



# The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society

## 2020-2021 Annual Report



## *Our History*

Since its founding in 1969, the Society has worked to fulfill Mamie Eisenhower's request that it be "a perpetual living memorial to Ike." For over 50 years, the Society has conducted annual observances each October to remember Eisenhower's life and work. Guest speakers have included 38<sup>th</sup> 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 Henry Scharf and Charles Wolf, and 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 Eisenhower National Historic Site, sponsoring events that received national media attention. In 2019, the Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Today we continue our goal of perpetuating Eisenhower's legacy through educational programs, partnering with Eisenhower legacy organizations and by granting funds to support Eisenhower-related projects.

## *A Message from President John Burt*

I am pleased to provide you with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Annual Report for 2020 - 2021. In every sense of the word, 2021 was an extraordinary and challenging year. In many ways the past year was unprecedented, disruptive, and challenging, but the past year was also inspiring, insightful, and productive as we looked for normalcy in our daily lives and within the Society following the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Here at the Society, there is much to be thankful for.

First, I'd like to offer my personal gratitude to our Board of Trustees who have consistently provided support for our programs and who worked tirelessly in developing the framework for our strategic plan, setting the course and direction for our successes in the future. Congratulations to all for making generous personal contributions and for making improvements in the way we operate as a governing body.



Over the past year, the Society has continued to operate while looking ahead to better serve our members. Our Executive Director, Communications Director, and Committee Chairmen have made marked improvements in all areas to include finance and administration, membership, grants, programs, special events, and communications and marketing. Most importantly, we have continued awarding meaningful grants and scholarships to deserving organizations and individuals, which are the bedrock of our professional organization. I could not be prouder of their accomplishments and their professionalism.

In closing, I also want to thank you, the members, for your continued support of the Society. With your generous contributions we can effectively continue supporting the programs, special events, grants, and scholarships that serve as constant daily reminders of the life and legacy of leadership of General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Colonel John M. Burt, USMC (Ret), President & Treasurer

## *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.

## *The Eisenhower Society Cancels One Board Meeting and Socially Distances at Another*

The Eisenhower Society operations were impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic in 2021. For the safety of our board members, the Executive Committee decided to cancel our March 2021 board meeting. Instead, all committee chairpersons and the executive committee submitted reports on the work that they were doing. This kept everyone informed of the Society's work and progress. The executive committee and other committees continued to meet either socially distanced in person at our office or via telephone or Zoom.



The Eisenhower Society July board meeting was held in person at the Gettysburg Firehall. The large space in the hall allowed everyone to be seated socially distanced from each other. Everyone was encouraged to wear a mask since we have many older board members and others with health problems. We also had members that attended the meeting by conference call.



## *Time for a New Strategic Plan*

The Eisenhower Society Strategic Plan was last completed in 2017. The Society successfully completed almost all items identified in the plan. Since the plan was for five years, the planning process got underway at our July 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.



## *S.W.O.T.*

Our first step was to conduct a SWOT analysis. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Our board members listed issues the Eisenhower Society faces under each of these topics that will affect the Society in the future. Items such as an aging Board of Trustees and engaging younger people to learn about Eisenhower were identified. After collating the trustees' ideas, we discussed the results of the SWOT analysis at our October board meeting. This identified items for the new strategic plan.

## *Society Participates in Transportation Workshop*

Executive Director Carol Hegeman represented the Society at a virtual workshop to evaluate issues and opportunities related to improving transportation access to and between Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. Participants included local transportation agencies and other park partners.

## *Vice Chairman Dr. Walton Jones Speaks about Eisenhower for the Daughters of the American Revolution*

In September, the local DAR chapter hosted a wreath-laying event at the Eisenhower statue at Gettysburg College for Constitution Day. Walt Jones was asked to speak about Eisenhower and Constitution Day. On August 2, 1956, President Eisenhower signed a proclamation of Congressional Public Law #915 designating Constitution Week from September 17-21 annually. This week is intended to remind citizens of their rights and responsibilities guaranteed and enjoyed through the United States Constitution. It encourages citizens to become students of the Constitution to better understand the foundation of the "law of the land."

Prior to his talk at the statue, Walt participated in a podcast about the history of the Eisenhower Society for the DAR website. The podcast is available at <https://open.spotify.com/>

## *Adams County Bar Foundation Generously Supports Education*

On May 3, Executive Director Carol Hegeman accepted a \$3,000 grant for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society from Harry Eastman, Esq. of the Adams County Bar Foundation. The presentation took place at the annual Law Day program in the historic Adams County, Pennsylvania courthouse.

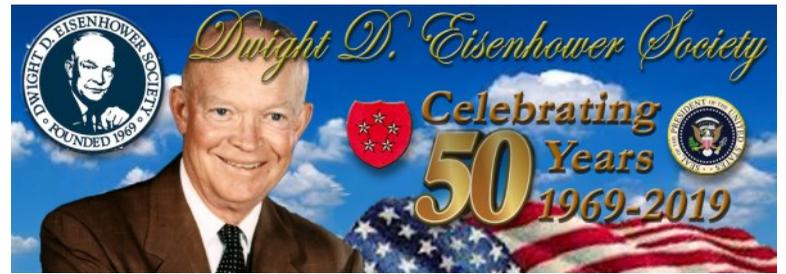


This \$3,000 supported the Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Awards for at-risk students who demonstrate the most improvement in the areas of academics, attendance, attitude, behavior, and school/community activities in each of the six Adams County school districts. Each district nominates up to five students to receive the award. We are very grateful to the Adams County Bar Foundation for their support of this worthwhile program.

It was appropriate that this grant was received at the annual Law Day commemoration, as President Eisenhower first proclaimed Law Day as May 1, 1958 to honor and celebrate the rule of law in the creation of America.

## Quarterly E-Newsletters and Facebook Posts Continue during Pandemic

The Eisenhower Society Quarterly E-Newsletter, initiated in June 2018, has continued to provide a means of sharing Eisenhower Society news and Eisenhower history with members and others interested in Eisenhower. We have Trustees that write history articles or about upcoming events to keep our members informed. If you are not receiving our newsletter, please let us know.



Thanks to our Communications Coordinator John Joyce, we have a steady stream of interesting history posts on our Facebook page. Executive Director Carol Hegeman keeps John supplied with posts about Society events and operations. Follow us on Facebook at Dwight D. Eisenhower Society for the latest information.

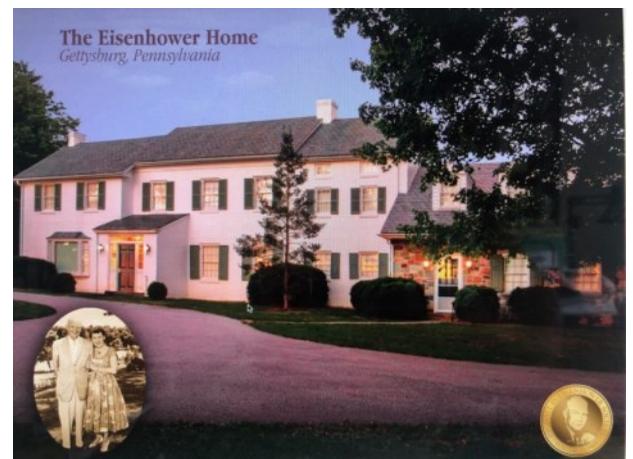
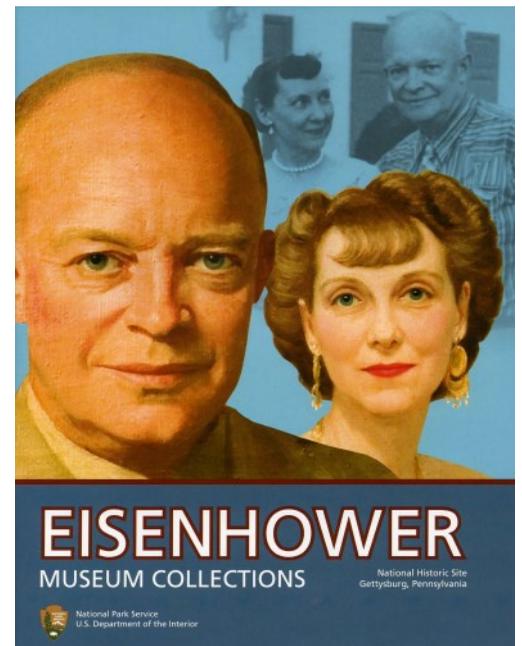
## Gifts for Membership Levels Prove Popular

The Eisenhower Society membership gifts are popular. Several members have upgraded their membership as a result. All members will now receive a membership card that provides a 10% discount at the Gettysburg National Military Park/Eisenhower National Historic Site Museum Store located in the National Park Service Visitor Center. We appreciate Event Network's support of this benefit.

Those joining or renewing at the two-star \$100 level have a choice of a copy of the *Eisenhower National Historic Site Museum Collection* book or *Korea: The Forgotten War* seminar proceedings. Both books were printed by the Eisenhower Society for the benefit of the Eisenhower National Historic Site and are wholesaled to bookstores that sell Eisenhower-related materials.

Additional membership levels include options for a large, mounted full color Eisenhower Home photograph ready for display, private tours of the Eisenhower Home and an 11-inch miniature of the Eisenhower at Gettysburg statue, located on the Gettysburg College campus. Look for some new membership options in the future. For a full list of the member premiums visit our website:

<https://www.dwightdeishowersociety.org/ddes/> Under the "Become a Supporter" tab, look for "Membership Sign-Up".



# Eisenhower Society Grants Make a Difference in 2020

## Historic Rug Reproduction - \$10,500



Eisenhower National Historic Site received these funds to help fund the reproduction of four Iranian rugs for the Eisenhowers' master bedroom. This grant funds the reproduction of the largest rug for \$10,500 with the remaining funds of \$21,000 for the other three rugs coming from the National Park Service. The original rugs remain with the Eisenhower family. The rugs were gifts to Mamie Eisenhower from H. Medill Sarkisian, of Denver, Colorado, for Christmas 1953. When completed this project will enhance the experience for 45,000 visitors touring the Eisenhower home annually.



## Upholster Reproduction Turkish Chairs - \$5,000

Two Turkish style chairs had been missing from the Eisenhowers' Master Bedroom for over 35 years. Mamie gave the chairs to the daughter of her niece, Ellen. The chair owner was located living in Manhattan, New York City, and she allowed the NPS to measure and photograph the chairs along with eleven pieces of furniture that were in Mrs. Doud's Bedroom as well as two additional Bergere armchairs. The wood furniture was reproduced by a skilled cabinetmaker, but the upholstery remained to be completed. These grant funds were used to fund the completion of the upholstery. Now approximately 45,000 visitors a year see the reproduction chairs on display in the Master Bedroom offering a more accurate depiction of the Eisenhowers' lifestyle.



## Ike: 1941–1945 The Making of An American Hero - \$5,000

This grant allowed Contemporary Learning Systems to film General Wesley Clark as the host and presenter of the TV documentary *Ike: The Making of an American Hero*. Contemporary Learning Systems filmed General Clark in the fall of 2021 at the Eisenhower Memorial in Washington D.C. First filming was postponed because of the pandemic and then cancelled. While the filming of General Clark was a success, the original narrator for the film passed away. Now the entire audio soundtrack must be re-recorded with a new narrator. As Covid restrictions allow, the recording and editing will take place soon.

We're celebrating the anniversary of Supreme Commander Eisenhower's birthday with a 24-hour viewing of this new documentary!

October 14th  
Beginning @ 12:01am EST

HOSTED BY  
Gen. Wesley Clark  
(USA, Ret.)  
former Supreme Commander  
of NATO

IKE: 1941-1945  
The Making of an American Hero

A 75-minute Documentary  
by George A. Colburn

## Internships at Eisenhower National Historic Site - \$4,000

Because of Covid-19 and the continued closure of the Eisenhower Home, the Eisenhower Site only hosted two interns in 2021. Library intern Lauren Tillman's goal was to re-catalog all 1522 of the books in the Eisenhower NHS library into the new NPS LIBRIS program to make the contents of the library more accessible to the staff. She then cataloged 202 books in the museum collection into NPS LIBRIS as well. Museum intern Emily Fisher scanned records as emergency back-ups, cleaned museum objects removed from a barn, cleaned and helped reinstall the furnishings of the guest house, and transcribed one of the Eisenhowers' guest books. She worked with the curator to refurbish rooms in the Eisenhower Home when the HVAC project was completed. The work of these interns will benefit the site for years to come.



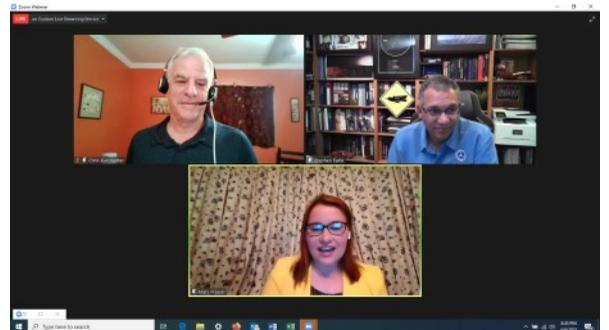
*To the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society,*

*Thank you for the generous living stipend you provided for my internship at Eisenhower National Historic Site. Without your support, I would not have been able to take on this amazing opportunity. I have been able to learn a lot about the care and exhibition of historical artifacts, and about how to tell a story through exhibits and objects. The Eisenhower NHS collection has been a dream to work with since it contains most of the contents of their home and provides a great insight into day-to-day life in the 1950s and 60s. I enjoyed getting to work directly with objects such as household wares and furnishings, and the amazing collection of Mamie Eisenhower's dresses. In addition, I very much enjoyed getting to work in the Eisenhower home. Overall, this experience has only further solidified my career goals of working in the museum aspect of the National Park Service. Thank you all again for making this experience possible.*

*Sincerely, Emily Fisher*

## Fielding Center for Presidential Leadership Study - Infiltration of Space by Satellites - \$4,000

Dr. Shirley Warshaw, Director of the Fielding Center for Presidential Leadership at Gettysburg College, oversaw programming about national and international satellite issues. The Center used the grant to invite experts to campus to provide two all-campus panel discussions; one on the burgeoning private satellite business and the other on how NASA is interacting with the private sector. Questions examined were the number of satellites launched by the United States and the international community, the years they remain active, their primary function (military/spy or communications), the number of launches and the payload, and the location of satellite launch providers. This information was held by different agencies and not managed by any one agency. Students catalogued information and identified trends, which will help policy makers. The programs featured three experts on each panel. Because of Covid-19, both programs were held virtually with about 100 participants at each program.



www.eisenhoweinstitute.org

# Discussions

Fielding Center for Presidential Leadership Study  
Panel Discussion  
**THE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS OF SPACE DEBRIS**

**Diane Howard, Ph.D., J.D.**  
Chief Counsel for Space Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Christopher T.W. Kunstadtner**  
Head of Space, AXA XI Insurance Company

**Stephen Earle**  
Office of Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 • 7:30-9:00 p.m.**  
Remote/Virtual viewing at [bit.ly/fe-satellites](https://bit.ly/fe-satellites)

With appreciation to the Eisenhower Society for their support. The event is free and open to the public.

## More Grants

### Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Award -- \$3,600

The Eisenhower Society presented a \$6,600 check to the Adams County Economic Education Foundation to support the Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Awards. That check included a \$3,000 grant received from the Adams County Bar Foundation. These funds were used to present cash awards to at-risk seniors from the six Adams County high schools who demonstrated growth and achievement in academics, attendance, attitude, behavior, and school/community activities. The students nominated themselves and kept a record of improvement and commitment in all six areas. Each school selected five students to be honored. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, students submitted their work virtually and received their awards via the mail. We were unable to get a group photo of the awardees, but we did receive personal photos of four of the six "most improved students." The awards were presented to 23 students who succeeded in improving themselves.



*...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: Stories I Tell to Friends*

## Development Activities

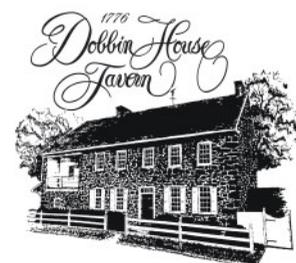
The Eisenhower Society participated in the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree on November 5, 2020. Because of Covid-19 the entire Giving Spree was re-imagined. Donors could donate during a 24-hour window on the Adams County Community Foundation website. Donors could also choose to mail donations to arrive at the ACCF by November 5. Lastly, donors could choose to give in person at a drive-through set up in the parking area at the Gettysburg Area High School. The Eisenhower Society received \$7,182.70 at the Spree which includes an additional percentage match of funds. Twenty-seven people donated to the Society at the Spree. These funds were turned over to the Society for operational needs. We also received a \$100 donation to begin an Eisenhower Society endowment at the Community Foundation. Eventually this will provide an income stream for the Society. Thank you to all who donated.



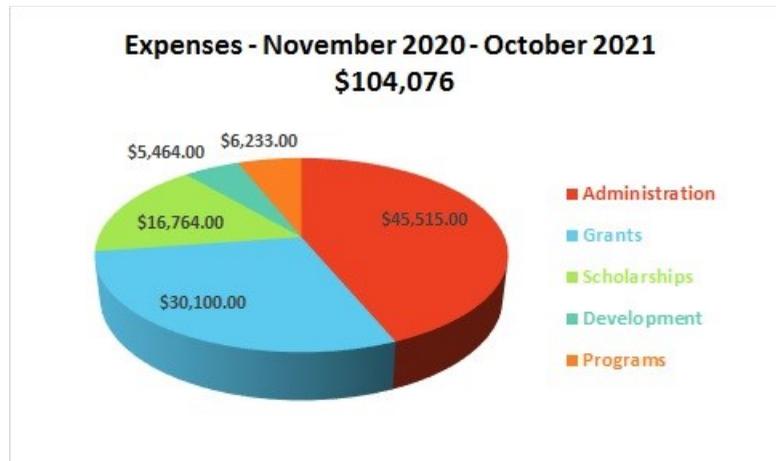
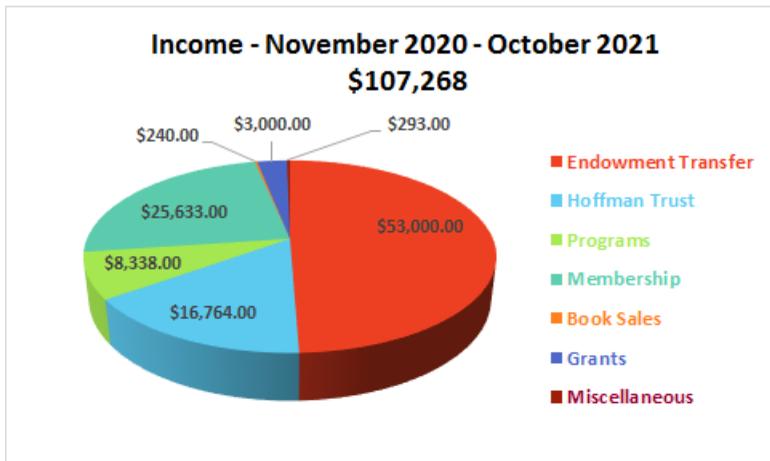
## Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

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# The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Financial Reports



Note: Membership income includes \$13,300 Board of Trustees annual giving. Miscellaneous income includes a workman's compensation insurance refund, the ROTC award funds and cash donations made at the Eisenhower Society office.



## Scholarships and Awards

The Eisenhower Society presented scholarships to four Gettysburg College students. Funds included \$10,000 from an endowed Eisenhower Memorial Scholarship and over \$16,700 from the Robert M. Hoffman Family Memorial Trust. To date the Hoffman Trust has provided \$375,000 to the Eisenhower Society for scholarships. The Society presented the Maj. Gen. James Milnor Roberts ROTC Award to student Steven Henry "Hank" Hahne '22. The award is sponsored by Mrs. Priscilla Roberts in memory of her husband. As a 25-year-old captain, Roberts landed on



Omaha Beach on D-Day. He also served as Society chairman from 1992-2008.

To read Roberts' D-Day story in his own words visit <https://www.dwighteisenhowersociety.org/ddes/wp-content/uploads/General-Milnor-Roberts-with-Photos.pdf>



# Annual Honor Roll of Donors--November 2020-October 2021

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

**Five Star – \$2,500 or more**

**Four Star - \$1,000 or more**

**Three Star- \$500 or more**

**Two Star - \$100 or more**

**One Star – 35.00 or more**

Donor names are redacted to preserve privacy.

**Friends – Under \$35**

\*Denotes Corporate Sponsor  
#Denotes Picnic Sponsor

## Society Welcomes New Trustee



Trustees support the Society financially and donate time for leadership, committee work and volunteering.

Brig. General Samuel K. Lessey, Jr.,  
*Chairman*  
Dr. Walton C. Jones, *Vice-Chairman*#  
Col. John Burt, *President*  
Tony Ten-Barge, *Vice-President*#  
Kenneth C. Weiler, *Secretary*#  
Col. John Burt, *Treasurer*  
Jacqueline White, *President Emerita*  
Col. David Belcher#  
Dr. Michael Birkner  
Rev. John Boyles  
Bruce Morgan Casner#  
Kenneth Farabaugh  
Robin Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Benjamin Garrett  
Barry C. Howard  
Lt. Col. David Jones  
Col. Mary Lowe Mayhugh  
Dr. Michael R. McGough  
Ruthmary McIlhenny#  
Craig Metz, Esq.  
Dr. Larry Redding  
James C. Roach  
Priscilla B. Roberts#  
Paul M. Shevchuk  
Lt. Gen. Harry E. Soyster  
Dr. William C. Spracher  
William Sterrett  
Dr. Daun van Ee  
Col. Duane E. Williams#

## Members Enjoy Themselves and Learn About Eisenhower

The Program Committee hoped to host both the Eisenhower Society Picnic and our October commemoration of Eisenhower's birthday in 2021. Covid-19 definitely made that more difficult. Our permit to host the membership picnic at the Eisenhower National Historic Site was approved for only 25% capacity with no restroom access or Eisenhower Home tours because of Covid restrictions. The picnic was not financially viable. We began planning an alternate event, a reception for members that would be hosted by President Emerita Jackie White under a tent at the Dobbin House. We were ready to announce this change of plans when the Park Superintendent stopped by the office. Executive Director Carol Hegeman explained that the picnic was not viable at 25% capacity and we would have to cancel it. Fortunately, on the spot, we were told that we could now have 100% capacity and access to restrooms. Even some limited tours of the Eisenhower Home might be possible.

The committee decided to continue with picnic plans just 6 weeks from the event. We delayed the June newsletter to include picnic information and set up website ticket sales.



The picnic theme was All Things Western as Ike liked Westerns. Some guests wore Western-style clothes. Because of Covid-19, Eisenhower home tours were limited to people who had never toured the house before. The putting contest on Ike's green resulted in a number of people sinking a 20 foot putt. Steve Wiseman, who isn't a golfer, sank two putts! He was the winner.

Everyone enjoyed dinner prepared by the Ragged Edge Coffee House staff. Guests teamed up with their tablemates to play trivia. The All Things Western trivia questions were challenging but one team got 7 out of 10 correct. Thanks to Gettysburg Dairy Queen each winner got a free mini-Blizzard. Door prizes were given out as well. Then the impending storm began with heavy rain and dangerous thunder and lightning.

At one point, for safety, picnic guests retreated to the nearby barn for protection. When the lightning storm passed, we resumed our activities with *Songs Ike Liked*, by Tom Fontana, the Singing Cowboy. Just minutes into his performance, a downpour began. It was difficult to hear above the rain and after a few more minutes, we ended the performance and sent everyone home for safety. We hope for better weather in 2022!



Special thanks to picnic sponsors David and Cynthia Salisbury, David Belcher, Ken and Sally Weiler, Duane and Linda Williams, Priscilla Roberts, Tony TenBarge and Ruthmary McIlhenny. Door prizes were donated by Dairy Queen, Gettysburg Eddie's, Gettysburg Heritage Center, Event Network and Carol Hegeman.



## More Activities

In October, the Eisenhower Society held its annual meeting at the Dobbin House. The Board of Trustees sat socially distanced and face masks were optional as there was lull in the pandemic. They reviewed and approved the results of the SWOT analysis from the July meeting. They also elected three new board members, society officers for the next fiscal year and said farewell to two board members.



With weather an issue, the Eisenhower statue wreath laying was cancelled. Instead we held our program at the Dobbin House. The Allied veterans presented the colors and Vice Chair Walt Jones spoke about Eisenhower establishing Constitution Day in 1956. Then Paul Shevchuk shared Ike's words from *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends* about the Spanish Flu epidemic that came to Camp Colt, Eisenhower's first independent command in 1918. The similarities to the Covid pandemic were uncanny. The J. Milnor Roberts ROTC Award and four Eisenhower Scholarships were presented to deserving Gettysburg College students. The program ended with the playing of Taps and the retiring of the colors.

The Dobbin House ballroom was full as members enjoyed a lavish buffet. Society chairman, Brigadier General Samuel K. Lessey, Jr., celebrated his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday along with our commemoration of Eisenhower's 131<sup>st</sup> birthday. Afterward the group enjoyed learning about *Elvis and the USS Arizona*, a Powerpoint program presented by Major General Andrew Davis, CEO of the



World War II Foundation. The foundation produces documentary films to educate the current generation about the World War II generation.

All attendees were pleasantly surprised to receive a gift bag with a CD of the movie *Elvis and the USS Arizona* as well. Thank you, General Davis!

