. On Veterans' Day, the flags were again displayed at Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School in Ike's hometown, and now the flags are given to veterans visiting the Eisenhower Presidential Museum. Donors attached Honor Cards with special messages like these:

"I was one of Ike's 'Fly-Boys' in WWII, 8th AF - UK, B-17 & B-29 in Korea."

"As a little girl I picked milkweed along the roadside. It was used as a substitute for kapok in life jackets! WWII"

"Knowledge of America makes us better citizens."

"I saw Ike 3 times & sang at his 2nd inauguration in the parade."

"I was one of his physicians at Walter Reed! Loved the man!"

"A great General, a great President, a great American, a great man. Bless the memory of Dwight Eisenhower."

Thank you to those who shared their memories and helped pass on a legacy of patriotism.

