



# IKE INSIGHT

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

785-263-6771

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

## INSIDE

You Did It!

Meredith's Memo

Celebrating our Heroes

Spotlight Event

In the Mail

Our Partners



If you would prefer to receive Ike Insight electronically, please email us at [info@eisenhowerfoundation.net](mailto:info@eisenhowerfoundation.net).

## You Did It!

### Thanks to your gifts, Ike Education Reached Columbia

Since the launch of Ike Education, students participating in onsite programs at the Eisenhower Presidential Library has multiplied ten-fold, and our numbers continue to grow. Programs have been met with overwhelming response and positive feedback from both students and teachers.

A new Educator's Guide went out in August, supplying teachers with the information they need to plan a field trip and choose from over twenty enhancement programs to give their students an unforgettable learning experience .

**"Even while talking about history, our Ike Educator tied things to current topics, making the discussion more relatable for our students. Very impressive."**

**- Educator from Ceylon High School.**

In October, Ike ED reached out to all Eisenhower schools across the globe to celebrate Ike's 125th birthday and cultivate a relationship with educators and students who LIKE IKE as much as we do!

One of our favorite responses so far is from a K-12 school named Colegio Eisenhower near Bogota, Columbia. Their older students learned about Dwight D. Eisenhower by creating fact walls while younger students experienced the Eisenhower Era by dressing in typical 50's attire. Visit our website to view photos of several Eisenhower schools that are continuing Ike's legacy.

Our Constitution Day offerings have been met with such demand that instead of just one day, this year we hosted two weeks of programming during the month of September. Students from around Kansas joined us to honor the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, as well as to commemorate the signing of the Constitution.



# IKE INSIGHT

## Meredith's Memo

This is an exciting time at the Eisenhower Foundation! I am pleased to share with you the important accomplishments that you helped us achieve.

In collaboration with the National Archives staff of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, we completed an 11-month Planning Phase to redesign the Museum exhibits. Our mission is to re-introduce Dwight Eisenhower, and his life-long partner Mamie, to 21st century America. Doing so will honor them and enrich our nation.

This fall, Ike EDucation reached a record number of students and teachers onsite at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home. In addition, Ike ED continues to expand its online curriculum so the lessons from Ike's life can reach students and adults across the nation.

These major accomplishments have set in motion a capital campaign to realize our vision in these two key areas. We look forward to keeping you informed of our progress.

All of these achievements reflect the support of donors such as you. Thank you for your loyalty and trust.



Meredith Sleichter  
Executive Director



## Celebrating Our Heroes

### Verl Dean "Andy" Anderson

Verl Dean "Andy" Anderson had attended College at Emporia, KS for two years when he was inducted into the Army Air Corps on February 7, 1943. Following gunnery and bombardier-navigator training, he was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 2nd Air Division, 453rd Bomb Group, 733rd Squadron out of "Old Buckenham" airfield, two miles southeast of Attleborough, Norfolk, England. He later served with the 466th Bomb Group, 786th Bomb Squadron, also based there. He was the bombardier-navigator on a B-24 Liberator, "One Meat Ball," which was shot down over Germany.

After making their way back to France, moving at night and with the help of sympathetic Germans, the crew was assigned to "Hot Stuff," another B-24 Liberator. Andy's crew flew 30 missions over enemy territory. Many of these missions were led by Group Operations Commander Jimmy Stewart, actor and war hero, in whom the men had complete confidence and respect. Besides strategic operations, they engaged in support and interdiction missions; bombed V-weapon sites, airfields, and gun batteries prior to the invasion of Normandy; bombed German communications during the Battle of the Bulge; and took part in the airborne assault across the Rhine in 1945.

Andy received the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters and was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant at Fort Leavenworth. After his discharge, Andy received his BS and Masters in Education from the University of Kansas and spent the next 41 years serving in the field of Education. We salute and celebrate Verl Dean "Andy" Anderson's heroic service to our country!



## Spotlight Event

### Happy Birthday, Ike!

Eisenhower fans traveled across the globe to celebrate Ike's 125th birthday on October 9th, 2015 at the Legacy Gala held in the Eisenhower Presidential Library at Abilene, Kansas. Guests enjoyed a sensational menu inspired by Dwight's 75th birthday party as well as video tributes from all five living U.S. presidents, Tricia Nixon Cox, and golf legend Arnold Palmer. Anne and Mary Jean Eisenhower presented Eisenhower Legacy Awards to the descendants of the founding members of the Eisenhower Foundation (top left). Sailors from the USS *Eisenhower* were honored guests.

Additionally, Eisenhower's 125th birthday and the 70th anniversary of World War II was honored in Los Angeles, California at the Skirball Cultural Center on October 14th, 2015. Co-chairs Mary Jean Eisenhower and Stephen Adams helped with the swearing in ceremony of 50 volunteers for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

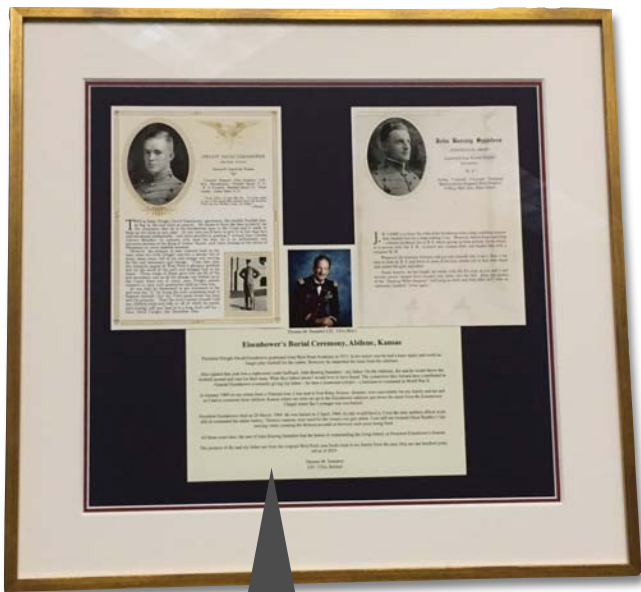
## In the Mailbox

### Crossroads

In September, the Foundation received a wonderful surprise from Thomas M. Saunders, Professor Emeritus and Army Lieutenant Colonel retired this fall. His letter accompanied framed pages from the 1915 West Point yearbook and informed us of an interesting crossroads between his family and Ike.

Thomas' father, John Boersig Saunders, was a classmate of Ike's at West Point. Thomas' older brother, John S. Saunders, served courageously with the 8th Air Force in World War II. Both his father and his brother had enjoyed visits that Ike made to their units. Unfortunately, Thomas' brother died in a B-17 after a raid over Germany on November 8, 1942.

We thank all of the Saunders family for their brave service to our country, and for sharing your story.



"President Dwight David Eisenhower graduated from West Point Academy in 1915. In his senior year he had a knee injury and could no longer play football for the cadets. However, he supported the team from the sidelines. Also injured that year was a sophomore cadet halfback, John Boersig Saunders — my father. On the sidelines, Ike and he would throw the football around and root for their team. What they talked about I would love to have heard. The connection they formed here contributed to General Eisenhower eventually giving my father — by then a lieutenant colonel — a battalion to command in World War II.

In January 1969 on my return from a Vietnam tour, I was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas. Quarters were unavailable for my family and me and so I had to commute from Abilene, Kansas where we were set up in the Eisenhower addition just down the street from the Eisenhower Chapel where Ike's younger son was buried.

President Eisenhower died on 28 March, 1969. He was buried on 2 April, 1969. As fate would have it, I was the only artillery officer available to command the salute battery. Thirteen cannons were used for the twenty-one gun salute. I can still see General Omar Bradley's lips moving while counting the thirteen seconds in between each piece being fired. All these years later, the son of John Boersig Saunders had the honor of commanding the firing battery at President Eisenhower's funeral.

The pictures of Ike and my father are from the original West Point year books kept in my family from the past; they are one hundred years old as of 2015."

-Thomas M Saunders, LTC. USA, Retired

## Our Partners

### There's an app for that!

School field trips to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home are being enhanced by the addition of 25 iPad minis recently donated by TCT, Inc., a telecommunications company headquartered in Council Grove, Kansas. This donation enables students to interact with museum exhibits in dynamic ways, as well as research historical information during Ike ED programs.

THANK YOU to TCT and all of our donors. Your support advances the legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

### 2015 DONORS

Advantage Trust Company  
Brierton Engineering  
Dane G. Hansen Foundation  
Eagle Communications  
Emma Balsiger Foundation  
First Bank Kansas  
Hall Family Foundation  
Jeffcoat Memorial Foundation

Nex-Tech Wireless  
Tri-County Telephone (TCT), Inc.  
Waddell & Reed, April Barker  
William T. Kemper Foundation  
Robert E. & Patricia A. Schmidt Foundation  
Diana L. Miller, CPA, MBA, Financial Advisor, Vice President,  
Compass Personal Advisors Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

