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 which 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.

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.

A Message from Chairman Brigadier General Samuel K. Lessey, Jr.

I’ve had the pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society since 2004. For the last nine years I have been Chairman of the Board, focusing the Eisenhower Society’s efforts to educate people about the leadership and character of Dwight Eisenhower. As a 1945 West Point graduate, just a year behind Ike’s son John who taught me how to roll a full field pack, I have a keen appreciation of the leadership qualities taught to West Point cadets. General Eisenhower exemplified those qualities, exhibiting strong character, excellent judgment, hard work and perseverance both as a five-star General and as the 34th President of the United States.

Today I enjoy working with the Eisenhower Society to guide it in commemorating Eisenhower’s contributions as General and President, educating others through member activities, granting funds to groups who educate students and adults about Eisenhower’s legacy, and presenting scholarships and internship opportunities to students who will be our leaders of the future. I have found it to be a rewarding experience. In 2019, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society will celebrate its 50th year. Perhaps I will meet you at one of our upcoming anniversary events. Won’t you join me in supporting the Eisenhower Society?
Eisenhower Society Gives Grants in 2017

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

These grant funds 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 awards breakfast. The awards are presented to 30 students who have improved themselves.

“I am inclined by nature to be optimistic about the capacity of a person to rise higher than he or she has thought possible once interest and ambition are aroused.” Dwight D. Eisenhower, At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends, concerning the men in the Development Battalion, Camp Colt, Gettysburg, 1918.

Eisenhower Materials and World War II Posters at Adams County Historical Society – 3,069

The staff of the Gettysburg College Special Collections (CGSC) and the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) worked together to catalog and re-house the Eisenhower collection at the ACHS. Many photographs and archive materials were digitized and made available on the internet. Of special interest were 151 large World War II posters which were digitized and encapsulated in Mylar for preservation and storage. Students, researchers and others now can access this collection on the ACHS or GCSC websites.

Eisenhower’s Gettysburg Farm Book Project - $800.00

Grant funds were used by authors Michael Birkner and Carol Hegeman to purchase copies of the finished book for distribution to those who contributed to the success of the book project by donating photographs or permission to use them or providing funds to purchase photo licenses. The book is now available for sale.

Eisenhower Institute Campus Forum on Refugee Policy - $7,500

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Eisenhower Institute hosted panel discussions on the successes and challenges of refugee policy, an issue President Eisenhower faced. Topics included “We Want You...Or Do We? Refugees & Asylees Coming to the United States;” “Make America Safe Again? The National Security Risk of Refugees;” and “Lady Liberty’s Poor and Huddled Masses: Rethinking Refugees in America.” 400 people attended.
More Grants

Internships at Eisenhower National Historic Site - $6,300

Grant funds provided living stipends to five interns for 12-week internships. Four interns presented in-depth talks and tours to 20,000 visitors. Their impact on visitors often included multiple contacts during the course of each visit. Interns developed and presented in-depth programs on the Eisenhower and the CIA; Ike the Historian; the Secret Service; Eisenhower and the Men of D-Day; From West Point to Camp Colt; Ike, Khrushchev and the Great American Road Trip; Ike and the Monuments Men; and Ike and Mamie’s Relationship. The curatorial intern catalogued archival photos and performed exhibit updates and design.

Dear Dwight D. Eisenhower Society,

Thank you for funding grants for the 2017 interns at Eisenhower National Historic Site. For all 5 of us, this summer has been a valuable step for preparing for careers as historians. As a graduate student studying Applied History at Shippensburg U., I determined that I wanted to specialize in archives & museum collections. During my summer as a curatorial intern, I have learned a lot assisting curator Michael Florer with cataloging, organization of the collection, object care & exhibit updates and design. I have completed a project cataloging photos & designed an exhibit exploring “Ike the Author.” I have appreciated growing my understanding of Eisenhower & his family thru personal contact with their possessions & home. This has been an outstanding internship experience. Thank you again! Sincerely, Jessica Rudy

The Eisenhower Era 1941-1961 for Contemporary Learning Systems, Inc. - $4,000

Funds were used to produce two learning modules from the extensive library of footage of producer and director George Colburn on the military and political career of Dwight D. Eisenhower. These mini-documentaries are designed for classroom use, were tested by teachers in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Abilene, Kansas and Michigan and are now available free on YouTube.

Eisenhower National Historic Site Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program - $3,000

Funds provided stipends to an elementary and a middle school teacher to review existing curriculum for the Molding of a Leader character education program and develop curriculum for the Eisenhower and the Men of D-Day program at Eisenhower National Historic Site. Teachers developed and revised curriculum to meet the needs of today’s students and state teaching standards.
Support Agricultural Science and Character Education for City of York Students —$8,920

The grant provided transportation and environmental education for 200 8th grade students doing hands-on field study in the areas of soil, water, wildlife and forestry, allowing students to visit the farm and learn about Eisenhower’s ethic to “leave the land better than he found it.” 250 5th grade students visited the site to participate in the Molding of a Leader character education program. 95% of students from York, PA, school district are economically disadvantaged; 5% are homeless. This grant provides a rare opportunity for these inner-city students to experience learning outside the classroom. As one student said,” I’ve never been in place that is so green.”

Eisenhower Oral History Project Completion and Digitization—$5,616

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 taped interviews and formatting the transcripts of previously unidentified interviews. A Table of Contents is developed for each interview and all legal release forms are being acquired if needed. Once completed, PDF files of interviews will be available on the internet for research and public use.

Scholarships and Awards

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.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you for my selection of the Major General James Milnor Roberts Distinguished ROTC Award. It was truly an honor to be recognized both on the birthday of President Eisenhower and at the Fall Honors Day Ceremony... Very respectfully,

Charles A. Clewis
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 Eisenhower’s 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.
Annual Honor Roll of Donors—November 2016 – October 2017

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals, corporations, foundations and in-kind supporters whose generosity over the last year helps perpetuate Eisenhower’s legacy of leadership through educational programs, grants, scholarships and special events.

**Four Star - $1,000 to $2,499**  
**One Star - $35 - $99**  

**Three Star - $500 to $999**

**Two Star - $100 to $499**

**Friend - $34 or less**

The Eisenhower Society Board of Trustees gives generously of their time through leadership, committee work and volunteering as well as financial support for the Society mission.

- B. Gen. Samuel K. Lessey, Chairman
- Dr. Walton C. Jones, Vice Chairman
- Jacqueline D. White, President
- Tony Ten Barge, Vice President
- Kenneth C. Weiler, Secretary
- Col. John M. Burt, Treasurer
- Dr. Michael Birkner
- Rev. John Boyles
- Col. John Butterfield
- Bruce Morgan Casner
- John B. Donovan
- Dr. Benjamin Garrett
- Stephen R. Gibble, Esq.
- Carol A. Hegeman
- Barry C. Howard
- Lt. Col. David W. Jones
- Kristin Kayer, Esq.
- Ruthmary McIlhenny
- Craig H. Metz, Esq.
- James C. Roach
- Priscilla Roberts
- C. Kilburn Roulette
- Paul M. Shevchuk
- Lt. Gen. Harry E. Soyster
- Col. Duane E. Williams

Our Donors List has been redacted for their privacy.

Our newest members of the Board of Trustees are:

- Dr. Anne Douds
- Robin Fitzpatrick
- Col. Mary Lowe Mayhugh
- Dr. Michael McGough
- Dr. Larry Redding
The 2016-2017 fiscal year began with a first ever “Christmas at the Farm” event. The Board of Trustees hosted prospective members for light refreshments and a tour of the Eisenhower Home decorated for Christmas. Our thanks to Brown Advisory for sponsorship.

The 2017 Eisenhower Society Summer Picnic featured good food, a flag lowering ceremony, tours of the Eisenhower Home, a putting contest, a talk by an intern and an after-dinner program presented by a park ranger. Good camaraderie was had by all.

In October, our Eisenhower Society program commemorating Eisenhower’s birth, was held inside the Eisenhower House at Gettysburg College. This building was the General’s office in retirement. He wrote his books at the office, greeted dignitaries and continued to advise those in government who called on him. After the morning program, scholarship presentations and lunch at the Historic Dobbin House restaurant, historian Dr. Mark Snell presented Gettysburg and Eisenhower in 1918.