

# IKE INSIGHT

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

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## You Did It!

### New Exhibits Celebrate Historic Anniversaries

Your thoughtful donations to the Eisenhower Foundation are used, in part, to fund special exhibits at the Eisenhower Presidential Museum. Recently, the Museum staff created two new temporary exhibits that celebrate historic anniversaries of national and international significance.



"The Tank Corps was new. There were no precedents except in basic training and I was the only officer in the command. Now I really began to learn about responsibility."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

#### *Eisenhower and The Great War*

In 1914, war erupted in Europe and soon involved nations around the globe. The Great War, as it became known, shocked the world with its massive scope and advances in military technology. The United States reluctantly joined the conflict in 1917.

*Eisenhower and The Great War* tells the story of Lieutenant Eisenhower who was tasked with training thousands of inexperienced troops in the new, untested art of armored warfare. He quickly built a strong and motivated group of soldiers while overcoming obstacles and setbacks.

"We are pleased to open this exhibit marking the 100th anniversary of World War I. Our goal was to tie together the actions around the world connected to U.S. involvement and more specifically where Eisenhower was during 1914-1918. Ike's training during World War I clearly set the stage for his role during World War II," states Tim Rives, acting director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library.

#### *The Chisholm Trail and the Cowntown that Raised a President*

In 1867, Joseph McCoy established Abilene, Kansas, as a rail shipping hub connecting Texas cattle with eastern markets. During the next four years, nearly two million cattle were driven up the Chisholm Trail to the stockyards in Abilene. Visit the Museum during the next year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail.

Learn about "The Wheat King of Kansas," the "real McCoy," origins of the cowboy boot, and "the wickedest town in the West." Discover stories behind the legends of Jesse Chisholm, "Bear River" Smith, and Wild Bill Hickok among others.

Growing up at the end of the Chisholm Trail — the subject of many poems, songs, novels, and movies — Dwight Eisenhower developed a love for all things western. Join us to learn about the *Cowntown that raised a President*.



*Above, a life-size model of a Longhorn greets visitors as they enter the gallery.*

# IKE INSIGHT

## Meredith's Memo

I write this memo while sitting aboard the *USS Eisenhower*, and I am struck by the commitment of these fine sailors to defend the United States. I know that Dwight D. Eisenhower would be proud of the men and women serving on the aircraft carrier that bears his name.

Peak field trip season is upon us and attendance in IKEducation is off the charts. Numerous schools have taken advantage of our Dane G. Hansen Field Trip Program and Ike's Field Trip Fund, both of which help cover the schools' expenses.

For those of you who attended the opening of our new exhibit, *The Chisholm Trail and the Cowtown that Raised a President*, we thank you.

Finally, as a follow-up from the last *Ike Insight*, I am happy to report that the Foundation met our goal of selling 500 I Like Ike distinctive license plates, ensuring continued production of this special tag in Kansas.

As always, I want to express my appreciation to you, our closest Friends, for your continued support of Ike's legacy. We hope to see you at an event or hear from you soon!

*Meredith*

Meredith Sleichter  
Executive Director

## Special Recognition

### 2017 Loebenberg Humanitarian Award

The Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, recently honored Dwight D. Eisenhower with the 2017 Loebenberg Humanitarian Award. The posthumous award was given in recognition of the pivotal role General Eisenhower played while liberating the Nazi concentration camps, insisting that the horrors discovered in the camps be documented and artifacts preserved to ensure that the Holocaust could neither be denied nor forgotten.

David Eisenhower accepted the award on behalf of his grandfather, the Eisenhower Family, and the Eisenhower Foundation and Library (*top right*). He also provided the Keynote Address for the 25th anniversary of the Florida Holocaust Museum, which is one of the largest Holocaust museums in the country.

Feeling that the award belonged in Abilene, David sent the beautifully crafted glass flame to the Foundation where it is currently displayed beneath Ike's portrait in the Executive Director's office (*bottom right*).

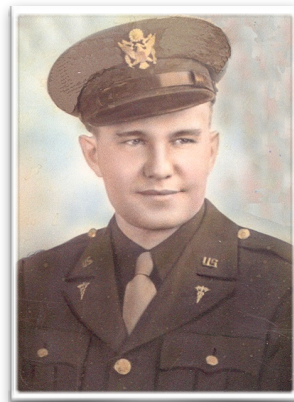


## Celebrating Our Heroes

### Herbert L. Songer, MD

Dr. Herbert Songer enlisted on November 1, 1942, and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was assigned to the 126th Infantry, First Division, as battalion surgeon and valiantly participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy Beach.

It was not until after the war that Dr. Songer learned he had been a part of the infamous "Patton Incident." It was Dr. Songer who had signed the original order to evacuate the soldier from the battle lines due to malaria and battle fatigue.



Dr. Songer's family wrote, "As the soldier waited to be admitted to the hospital, General Patton walked by and asked him why he was there. The soldier replied that he guessed he couldn't take it anymore. His reply upset Patton who began to slap the soldier...." The soldier was then ordered back to the front where Dr. Songer again ordered his medical evacuation, this time with a letter stating that he could *not* return to service.

Discharged in 1945, Dr. Songer was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Oak Leaf cluster to the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Dr. Songer returned home to Lincoln, Kansas, and resumed his medical practice.

We salute and celebrate Dr. Songer's heroic service to our country! To learn about other World War II heroes, or to honor a veteran, visit the World War II Honor Roll at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

## IKEducation

### Students Research in the Archives

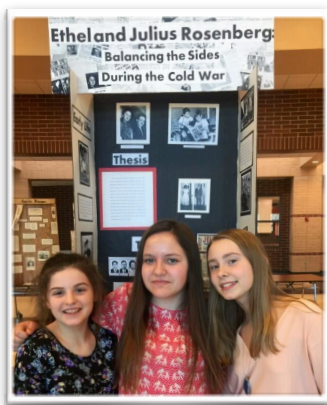
Archivists at the Eisenhower Presidential Library have developed student research files for over 40 topics — from Cold War espionage to the animals that helped win World War II. Students learn how to handle and analyze these archival documents in the same manner and location used by professional researchers.

IKEducation is proud to celebrate the 15th year that Abilene High School's English 10 students have completed research at the Eisenhower Presidential Library. English teacher Ashley Hoskins guides students to combine the knowledge gained through their research to construct and present an informative speech.

We are continually impressed by the quality of critical thinking and public speaking that students exhibit each year. This is also true of the students who travel to the Eisenhower Presidential Library to research in our archives and speak with IKEducators in preparation for National History Day. This year's theme is "Taking a Stand."

Abigail, Maddie, and Francesca are 8th grade students at St. John's School in Lawrence, Kansas, who focused their presentation on the differing stands that President Eisenhower and Soviet spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg took regarding espionage charges in 1953 (*left*). The students' assiduous research even led them to a phone interview with the Rosenberg's youngest son, Robert Meeropol. Impressive!

John-Lewis, Matthew, and Tyler from Copperas Cove Junior High School in Texas have focused their History Day presentation on President Eisenhower's 1953 stance regarding the use of nuclear power for peace (*right*). Why do you suppose they are wearing Wheaties t-shirts? Because the men helping Eisenhower write his *Atoms for Peace* speech met over breakfast each morning. Therefore, the project's code name became "Operation Wheaties." Very clever.



Both groups will compete at their state's History Day on April 29th in hopes of qualifying for the National History Day contest in July. We wish these students the best and know this experience will benefit them far beyond the competition. If you are a teacher or student who would like to utilize these files, please contact IKEducation or visit our website at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

## History for the Future

### Ike's Field Trip Fund

As education funding decreases, many schools have had to cut field trips, however, the value of school field trips to cultural institutions is greater than ever. According to "The Educational Value of Field Trips," by Kisida, Bowen, and Greene at EducationNext.org, "More-advantaged families may take their children to these cultural institutions outside of school hours, but less-advantaged students are less likely to have these experiences if schools do not provide them. With field trips, public schools view themselves as the great equalizer in terms of access to our cultural heritage."



In response to the growing number of teachers who told IKEducation they were unable to bring students due to lack of funds, Ike's Field Trip Fund was launched in time for the Spring 2017 school semester. It provides financial support to schools visiting the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Thanks to generous donors, hundreds of students have been able to learn and experience the two unprecedented decades of American and World history in which Dwight Eisenhower was at center stage.

If you would like to help provide funding for school field trips to the Eisenhower Presidential Campus, simply go to the Support tab at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

# IKE INSIGHT

## Spotlight Event

### ***Marlin Fitzwater: From Wheat Fields to White House Opening Reception***

The Eisenhower Presidential Museum is collaborating with Hale Library at Kansas State University to curate a temporary exhibit, *Marlin Fitzwater: From Wheat Fields to White House*, which will open in the Library Lobby on May 12. An opening reception, including a meet and greet with Marlin Fitzwater, will be held in the Library Courtyard from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Growing up in Abilene, Kansas, Fitzwater (*right*) looked up to Dwight D. Eisenhower as a hometown hero. Fitzwater found he had an interest in journalism and went on to work for newspapers in his hometown, college, and surrounding communities. Upon earning a journalism degree from Kansas State University in 1965, Fitzwater relocated to the Washington, DC area. This move eventually led to a decade of service in the White House, from 1983 to 1993, and to this day, Fitzwater is the only press secretary in history to be appointed by two Presidents.



As Press Secretary, Marlin Fitzwater held over 850 press briefings, where he addressed difficult topics such as the Cold War, and announced eight military actions — all the while winning praise from the news media and the public for his honesty and good humor. Fitzwater was named an Outstanding Civil Servant in government in 1981 and received the nation's second-highest civilian honor, the Presidential Citizens Medal, from President Bush in 1992.



Fitzwater is a best-selling author and lent his expertise as a consultant for the award-winning television show, *West Wing*. He founded the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire where he advises, lectures, and develops special programs such as the *Presidency and the Press* summer camp.

*Marlin Fitzwater: From Wheat Fields to White House* will be on display from May to August and will feature items from his distinguished career as Press Secretary to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush (*left*).

## Featured Artifact

### **Eisenhower Tree**

With a thrilling end to the 2017 Masters just behind us, it is also exciting to know we have a slice, quite literally, of its history here at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a highly admired member and frequent visitor to Augusta National Golf Club. The golf club came to have the “Eisenhower Cabin,” “Ike’s Pond,” and the “Eisenhower Tree.” The pond acquired its name because it was Ike who suggested its development, while the cabin was built for President Eisenhower to have a secure place to stay while at the golf club. But how does a tree come to have a name?

Once located at the 17th hole, the Eisenhower Tree stood approximately 210 yards from the tee and left-center of the fairway. It earned its name because Ike hit into the tree so often that he campaigned to have it removed. At a club Governor’s meeting in 1956, President Eisenhower proposed cutting the tree down. Club Chairman and friend, Clifford Roberts, only agreed to cutting down the proposal, and the pine was forever linked to Eisenhower.

Unfortunately, the tree had to be removed in February 2014, following a historic ice storm that damaged most of its major branches. The loblolly pine was approximately 65 feet high and 90 years old. A cross-section (*above*) was preserved as a lasting tribute to one of Augusta National’s most beloved members. It now stands proudly on display in the Eisenhower Presidential Library. As it turns out, Ike still cannot get away from that tree.



## Support our Cause

### Estate Gift Received from Former Eisenhower Aide

Recently, the Eisenhower Foundation was honored to receive a gift from the estate of Douglas R. Price (*right*), a former aide to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

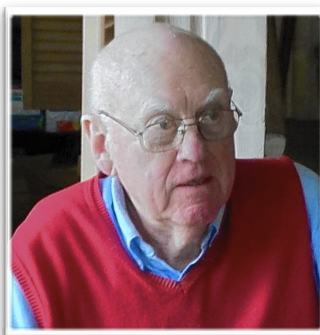
Mr. Price was part of the Eisenhower for President campaign, as well as Press Assistant to the future president at the 1952 Republican Convention. He worked on the Republican National Committee, the International Cooperation Administration, and the U.S. Commission on Government Security before joining the White House staff as Special Assistant to President Eisenhower in 1957.

When President Eisenhower left office, Mr. Price co-founded Atlantic Development Co., an international marketing firm. He later served as a member of the Board of Directors for both the Eisenhower Foundation and the Eisenhower Institute, and was a member of the editorial advisory board of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* at Johns Hopkins University.

Planned gifts are especially meaningful as they help to ensure that the legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower is shared with future generations for years to come. The Foundation is grateful to Mr. Price and his family.

If you have included the Eisenhower Foundation in your own estate plans, we thank you for your generosity and invite you to become a member of Club Eisenhower, our planned giving program.

For more information about planned gifts or Club Eisenhower, please visit the Support tab on our website at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net) or call our office at (785) 263-6771.



**“When I first met Eisenhower, he was a retired Army officer. When I finished my mission, he was President of the United States. That’s the kind of work I do.”**

*Douglas R. Price*

## Upcoming Events

### May

- 12: *Marlin Fitzwater: From Wheat Fields to White House* Exhibit Opening\*
- 13: *Mamie Eisenhower: Hostess in Chief*, Mother’s Day Tea with Ellie Carlson
- 15: *100 Years Ago on the Homefront: How American Families Faced the War to End all Wars*, by Ellie Carlson
- 19: *Under This Roof: A History of the White House and Presidency*, by Paul Brandus - Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation Speaker Series\*
- 29: Memorial Day Ceremony

### June

- 3: Symphony at Sunset\*
- 12: *Sod and Stubble*, TALK Program
- 14: Army Wreath-Laying Ceremony
- 15: *Home Front to Battlefield*, by Frank Levin - Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation Speaker Series\*

### July

- 9: *The Ox-Bow Incident* TALK Film
- 10: *The Ox-Bow Incident* TALK Program
- 29: Eisenhower Bridge Benefit

### August

- 5: Vintage Baseball Game
- 14: *The Last Cattle Drive*, TALK Program
- 24: *The Chisholm Trail: Driving the American West* Exhibit Opening\*

\*Friends Event (FREE)

For more details, visit our website at [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net).

## We Appreciate Your Support

Please visit [www.EisenhowerFoundation.net](http://www.EisenhowerFoundation.net) to donate online. You can also make a contribution by calling our office at (785) 263-6771 or by sending this form to: PO Box 295, Abilene, KS 67410. We thank you for your support!

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# IKE INSIGHT

## Did You Know?

### Paint Like Ike

Before the D-Day invasion, General Eisenhower ordered Allied forces to avoid the destruction of cultural pieces, as well as retrieve art looted by the Nazis. The 2014 movie, *Monuments Men*, starring George Clooney and Matt Damon, touches on this amazing story. This is evidence of Ike's appreciation of the enrichment art brings to humanity before he ever picked up a paintbrush.

Ike was introduced to painting as a hobby while President of Columbia University. Following the extreme stress of being a Five Star General and Supreme Allied Commander during World War II, he found the quiet, thoughtful painting of landscapes and portraits therapeutic. Ike's painting hobby continued throughout his service in Paris as Supreme Commander of NATO, his two terms as President of the United States, and his retirement years.

Wherever he was stationed, Ike tried to find time in each day to sneak away to personal studios (*right*). It is estimated that Ike completed around 300 paintings in the last 20 years of his life. Dwight D. Eisenhower's career had centered on civilizations in conflict, and it appears his tranquil paintings provided balance.



IKEducation is having a great time "painting like Ike" with students of all ages this spring! *Paint Like Ike* is a hands-on lesson that combines Eisenhower, history, and art. Students view *Monuments Men* documents from the Library's archives, as well as artifacts in the Museum's collection that include Ike's easel, paint kit, and several completed works. The program culminates with students getting the chance to "paint like Ike" and finish one of the four incomplete paintings that Ike left upon his death.

Fourth-grade students at Eisenhower Elementary in Abilene, Kansas, recently completed *Paint Like Ike* (*left*). Their paintings are currently on display at the Visitors Center of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

## Our Partners

### Hallmark Reproduces Eisenhower Christmas Card

During his first year as President, Dwight D. Eisenhower called on his close personal friend Joyce C. Hall, founder and president of Hallmark, to help him produce the official 1953 White House holiday cards. The first card featured the Presidential Seal, along with the words "Season's Greetings" in gold. An informal Christmas card with an embossment of holly leaves and red berries was also created for Ike and Mamie to send to their friends and family.

Throughout their eight years in the White House, the President and First Lady continued the tradition of sending both formal and informal Hallmark Christmas cards. Since President Eisenhower, Hallmark has produced official Christmas cards for many administrations, including Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

Last year, the Eisenhower Foundation partnered with Hallmark to reproduce the 1958 informal Christmas card (*right*) that Ike and Mamie Eisenhower sent to their friends and family. For those of you who received this card, we hope you enjoyed seeing and holding this piece of history. We also look forward to working with Hallmark in the future to recreate additional Christmas cards because, like Ike, we at the Foundation agree that "When You Care Enough to Send the Very Best," you send Hallmark.



Above, 1957 informal Christmas card sent by Ike and Mamie.





Above, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in the company of General McNary and Carl Atkin, visits a kindergarten in either the Deggendorf or Neu Freimann displaced persons' camp.

Photo Credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Richard Katz

## In the Mailbox

### Morris Taub, MD

In his letter below, Dr. Morris Taub shares that his parents, "...met each other in the D.P. [displaced persons] camps..." in Germany. Long before World War II ended, the Allies realized there would be several million displaced persons who would need assistance. Repatriation efforts were anticipated to take up to six months. In truth, at least a million refugees simply could not return home due to lingering anti-semitism and lack of resources. Some camps had thousands of residents and many developed into fully-functioning communities complete with schools, vocational training, post offices, hospitals, theaters, and newspapers.

General Eisenhower personally inspected the living conditions at several displaced persons camps in September 1945 to investigate reported inadequacies. At that time, the U.S. Military was responsible for the camps in the American Zone. Following Ike's visits, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and other agencies maintained camp operations. By 1952, only one camp remained open.

Dear Meredith,

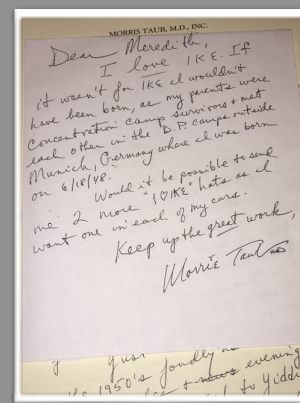
I love IKE. If it wasn't for Ike I wouldn't have been born as my parents were concentration camp survivors and met each other in the D.P. camps outside Munich, Germany, where I was born...

I remember Ike and the 1950s fondly as I used to translate Ike's speeches and evening news to my dad from English to Yiddish (Judeo-German)...

I am so pleased to receive the Eisenhower Foundation certificate. I was really moved as I reflected on who Ike was and what he still represents. I don't just like Ike, I love him and all he did for my family and millions of others...

Keep up the great work,

Morris Taub, MD



## Special Delivery

### From Scotland, a Memento of Eisenhower's Post-War Visit

Years before Dwight D. Eisenhower took issue with the loblolly pine at Augusta National Golf Club ([page 3](#)), he and his family planted a tree just beyond the 7th hole at Dalmeny Estate Golf Course near Edinburgh, Scotland in October 1946. *The Eisenhower Oak Tree* became a magnificent reminder of that special visit by General Eisenhower. In 2010, a storm broke a limb from the Eisenhower tree. Dalmeny Golf Club member Ian Andrews has since carved nine miniature wine barrels from that bough, which have been presented to golf courses around the world.

Last fall, Tim Rives, acting Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, was pleased to accept one of these beautiful wine barrels, accompanied by a letter signed by Dalmeny Estate owners Lord and Countess Rosebery. The presentation was made by Doug Catt, a member of the Lake Quivira Country Club in Kansas City and friend of Dalmeny Estate Golf Club Secretary, Wullie Ruffle. Thank you to the Catt family for facilitating this gift and for delivering this very special memento of Ike's connection to Scotland.





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