The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society
2016 Progress Report
Our Mission

The Society will promote the knowledge and understanding of the accomplishments of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States and General of the Army; the code by which he lived; and the signal qualities that made him in his time the world's most trusted figure.

Our History

Since its founding in 1969, the Eisenhower Society has worked to fulfill Mamie Eisenhower’s request that the Society be “a perpetual living memorial to Ike.” Over the years, the Society has conducted annual observances each October to remember Eisenhower’s life and work. Guest speakers have included 38th President of the United States Gerald R. Ford, former National Security Advisor General Brent Scowcroft, former Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh and other notables. With careful management of donated funds by founders Charles Wolf and Henry Scharf, and Trustee Leroy Smith’s donation, and later sale of the David Wills House, the Society established a modest endowment to perpetuate its endeavors.

In 1990 the Society commemorated the centennial of Eisenhower’s birth in partnership with Gettysburg College and the Eisenhower National Historic Site, sponsoring events that received national media attention. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Society looks toward its 50th anniversary year in 2019 and continues to pursue its goal of perpetuating Eisenhower’s legacy through its own educational programming, partnering with other Eisenhower legacy organizations and by granting funds to support and promote Eisenhower-related projects.

A Message from Vice-Chairman Walton Jones

My many years of enjoyable and personally rewarding service to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society has always been driven by that fervent request from Mrs. Eisenhower upon the General’s death, that a "Society be formed to perpetuate the legacy and accomplishments of Ike and become a perpetual living memorial." So, in 1969 our Society was founded. It has thrived through the decades since, to provide so many beautiful, memorable events. The convocations, ceremonies, academic functions, as well as financial support with an annual grant program - all, to further an appreciation and understanding of what Dwight David Eisenhower accomplished for his country.

We are firm in our resolve to further the Society's mission. In order to ensure our influence for future American and world generations, the Society is engaged in a development effort, specific to expanding a fund base, so that our numerous projects, beneficial to many, will accomplish so much more. Our scholarships could increase in number, our preservation and restoration projects can continue, our support of publications could expand, and the number of educational programs, production of video and television programs and more, can grow. Society influence and contribution that educates Americans and citizens of the world community is our goal. Dignifying an American hero who did so much for so many is truly an honor for those so proud to be members of the Eisenhower Society.
In July, members attended the Eisenhower Society Picnic at the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Eisenhower home tours, a program by a park ranger, a putting green contest, flag ceremony, dinner featuring some of Eisenhower’s favorite foods and a concert by the West Point Alumni Glee Club provided a well-rounded, enjoyable evening.

The October annual Dwight D. Eisenhower Society wreath-laying and luncheon provided an opportunity to reflect on Eisenhower’s contributions to our world. After lunch, historian Mitch Yockelson shared “World War I, Ike and Gettysburg” with everyone.

“Christmas at the Farm,” an evening reception and tour of the decorated Eisenhower home provided an opportunity to thank our donors and members. This inaugural event was generously underwritten by Brown Advisory.
Eisenhower Society Grants Make a Difference in 2016

Eisenhower’s Gettysburg Farm Book Project - $2,948.00

Grant funds were used by authors Michael Birkner and Carol Hegeman to purchase licenses for the use of photographs from Associated Press, and copying fees for high resolution digital scans from the Eisenhower and Truman Presidential libraries and the National Archives. Funds also paid for scanning 190 photographs at the Eisenhower NHS and the salary for Gettysburg College student worker, Kevin Lavery. The book has now been published with an initial printing of 1,500 copies likely being enjoyed by at least 3,000 people. Future printings will further expand the reach of this grant funding.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Award -- $5,000

...far too often we write off a backward child as hopeless, a clumsy animal as worthless, a worn-out field as beyond restoration. [But] a difficult boy can become a fine man, an animal can respond to training, and the field can regain its fertility. —Dwight D. Eisenhower, At Ease

These grant funds recognize and award positive growth and achievement of graduating seniors from six Adams County high schools who have had an “at risk” record in academics, attendance, attitude, behavior and school/community activities. These students nominate themselves and keep a record of improvement and commitment in all six areas. Each school selects five students to be honored at an annual awards breakfast. The awards are presented to thirty students who have succeeded in improving themselves.

Eisenhower Institute - $2,000

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Eisenhower Institute’s Undergraduate Fellows studied domestic energy policy planning and hosted three panel discussions on the Gettysburg College campus. Topics included energy policy through the lens of national security and counter-terrorism, alternate energy sources, and energy policy in the Arctic and how it influences oil and gas resources, environmental health and security, navigation, and multilateral foreign relations. Over 300 people attended the programs.
Internships at Eisenhower National Historic Site - $5,250

Grant funds provided living stipends to five interns for 12-week internships. Four interns presented in-depth talks and tours to 21,000 visitors. Their impact on visitors often included multiple contacts during the course of each person’s visit. The curatorial intern catalogued archival photos, packed, cleaned, moved and unpacked show barn artifacts for proper storage, re-organized the curatorial storage area and re-housed flat textiles.

Dear Eisenhower Society,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for my internship at the Eisenhower National Historic Site this summer. As a result of this internship, I have gained a deeper appreciation for General Eisenhower, his wife Mamie, and their resounding influence on our country. My experiences this summer were invaluable, and I know they would not have been possible without the Society’s support. Not only did I broaden my understanding of our nation’s history, but I also made personal connections that will last me a lifetime. Now I can honestly say “I like Ike!” Thank you for everything—your contribution means so much to me. Warmest Regards, Nicole

IKE: The Making of an American Hero 1941-1945 Documentary - $5,000

Film maker and producer George Colburn offers a fresh and penetrating look at the leadership role played by General Dwight Eisenhower in the defeat of Nazi Germany, 1942 – 1945. Featured in the documentary are many “witnesses to history” who were on the scene as Ike made critical political and military decisions – often in the face of intense opposition – that led ultimately to victory. Grant funds were used for production costs including filming and editing interviews with the witnesses to history. The film will be available for preview and classroom use in 2018 and broadcast on PBS in 2019 for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.
More Grants

Support Agricultural Science Curriculum at Eisenhower National Historic Site—$4,650

The grant provides environmental education staffing to present hands-on field study for middle and high school students in the areas of soil, water, wildlife and forestry. Educators know that place-based learning stays with students. This program allows students to visit the farm and learn about Eisenhower’s ethic to “leave the land better than he found it.”

Eisenhower Oral History Project Completion and Digitization—$6,840

The Eisenhower National Historic Site Oral History Project collected hundreds of hours of interviews from friends, family, employees and associates of General and Mrs. Eisenhower. This project is completing the editing of transcripts by auditing the taped interviews and properly formatting the transcripts. A Table of Contents is developed for each interview and all legal release forms are being acquired if needed. Once completed, interviews are converted to PDF format. When the series is complete, it will be available on the internet for research and public use.

Encounters with Eisenhower Book — $2,017

To commemorate the 125th anniversary of Eisenhower’s birth, Gettysburg College produced a book of letters and reminiscences of individuals who recorded their meetings with Eisenhower. Many are from the archives at the Gettysburg College Musselman Library. Others are from oral history interviews. Some were even collected by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society when the Society sent letters to the editors of several British newspapers asking citizens to write down and send their recollections of Eisenhower. The book accompanied a photography exhibit on display in the library. The Eisenhower Society grant assisted with printing costs.
Reproduce Upholstery for Four Reproduction Chairs in Eisenhower Home - $5,000

This grant funded the final part of a multi-year project to reproduce furniture missing from the Eisenhower home. The Eisenhower historian located the family member with the original furniture and got permission to photograph and document it. A 9-piece suite of circa 1930s French-style painted furniture that furnished Mrs. Doud’s bedroom as well as two upholstered Bergere chairs and two upholstered Turkish-style chairs were reproduced.

This final part of the project will upholster the two Bergere armchairs in a yellow floral pattern and the two Turkish-style chairs in a pink velour fabric. The Bergere chairs will be placed in the sitting room and the guest house. The Turkish chairs will flank the fireplace in the master bedroom. Each year thousands of visitors will view these reproduction furnishings as they help to interpret the lives of the Eisenhowers.

Eisenhower “Days with Documents” Teacher Workshop - $6,000

Grant funds were used to provide scholarships to teachers from Title I schools to attend the Days with Documents teacher workshop. The funds assisted with transportation, room and board, document packages and field trips to allow teachers from financially disadvantaged school districts to enrich their teaching skills at this professional development program. Both local teachers and teachers from around the country attended the program.

Teachers worked with National Park Service historians and educators to discuss how to use primary source documents, photographs and news footage in the classroom and develop lesson plans. Topics covered were Eisenhower and the World Wars, Eisenhower and Cold War Diplomacy and Eisenhower and the Civil Rights Era. Fifty-six teachers benefitted from this grant and took primary sources back to their classrooms to share with students. In the 2016-17 school year, approximately 3,360 students benefited from their teacher’s professional development training.
Scholarships

Each year the Eisenhower Society presents four scholarships totaling $14,500 to deserving students at Gettysburg College. Funded through the Society by the Hoffman Trust, this long-established program has benefited dozens of college students.

The annual $500 John Autry Athletic Award is presented to one male and one female Gettysburg College student participating on the golf team.

The $250 General Milnor Roberts ROTC Award is presented yearly to a worthy ROTC student at Gettysburg College. As a lieutenant, Roberts landed in France on D-Day and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He served as the Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society for many years.

Eisenhower Society Facilitates Donations to National Park Service

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eisenhowers’ July 1, 1916 wedding was all the more eventful because of two donations that were made to the historic site. Linda MacAskill, widow of Rev. Dr. Robert MacAskill, the Eisenhowers’ pastor and a former Eisenhower Society Trustee, donated 29 of her husband’s letters including 18 from General Eisenhower and 8 from Mrs. Eisenhower. Mary Ann Fish, widow of former New York Congressman Hamilton Fish, donated an Eisenhower presidential campaign sign and letterhead. Mrs. Fish worked on Eisenhower’s 1952 campaign.

Eisenhower Society Grant Program and Investments

Since the Eisenhower Society began giving grants in 1999, a total of $763,000 has supported a variety of educational programs from the film, Eisenhower’s Secret War, to the 100th anniversary conference commemorating Khrushchev’s visit at President Eisenhower’s farm, to support for visits to the farm by crew members of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69).

Over $333,000 of those funds supported projects at the Eisenhower National Historic Site, including Parks as Classrooms funding for student education programs, the site’s cell phone tour of the grounds, the purchase of reproduction World War II infantryman’s equipment for the program, “Eisenhower and the Men of D-Day,” reproduction of the bed and dressing table for Mrs. Doud’s bedroom and conservation of the Eisenhowers’ silver tea service.

An Eisenhower Society goal is to double its endowment to support educating others about Eisenhower. Recently the Society changed its financial advisor to Brown Advisory because of their excellent track record with investments and working with other local foundations.
The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Financial Reports

Income: November 1, 2015-October 31, 2016
$91,490

Endowment Transfer
Lessey Challenge
Hoffman Trust Program
Membership
Book Sales

These numbers do not reflect a quarterly payment from the Hoffman Trust received later and checks for October memberships not deposited until November 1, 2016.

Expenses: November 1, 2015-October 31, 2016
$106,283

Administration Grants Scholarship Development Programs

These numbers reflect some administrative work done in the previous fiscal year, but not paid until November 2015.

Eisenhower Society Endowment as of October 31
Eisenhower Society Board Members Meet Lessey Challenge

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Board of Trustees met the Brigadier General Samuel K. Lessey Challenge with 100% participation resulting in a donation of $15,055. The Society is pleased to recognize our dedicated board who give generously of their time through leadership, committee work and volunteering, as well as their financial support to further the Eisenhower Society mission.

Trustees

Brig. General Samuel K. Lessey, Jr., Chairman
Dr. Walton C. Jones, Vice-Chairman
Jacqueline D. White, President
Tony Ten-Barge, Vice-President
Kenneth C. Weiler, Secretary
Dr. Michael Birkner
Rev. John Boyles
Col. John Butterfield
Bruce Morgan Casner
John B. Donovan
Stephen R. Gibble
Carol A. Hegeman
Barry C. Howard
Kristin Kayer
Col. John J. McCambridge
Ruthmary McIlhenny
Craig Metz
James C. Roach
Priscilla Roberts
C. Kilburn Roulette
Gen. John A. Shaud
Lt. Gen. Harry E. Soyster
Col. Duane E. Williams

Our newest members of the Eisenhower Society Board of Trustees joined after the Lessey Challenge.

Col. John M. Burt
Dr. Benjamin Garrett
Lt. Col. David W. Jones
Paul M. Shevchuk
A Message from our Director of Development

Dear Friends:

In an effort to build upon its work honoring the former President, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Board voted to launch a new development initiative. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join the Society as Director of Development and support its work in commemorating the legacy of one of our Nation’s greatest leaders. In addition to being excited about building support for the Society’s educational initiatives, my personal and life-long connection to Gettysburg makes it particularly special. I grew up in Gettysburg and continue to have family and many close friends in the area. I am honored to join the Eisenhower Society and work alongside the Board of Trustees to further the worthy goals of the organization.

There are many ways for individuals, corporations and foundations to join the Society to help perpetuate General Eisenhower’s memory. Gifts to the Annual Fund and program sponsorships all serve to honor and commemorate this national hero. For more information on corporate sponsorships, planned giving or how to become involved, please contact me at 703-216-8622 or at robertsmkr@aol.com.

Mary Kate Roberts

Yes, I support the Eisenhower Society’s mission. Enclosed is my contribution:

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Name: ___________________________ Telephone: ______________________
Address: __________________________ Email: __________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________

Mail checks payable to The Eisenhower Society to Box 4772, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

By credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Name on card: _______________________ Card #: _______________________
Signature: _________________________ Exp. Date: _______________________

Mail to the address above or contribute online at www.dwightdeisenhowersociety.org.