

# IKE INSIGHT

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# IKE

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## You Did It!

### Eisenhower Presidential Museum Exhibits Open to Public

On July 29, the Eisenhower Presidential Museum opened to the public with all new exhibits after undergoing more than a year of renovation. Using newly digitized and never-before-seen footage from the National Archives and Records Administration, new mini-theaters offer visitors the opportunity to hear Ike's words firsthand on a variety of events and issues from D-Day to world peace.



"Our team is excited to share this updated story with our visitors. We are thrilled to feature the holdings of the collection, not only here in Abilene, but also from the National Archives in Washington, DC. These resources allowed us to create a custom exhibit script using Ike and Mamie's own words and really connect with the visitor on a personal level," stated Dawn Hammatt, Director, Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

The Museum renovation was the result of a successful five-year \$12,250,000 capital campaign conducted by the Eisenhower Foundation. Donors from all 50 states contributed to this grassroots effort. Lead donors to the campaign included the Hall Family Foundation, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, the William T. Kemper Foundation, and The Sunderland Foundation. For a complete list of campaign contributors, please visit the "Support" section of our website.

"We are truly grateful for your contributions. *Dwight D. Eisenhower: A Legacy of Leadership* was the largest fundraising campaign in the Eisenhower Foundation's 74-year history, and the first comprehensive exhibit renovation in more than 45 years," added Meredith Sleichter, Executive Director, Eisenhower Foundation. "Because of your financial support, we are now welcoming guests to a new, engaging experience at the Eisenhower Presidential Museum in Abilene, Kansas — Ike's hometown."



*Promoting Prosperity exhibit in the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.*

When speaking about his hometown in London, England, after World War II, Ike said, "I come from the very heart of America." To echo this sentiment which Ike often shared with the world, the new Museum features entry and exit galleries that incorporate this quote in their titles. To borrow from President Nixon's moving eulogy for General Eisenhower, "Perhaps no one sentence could better sum up what Dwight Eisenhower meant to a whole generation of Americans...And with his own great qualities of heart he personified the best in America."

We are "IKE" cited to reintroduce this generation to the heart of Dwight D. Eisenhower and to host thousands of visitors to his hometown of Abilene, Kansas — "the very heart of America."



# IKE INSIGHT

## Meredith's Memo

The last two months have truly been a highlight of my career. Not only did we pay tribute to our World War II veterans on D-Day, but we also opened the newly-renovated Eisenhower Presidential Museum.

My heart swelled with pride as I looked out into the crowd that gathered at the Eisenhower Presidential Library campus on June 6 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Nearly 70 World War II veterans received a hero's welcome from the public and were also treated to a sneak peek of the Museum exhibits.

In July, I was once again thrilled when we opened the Eisenhower Museum to the public. Five years of planning, designing, implementing, and most importantly, fundraising, culminated in that moment. Thanks to you, our donors, for making this historic renovation possible.

I invite each of you to travel to the Eisenhower Presidential Museum to experience what you helped collectively accomplish. When here, be sure to drop in to the Foundation office and say hello. It's always a pleasure for our staff to personally meet and thank our donors.

Best Regards, .



Meredith Sleichter  
Executive Director

## Celebrating Our Heroes

### World War II Heroes Honored on D-Day 75th Anniversary

The 75th commemoration of June 6, 1944, when Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower led the Allied troops on the pivotal D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, was held at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. The ceremony included highlight speeches from General Richard Myers, USAF (Ret.), President of Kansas State University and former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of General Eisenhower. Perhaps the most memorable part of the day was the gathering of over 70 veterans, Rosie the Riveters, and survivors of World War II. These individuals were special guests and were treated to lunch and a sneak peek of the Museum.



Gen. Richard Myers, USAF, (Ret.), with McPherson, Kansas, World War II veterans Carl Kasey, left, and Morris Heitschmidt, right.



Ralph (Gene) Lentz, World War II veteran, salutes the statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A few veterans present at the commemoration had actually met General Dwight D. Eisenhower. As depicted in the photo at left of veteran Ralph (Gene) Lentz saluting the statue of General Eisenhower, many expressed their admiration for Ike's role in the D-Day invasion. Visitors attending the commemoration were enthused to meet World War II veterans and savored the stories they shared, both in person and for the video crews capturing firsthand accounts for the Eisenhower Foundation's *Ike's Soldiers* website.

"It was a great day for both of us!" Sandra Sullivan commented for herself and husband Jack Leon Miller, who watched the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay through binoculars. Sandra recently called to share Jack passed away on July 13. She revealed that Jack had "the time of his life" at the

75th Commemoration. She continued saying, "Thank you so much for doing this, and I hope you know how appreciative the veterans felt toward the Foundation for organizing the Commemoration."

Other veterans expressed their gratitude for the tribute they received at the ceremony, but it was the general public and staff who were most honored to be in the presence of those who served and to remember those who gave their all for the freedoms we enjoy today.



Guests of honor and visitors at the 75th D-Day Remembrance Ceremony.

## Spotlight Event

### 75th D-Day Commemoration Week

From June 1 to June 6, 2019, the 75th D-Day Commemoration Week took place at the Eisenhower Presidential Campus. These photos offer a glimpse into the week's activities that paid tribute to the sacrifices of the brave men and women who served our country during World War II. We were honored to host nearly 70 World War II veterans, Rosies, and survivors who made the trek to Ike's hometown in Abilene, Kansas, to commemorate this milestone anniversary. We wish each of you could have witnessed the interaction between our honored guests and the public that day; there were stories, salutes, handshakes, hugs, and even a few tears.



Visitors learn about "Rosie the Riveter" from IKEducator Anna Gugler, whose mom was a Rosie.



World War II Veterans Panel Discussion with Marvin Ledy, Jay Kramer, Louis Graziano, Bob Cook, and Frank Benteman.



World War II veteran Louis Graziano presents Mary Jean Eisenhower with his book.

## Did You Know?

### President Eisenhower Signed Veterans Day Bill

**Armistice Day Gone;  
Ike OK's Veterans Day**  
Washington, June 1 (AP)—President Eisenhower today signed legislation changing Armistice day — Nov. 11 — to Veterans day in honor of all servicemen and women who have served America. The legislation had been recommended by the major veterans organizations.

*Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, June 2, 1954.*

This year marks the 65th anniversary of Veterans Day, a bill signed by President Eisenhower in 1954. The observance dates back to World War I. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the year 1918, World War I came to an end when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect. One year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. In 1938, Armistice Day on November 11 became a legal holiday, primarily to honor veterans of World War I.

By 1954, our nation's armed forces had seen battle in World War II and in Korea. Congress passed HR 7786 "to expand the significance of Armistice Day and to change its name to Veterans Day ... in order that a grateful nation, on a day dedicated to the cause of world peace, may pay proper homage to all its veterans who have contributed so much to that cause..."

President Eisenhower released a Proclamation designating November 11 as Veterans Day, stating, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Besides being Ike's home state, Kansas has little-known connections to Veterans Day history. Alvin J. King of Emporia is credited with proposing the change from Armistice Day, and through his friend Rep. Ed Rees, also of Emporia, a bill was introduced in Congress to expand November 11 to a celebration of all military veterans. In 2003, Congress passed a resolution recognizing Emporia, Kansas, as the founding city of Veterans Day; Alvin King as the founder of Veterans Day; and Rep. Ed Rees as instrumental in the efforts to enact into law the observance of Veterans Day.



In 1954, President Eisenhower signed the bill changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Far left, Alvin King; second from right, Ed Rees.

# IKE INSIGHT

## IKEducation

We are delighted to release the 2019-2020 Educator's Guide. In it, teachers will find programs and resources offered through IKEducation, a collaborative initiative between the Eisenhower Foundation and the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home in Abilene, Kansas.

Our professional IKEducators are excited to work with teachers to find the field trip activities and programs that best fits their needs. The Educator's Guide can be viewed on our website or mailed upon request.

Every IKEducation Field Trip can include a free Enhancement Program. These fun and educational programs utilize primary sources, such as documents and artifacts, to relate the 20th-century life and times of Dwight D. Eisenhower to today's 21st-century students.

IKEducation programs are not limited to history classes. They offer cross-curricular combinations of social studies with language arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), music and painting. All IKEducation Field Trip Enhancement Programs are aligned to National and State Standards, and are facilitated by professional IKEducators.

Today's students are visual and tactile learners and a field trip encourages them to touch, move around, watch, and listen. This not only enhances classroom instruction and students' understanding of topics, but also builds cultural awareness and tolerance, as well as exposing students to worlds outside their own town.



**"IT'S A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE FOR MOST OF THE STUDENTS!"**  
-EDUCATOR FROM SALINA SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Specific new knowledge is only one part of what students get out of a field trip. The other part is greater cultural awareness and broader horizons. This is at odds with the fact that many students come from families that cannot afford to go to museums or contribute to field trip costs. Therefore, they really need the school to provide these opportunities.

As school funding decreases, many teachers have to forego taking field trips. Thanks to donors like you, IKEducation is able to remove much of the financial burden and clear the way for teachers to bring students to learn about the incredible life and times of Ike as they experience the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas.

Even though admission and program costs to schools are zero, we realize that they might incur other field trip related expenses, such as transportation, substitute teachers, and lunch. Ike's Field Trip Fund and the Dane G. Hansen Field Trip Program provide teachers with grant opportunities to help cover those expenses, too.

To support IKEducation, simply fill out the donation form on the opposite page, visit our website, or call our office.

## Cost of a Field Trip

**TOTAL COST WOULD BE: \$725**

	Tickets for 5 Adult	<b>\$100</b>
	Chaperones	\$20 admission rate
<b>\$375</b>	Tickets for 25 Students	
	\$15 admission rate	

	<b>\$100</b>	
Classroom	IKEducators	Student
Space	two staff members	Supplies
<b>\$100</b>		<b>\$50</b>
per hour		\$2 per student

**THANKS TO OUR DONORS,  
COST TO SCHOOL: \$0**

## Support Our Cause

### #GivingTuesday for Ike's Field Trip Fund

Education is at the heart of everything we do at the Eisenhower Foundation. As Ike said, "Teachers need our active support and encouragement. They are doing one of the most necessary and exacting jobs in the land. They are developing our most precious national resource: our children, our future citizens."

On Tuesday, December 3, the Eisenhower Foundation will participate in the national day of giving — #GivingTuesday — to benefit Ike's Field Trip Fund. This special program provides transportation grants to schools. Of the schools that visit the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home, 35% receive financial assistance.

IKEducation expects to see a dramatic spike in school group attendance with the opening of the brand new museum exhibits. That is why we need your help to get as many K-12 students to our campus as possible over the next year.

To participate in the Foundation's #GivingTuesday campaign to support Ike's Field Trip Fund, simply visit our website or fill out the form below and check "IKEducation."



As a Topeka, Kansas, teacher wrote on her application, "A former teacher went in 2017 and said it was amazing, so our district has now made it a required trip for all 4th-grade classes. This would be a great opportunity for our students to visit a meaningful and engaging location in our nation's history."

## Upcoming Events

### September 2019

- 10 Ike Book TALK: *When the Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe
- 21 Smithsonian Museum Day
- 26 Lunch & Learn: *Stories of my Grandparents* with Mary Jean Eisenhower

### October

- 8 Evenings at Ease: *20 Years in the Secret Service: My Life with Five Presidents* by Rufus W. Youngblood, presented by his daughter, Rebecca Youngblood Vaughn
- 11 VFW Vigil overnight at Place of Meditation
- 12 Rededication Ceremony, Eisenhower Museum
- 12 American Legion Pilgrimage & Wreath Laying
- 12 Eisenhower Legacy Gala
- 14 Dwight D. Eisenhower's birthday (1890)
- 16 Lunch & Learn Special: *The Calm Before the Storm* with Marlin Fitzwater
- 24 Lunch & Learn: *Earl Pete Ellis and the Marines* with Troy Elkins

### November

- 2 Kansas Town Hall: Convention of States
- 11 Veterans Day ceremony led by VFW
- 12 Ike Book TALK: *The General's First Lady* by Marilyn Holt
- 14 Mamie Doud Eisenhower's birthday (1896)
- 28 **Thanksgiving Holiday: All Buildings Closed**

### December

- 1 Holiday Concert with Abilene Municipal Band
- 1 Museum Store Sunday: Gift Shop Discounts!
- 3 Giving Tuesday for Ike's Field Trip Fund
- 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 25 **Christmas Holiday: All Buildings Closed**

### January 2020

- 1 **New Year's Day: Closed**

## 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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My gift is for:  IKEducation (Ike's Field Trip Fund)  Exhibit Fund  Friends Membership  Unrestricted

Enclosed is my check, made payable to the *Eisenhower Foundation* **OR** please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

In the Amount of:  \$34  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  \$2,500  \$5,000  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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# IKE INSIGHT

## Our Partners

### Abilene Bridge Club Sponsors 6th Annual Benefit for IKEducation

On Saturday, July 27, the Abilene American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and the Eisenhower Foundation partnered to organize the 6th Annual Dwight D. Eisenhower Bridge Benefit. The game and additional donations raised more than \$2,000 to benefit the Eisenhower Foundation's K-12 program IKEducation that provides activities and classroom programs to school groups free of charge visiting the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home. "The Bridge Benefit has become a lively tradition that presents an entertaining way to connect with the community and an impactful way to benefit our 100% donor-funded IKEducation programs," said Meredith Sleichter, Executive Director.

This year, 108 people played bridge in the beautiful Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard. The benefit was created to promote the extraordinary legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who earned the unofficial nickname of "Bridge Player in Chief" and "The Patron President of Bridge Players" over the 56 years he played the game.

"Our mission for IKEducation is to engage and teach future generations through educational experiences. Our Kids Bridge event is a fun way to do that and carry on Ike's love of the game," said IKEducation Director Mitzi Gose. For three days before the event, the Abilene ACBL group taught a group of young students from Abilene how to play the basics of cards. Nine kids from grades 4th through 9th attended Bridge Camp, a free educational event.

The Abilene ACBL and the Eisenhower Foundation are thrilled this has become an annual tradition and look forward to awarding the Dwight D. Eisenhower Bridge Benefit traveling trophy to the winning team next summer — Saturday, July 25, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the Eisenhower Presidential Library Courtyard.



Co-chair Georgia Reynolds (left) presents the traveling trophy to the 2019 Bridge Benefit winners, partners Elizabeth Jankord (center) and Amit Chakrabarti (right) both from Manhattan, Kansas, who won the overall game with a score of 67.46.

## Centennial Anniversary

### The First Motorized Coast-to-Coast Road Trip

This summer marks 100 years since then-Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower took part in the First Transcontinental Motor Convoy of 1919. The expedition included 81 Army vehicles which crossed the United States from Washington, DC, to San Francisco; 3,251 miles in 62 days (July 7 to September 7), at an average pace of 6 m.p.h. Ike wrote in his book, *At Ease*, that the trip was a genuine adventure. "We were not sure it could be accomplished at all. Nothing of the sort had ever been attempted."

The Army's objectives were to test various military vehicles and to determine the feasibility of moving an army across the continent. The route traced the Lincoln



Men struggle to push a truck over a broken bridge deck.

Highway (now U.S. 30 and I-80), a series of roads that "varied from average to non-existent." Half the distance traveled by the convoy was over dirt roads, wheel paths, desert sands and mountain roads. Many sections were nearly impassible to the heavy trucks, and it was frequently necessary to push and pull the vehicles by man-power. Over 230 road accidents were recorded, such as vehicles sinking in quicksand or mud, running off the road, or overturning. Bridges often had to be rebuilt or repaired.

The convoy was deemed a success overall, providing valuable information about the performance of various types of vehicles, tires and repair equipment. Public relations for the Army was stellar as the convoy was witnessed by more than 3 million people and resulted in several hundred Army recruits. The nation benefitted as well. In *At Ease*, Ike wrote, "The old convoy had started me thinking about good, two-lane highways, but Germany (World War II) had made me see the wisdom of broader ribbons across the land." Visit our new museum exhibits to learn more about how Ike's adventure on the 1919 Motor Convoy led to our modern interstate highway system.



A 1919 Motor Convoy pennant and Ike's Tank Corps campaign hat.



Above, the Mulberry Harbor model is displayed beneath the new D-Day Theater in the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.

## Featured Artifact

### Mulberry Harbor: Seen in a Whole New Light

The recent renovation of the Eisenhower Presidential Museum exhibits has provided an opportunity to showcase some of our most significant holdings. One example is the Mulberry Harbor model and map. This large artifact is one of the centerpieces of our new D-Day gallery. The Mulberry Harbor case is integrated with our exclusive video titled *D-Day: Leading to Victory*.

The Mulberry Harbor plan was conceived by Allied staff to coordinate the massive logistics necessary to sustain the invasion of France in mid-1944.

With French ports under German control, the Allies needed an alternate way to land thousands of troops, vehicles, and tons of supplies. Artificial harbors developed under the code-name “MULBERRY” were the answer. These massive installations created a calmer water landing area of nearly two square miles. The harbors could accommodate up to 19 cargo and supply ships at a time, allowing for the offloading of more than 5,000 tons of supplies a day in each of two Mulberries.

While Mulberry A was lost to a storm on June 19, 1944, in 10 months of operation, Mulberry B offloaded over 2.5 million troops, 500,000 vehicles, and 4 million tons of supplies. The Mulberry project assured that Allied troops would have the material needed to defeat the enemy.

Built in England out of wood and metal, the model was brought by ship to Canada for the Second Quebec Conference in late 1944. On September 12, 1944, Prime Minister Winston Churchill displayed it and explained how each Mulberry part worked. He then presented this one-of-a-kind object to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The model was taken to Washington, DC, and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, to showcase the logistical miracle wrought by the artificial harbors. In 1968, the Roosevelt Presidential Library loaned the model to the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Since then, it has been a valuable tool in the telling of the story of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Allied invasion of France.

## Special Delivery

### Preserving World War II K-Rations

It is not often we get to talk about the United States Merchant Marine when discussing our artifact collection. Merchant Mariners were civilians paid only while at sea. The crews from hundreds of merchant vessels delivered food, fuel, and war supplies across the globe. A recent donation from Judy Curtis of Grand Marais, Minnesota, gives us a rare opportunity to talk about this lifeline to the Allied war effort during World War II.

Ms. Curtis' father, Ensign Frank Traxler, served aboard the S.S. *Cape Kildare*, a small C1-B class cargo freighter. Traxler helped deliver supplies to posts in the Indian and Pacific Oceans as well as the Mediterranean Sea. After the war, he worked as a wheelsman on the Great Lakes until retiring from the Merchant Marines in 1950 to be closer to his family. Mr. Traxler passed away in 1989.

During his travels, Ensign Traxler acquired several unique artifacts, including a complete set of K-rations: breakfast, dinner, and supper. These Cracker Jack-sized boxes were easy to pack and carry. The kits contained canned meat, biscuits, dried fruit, candy, cigarettes, gum, and water purification tablets.

While the K-ration provided ample calories for the soldier on the battlefield, they lacked sufficient nutrients needed by the human body. Prolonged use resulted in weight loss and vitamin deficiency typically associated with starvation.

These donated artifacts enhance our collections related to life during World War II. Unfortunately, we are unable to keep certain items in order to preserve the rest of the collection. For example, in this donation, the canned meat in the breakfast K-ration was ruptured and had to be discarded. On a positive note, because the can leaked, we opened the kit and were able to photograph and preserve the contents.





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