



# The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society

## 2023-2024 Annual Report



## *Our History*

Since its founding in 1969, the 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 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 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 the Society marked its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2024, it continued 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 Eisenhower-related projects.

## *Our Mission*

The Society will promote the knowledge and understanding of the accomplishments of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34<sup>th</sup> 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 Treasurer Ellis Grossnickle*

Having stepped into the role of Treasurer for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society I have developed a greater appreciation for the life and legacy of President Eisenhower. Having spent my youth on a dairy and grain farm in northern Frederick County, Maryland, I had access to the helicopter flight pattern that took Presidents and dignitaries to Camp David. The highlight of many summer days working in the fields was watching helicopters fly north along the Catoctin Mountains. More recently with a son and grandchildren in Colorado, I have made Abilene, KS and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum a frequent stop on the drive west.

I enjoy asking friends on their birthday what is your oldest memory? For me it was watching on TV the 1952 Republican National Convention that nominated Dwight Eisenhower for his first term as the 34<sup>th</sup> President. It was the first program I watched on our first TV. My working life as a Registered Principal and Investment Advisor in Harrisburg, PA has led me to many rewarding relationships with clients in Adams County.

Looking at the historic growth in the DDES assets and the efforts that those assets have facilitated to educate and promote the legacy of General and President Eisenhower, it is truly amazing. I hope I am able to add to the past accomplishments of the Officers and Trustees in the years to come.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Ellis Grossnickle, Treasurer

## Eisenhower Society Board of Trustees

Our members of the Board of Trustees support the Society financially and donate time for leadership, committee work and volunteering. All of our Trustees contribute to the Society each year.

Dr. Walton C. Jones, *Chairman*  
Col. Duane E. Williams, *Vice Chairman*  
Col. John Burt, *President*  
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Honorary Trustees  
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## The Society Welcomes New Trustees in November 2023

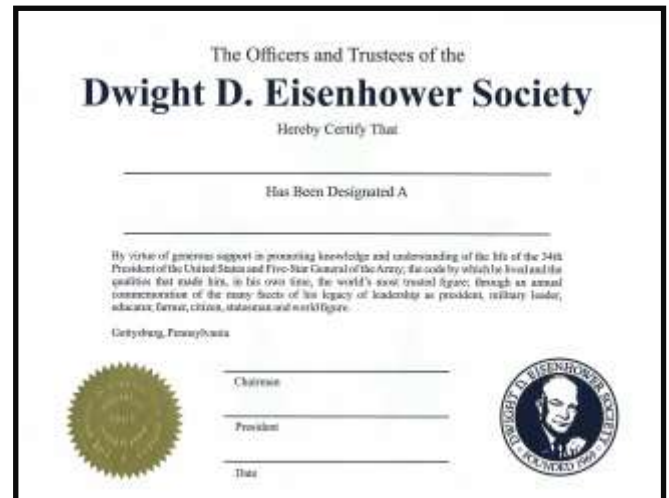
### Trustees

Col. David Belcher  
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Rev. John Boyles  
Bruce Morgan Casner  
Maj. Gen. Andrew B. Davis  
Kenneth Farabaugh  
Lt. Col. David W. Jones  
Kevin MacMillan



## Time for a New Membership Certificate Design

For the past two or three decades the Eisenhower Society has given the same membership certificate as that of the thousands printed years ago. Finally, as those certificates were almost gone, the process of designing a new certificate began. Thanks to the help of graphic designer Robert McIlhenny, a more contemporary design was developed. An advantage is that the new certificate is 8.5 by 11 inches instead of 8 by 10 inches, making the printing of the name and date of membership easier. The printer paper tray no longer needs to be adjusted for each certificate. Thank you, Bob, for your help.



## Society Participates in the Easter Egg Roll



On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Eisenhower National Historic Site hosted the first Easter Egg Roll at the Eisenhower Farm. Following in the long-standing tradition at the White House, the National Park Service brought that egg roll experience to Gettysburg. Several hundred children and their family members spent time at various stations to learn about the Eisenhowers. When the children completed at least four stations, they received their wooden egg to decorate and roll. Eisenhower Society Trustees Walt Jones and Ruthmary McIlhenny staffed the Putting Green Station where children and their parents learned about Ike's hobbies and shared their own hobbies. An enjoyable and educational time was had by all.

## Eisenhower Society and Institute Host D-Day + 80 Symposium



"D-Day + 80," a symposium revisiting the greatest amphibious military campaign of the twentieth century convened on April 20, 2024, at Gettysburg College.

On the eve of the Symposium an historian and sponsor thank you dinner was held at the World War II American Experience Museum, followed by a Meet the Historians Reception for our donors at the one-star or higher level. The following morning, we met for a full-day program which included lectures by noted military historians including Dr. John C. McManus who spoke on *The Americans at D-Day*, Dr. Craig Symonds whose talk was entitled "*The Navy Saved our Hides: U.S. Naval Gunfire Support on D-Day*," and David Eisenhower who presented *Triumph and Tragedy – D-Day and Beyond*. A panel featured presentations by Susan Eisenhower discussing *Early Planning for Operation Overlord – Important but Little Remembered Leadership Decisions*, Dr. Doug Douds who presented *Operational Dilemma: The German Defense of Normandy*, and Major General William Matz who discussed *Allied Airborne Operations in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944*.



After the formal presentations, participants were offered the options of viewing an hour-long educational film entitled *D-Day at Pointe du Hoc* narrated by David McCallum and introduced by Col. John Fenzel, CEO of the World War II Foundation or attending a walking tour entitled "*The Great Crusade, D-Day Casualties in the Gettysburg National Cemetery*" presented by Park Ranger Dan Vermilya. Guest speakers were also available to sign their books, many of which were for sale at the college bookstore.



The Symposium was co-sponsored by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society and the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College and funded in part by generous grants from the Robert M. Lauman Foundation and Destination Gettysburg. Other partners included the Eisenhower National Historic Site, the World War II Foundation, the World War II American Experience Museum and Federal Pointe Inn. Thank you sponsors!



## C-Span Films D-Day + 80 Symposium



C-Span filmed our April 20<sup>th</sup> Symposium. They aired the entire symposium on June 6 interspersed between live programming from Normandy and the United States. They again broadcast the entire Symposium on June 8. Today the Symposium is available to view at:

<https://www.c-span.org/program/american-history-tv/the-americans-at-d-day/642497>

## *Planning Begins to Commemorate V-E Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Shortly after our successful D-Day +80 Symposium, the Society began conversations about commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. Initial contacts were made with many organizations by Tom Vossler to see who might be interested in participating in such an event. Then we learned that the Gettysburg Film Festival was planning an event from May 8-11, 2025. With many events each day, some with major headliners, it seemed impossible to host an event at the same time. Our meeting with the film festival staff resulted in our sponsorship of the Sunday brunch and historians' panel discussion. Work began to line up speakers and plan the event for May 2025.



## *Adams County Bar Foundation Supports Improvement Awards*



On May 1, Executive Director Carol Hegeman accepted a \$3,000 grant for the Eisenhower Society from Kristin Rice, Esq. of the Adams County Bar Foundation. The presentation took place at the annual Law Day program in the historic Adams County, Pennsylvania courthouse. President Eisenhower first proclaimed Law Day as May 1, 1958 to honor and celebrate the rule of law in America.

This grant supports 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.

## *Eisenhower Society Educates Visitors at World War II Weekend*



Trustee Tom Vossler developed an educational display for our Society tent located in the encampment at the Eisenhower National Historic Site World War II Weekend. We displayed an exhibit with a map of North Africa and Europe, a list of the 16 campaigns Eisenhower led, and a chronology of Ike's life. Trustees Harry Winsheimer, Walt Jones, Ellis Grossnickle, Bill Sterrett, Ken Weiler and Steve Wiseman guided visitors through the display. A children's activity in which the child labeled a map with the names of the countries in which Eisenhower-led forces participated was extremely popular. In addition to the interactions with families, the society gave information to 65 additional WWII Weekend attendees.

## Eisenhower Society Grants Make a Difference in 2024

Organization	Project	Amount
Adams County Economic Education Foundation	Senior Self Improvement Award	\$6,600
Adams County Historical Society	New Eisenhower Exhibit	\$5,000
Eisenhower Institute	Inside Civil Rights	\$1,400
Eisenhower Institute	80 <sup>th</sup> D-Day Symposium	\$8,000
Eisenhower Institute	Eisenhower Leadership Conference	\$3,000
Eisenhower National Historic Site	Internships	\$6,000
Eisenhower National Historic Site	Reproduction Sundial	\$3,100
Eisenhower National Historic Site	Conserve Photo of Camp Colt	\$ 831
Eisenhower National Historic Site	York City Schools Field Trip	\$3,940
Eisenhower National Historic Site	Landscaping Project	\$ 500
Musselman Library at Gettysburg College	Eisenhower's Gettysburg Booklet	\$1,374
<b>Total Grants Supported in 2024</b>		<b>\$39,745</b>

### New Eisenhower Exhibit for Adams County Historical Society- \$5,000

Recently, the Adams County Historical Society received 26 boxes of artifacts from the Eisenhower family. The Historical Society planned a new exhibit located in the front hallway that would be accessible to all who entered the building. The historical society staff and their intern selected artifacts and wrote text and captions for the exhibit. Working with a professional exhibit designer, Healy Kohler Design, the new exhibit opened in the summer of 2024. To learn more about the Adams County Historical Society, the Beyond the Battle Museum and this project, visit <https://www.achs-pa.org/>.



### Transportation to Eisenhower National Historic Site Education Programs - \$3,940



This funding allowed 139 students from the York City schools to visit the Eisenhower Site and World War II American Experience Museum. Students learned about Eisenhower's leadership and character and reflected on how to incorporate these traits into their personal lives. As one teacher noted, "Recreating the historic and victorious storming of the beaches of Normandy, France was just one of the everlasting educational memories that our students still discuss in astonishment to this day. ... For one sunny spring morning, dozens of York City students, some of whom facing their own personal wars of poverty, hunger, grief, familial conflict, clung heartily to the opportunity to rise to the occasion of learning something new, experiencing something historical, and being part of something unlike any other."

### Upholster Reproduction Chairs at Eisenhower Historic Site— Previously Funded

After multiple attempts to secure a contractor to upholster two Bergere armchair frames, the Eisenhower Site staff was able to purchase upholstery for the chairs. The following year they paid a local upholsterer to do the upholstery work. These reproduction chairs are now on display at the Eisenhower Site, one chair in the Sitting Room of the Eisenhower home and the other chair in the guest house.



## Internships at Eisenhower National Historic Site - \$6,000

Grant funds were used to provide living stipends to three interpretive interns. All three, Alexandre Rosenthal, Brooklyn Mercurio, and Denver Waltman worked during the summer season. Interns presented interpretive programs, staffed the Eisenhower Home for tours, and did research that was shared via social media posts, videos, articles for the park website, pop-up programs for visitor engagement, special event support for D-Day 80 and WWII Weekend, and new education programs. All efforts helped educate the public about Eisenhower. Unfortunately, a fourth intern for the Fall season had to cancel their participation. These internships provide the students with an excellent opportunity to learn about interpretation and visitor services and test whether this is the right type of work for them. Visitors benefit as well from their interactions with the interns. Donor Mary Ann Pirrello was instrumental in supporting these internships.



*To the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society,*

*I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for providing me the opportunity to intern at Eisenhower Historic Site this Summer. ...I have learned a wealth of knowledge about the Eisenhowers, the National Park Service and myself. ...I was especially thankful to have a team of incredibly welcoming and intelligent staff, who bestowed upon me their passion and knowledge of the site. ... During the summer I was able to create my own pop-up [exhibit], write an article for the website and deliver house tours. Through these projects I have developed a deeper knowledge of public history. Additionally, I was granted the chance to research and interpret in an environment that allowed creative and original thinking. I was challenged by my supervisor and fellow interns in my abilities as a historian and an interpreter. Thank you again for providing this opportunity, it is an experience that I will never forget and has shaped my future career aspirations. Regards, Brooklyn Mercurio*

## Conserve Eisenhower Site Original Camp Colt Photograph - \$831

This project allowed a conservator to unroll a panoramic photograph of Troop 16, 351<sup>st</sup> Company, Tank Corps, United States Army at Camp Colt, Gettysburg in 1918. The 41-inch-long photograph was tightly rolled and had tears at both ends. As a result of the conservation, the photograph is now able to be studied and displayed.



## Eisenhower Site Landscape Project - \$500 and Sundial Conservation - \$3,100



These funds were used to replace the missing tulip and crocus bulbs insuring that visitors may enjoy a more realistic landscape.

The sundial located in the Eisenhower Home backyard and mounted on a brass artillery shell was a gift to the Eisenhowers by the Radio and Television Correspondents in February 1955. The sundial was so corroded that it had to be removed from exhibition. This project cleaned and repaired the face of the sundial which is again displayed.



## More Grants

### Eisenhower Institute: Inside Civil Rights - \$1,400

The Inside Civil Rights project sought to immerse students in the lasting memory of the civil rights movement through in-person engagement with the people, places, and moments at the heart of the movement. During the six-day trip from Jackson, Mississippi to Little Rock, Arkansas, students visited Memphis, Tennessee, where King was assassinated, the National Civil Rights Museum and Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas where Eisenhower sent troops to desegregate Central High School. Students participated in small-group discussions and site visits with historians, educators, local officials, subject-matter experts, and other local stakeholders. As one student noted, "I went in excited to see all of the historical sites that I had learned about for many years of my education.... I saw for the first time how personal civil rights history is to people in the South."



### Eisenhower Institute: Eisenhower Leadership Conference - \$3,000

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Eisenhower Leadership Conference welcomed Tawanda Underdue as keynote speaker. Underdue is an actress, a labor organizer, and member of SAG-AFTRA. She was a member of the negotiating team during the 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike. The conference theme was "Labor and Leadership: Preparing Gen Z for Transformational Change." The connection to President Eisenhower's work on labor came through during opening remarks. Fifty students as well as staff participated.



### Eisenhower Institute - D-Day+80 Symposium - \$8,000

The Eisenhower Institute partnered with the Eisenhower Society to offer a one-day Symposium marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Please see the Symposium entry for full details.

### Eisenhower's Gettysburg Booklet - \$1,374

The staff of Gettysburg College's Musselman Library requested additional funds for Dr. Michael Birkner to make a research trip to the Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas, for *Eisenhower's Gettysburg*. His essay will focus on Eisenhower's retirement years as a citizen of Gettysburg.

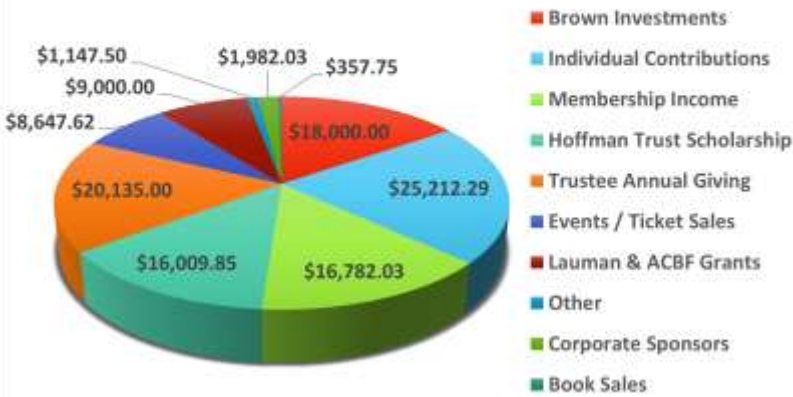
### Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Award -- \$6,600

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 district selected students to be honored. The awards committee selected the most improved students from each school district and the honorable mention awardees. The awards were presented to 27 students who succeeded in improving themselves. As one student said, "I never thought I would be given an award in my time at New Oxford [High School], but it really proves a positive mindset pays off in the long run."



# The Dwight D. Eisenhower Society Financial Reports

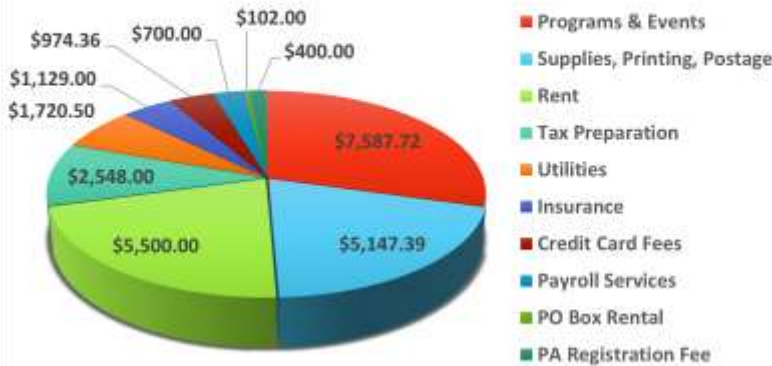
**Revenue - November 2023-October 2024**  
\$117,274



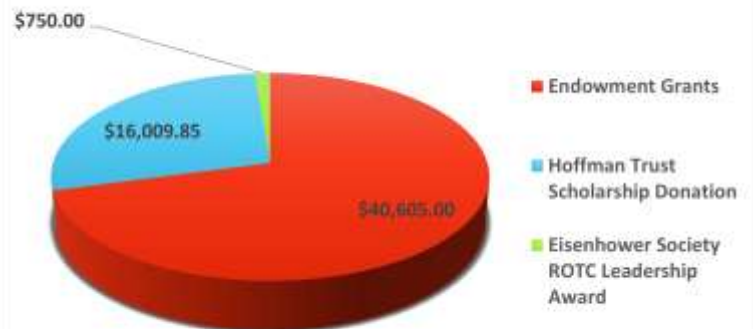
**Personnel Expenses - Nov. 2023-Oct. 2024**  
\$45,603



**Operations Expenses - Nov. 2023-Oct. 2024**  
\$25,809



**Charitable Payouts - Nov. 2023-Oct. 2024**  
\$57,365



## Scholarships and Awards

At the annual Dwight D. Eisenhower birthday commemoration on Saturday, October 12th, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society presented \$16,010 for scholarships from the Robert M. Hoffman Family Memorial Trust and \$11,437 from the Eisenhower Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Chairman Dr. Walton Jones presented the four Gettysburg College scholarships to Cittleli Martinez-Gonzalez '25, Violet Rana '26, Pranu Bhandari '27, and Hudson Podielsky '28.

Colonels Duane Williams, Vice-Chairman and Tom Vossler, Trustee, announced the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society ROTC Leadership Awardee, Cole Stauffer '27.



## *Annual Honor Roll of Donors--November 2023--October 2024*

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. We also thank our Trustees, not listed here, 100% of whom contributed to the Society in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

**Presidential—\$5,000 or more**

**Five Star – \$2,500 or more**

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

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

**Names redacted  
for privacy**

**Two Star - \$250 or more**

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

**Basic/Family – \$35 or more**

**Friends – Under \$35**

**\*Corporate Sponsor  
# Picnic Sponsor**



## *Members Enjoy Themselves and Learn About Eisenhower*

**The Eisenhower Society Member Appreciation Reception was held on March 24th** at the Battlefield Overlook Event Center in the new Adams County Historical Society building. This was the first time many members were able to see the Eisenhower display at the award-winning museum, "Beyond the Battle." The development and fabrication of this museum exhibit was supported by \$10,000 in grants from the Eisenhower Society.

Society members enjoyed connecting with other members and the Board of Trustees. There was an abundance of food, drink, and great conversation. The Society heard from Andrew Dalton, Executive Director of the Adams County Historical Society, who shared a short PowerPoint about the first time President Eisenhower voted in Cumberland Township. On April 24, 1956, at 7:04 am, Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first president to cast a ballot in Adams County. This took place at the Cumberland Township polling house which stood just south of the new historical society building.

Thank you, sponsors: Dobbin House Tavern, Daun van Ee, Stephen Gible, Ken and Sally Weiler, Duane and Linda Williams, Ruthmary and Bob McIlhenny, Michael and Robin Birkner, Jim and Susan Roach, Tom and Barbara Vossler, Walt Jones, Jacqueline White and the Adams County Historical Society.



**The Eisenhower Society Summer Picnic was held at the Eisenhower National Historic Site on July 20th.** With a nod to the Paris Olympics, our theme was Ike and Mamie in Paris. Guests were encouraged to wear Parisian attire if they desired. The Trivia Contest focused more broadly on Paris and the Olympics. Dinner music was provided by Vanessa Rice with after dinner entertainment by vocalist Ernie Kranias and Vanessa. Songs about Paris or from the Eisenhowers' time in Paris were enjoyed by all. Picnic attendees had the options of touring the Eisenhower Home, participating in a putting contest on the Eisenhower putting green and listening to Ranger John Tuskan's program, "Eisenhower Adventures in the City of Light."

Our caterer, the Ragged Edge Coffee House, prepared some of Ike and Mamie's favorite foods including Angus beef sliders and Ike's chocolate cake. He also made pulled chicken barbecue cooked in one of Eisenhower's barbecue sauce recipes. Guests could also enjoy a glass of wine if they wished.

We again had a "severe weather" date of Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. Fortunately, we were able to go forward with the picnic on Saturday. The weather cooperated, some passing clouds parted and we enjoyed a lovely sunset.

We thank our picnic sponsors: David and Cynithia Salisbury for the putting contest, Duane and Linda Williams for the wine, Daun van Ee, Michael Birkner, Dave Belcher, Steve Gible, Jim Roach, Bill Spracher, Ken Weiler, Ryan Woodward, Mary Lowe Mayhugh, Brian Rayment and Tom Vossler for Intern dinners and general support. Gettysburg Dairy Queen donated the Trivia prizes. Door prizes were provided by Priscilla Roberts, Carol Hegeman, Furs by Susan, the Dobbin House, Beyond the Battle Museum at the Adams County Historical Society, Ken Weiler, World War II American Experience Museum, Event Network, Ruthmary McIlhenny and the Eisenhower Institute.



## More Activities to Commemorate Eisenhower

**On October 12, the Eisenhower Society** Board of Trustees met for our annual meeting. In addition to the standard business of the Society, new trustees were elected and we said farewell to those stepping down from the board. Elections of officers also occurred.

After the meeting, Society members traveled to Gettysburg College to participate in a wreath laying ceremony. The Allied Veterans presented the colors, and after the flag salute, we had readings from Eisenhower's speeches and writings by Trustees Dr. Daun van Ee and Dr. Judy Morley. Colonels Duane Williams, Vice-Chairman and Tom Vossler, Trustee, announced the Dwight D. Eisenhower Society ROTC Leadership Awardee, Cole Stauffer '27. Society Chairman Dr. Walton Jones announced Cittlali Martinez-Gonzalez '25, Violet Rana '26, Pranu Bhandari '27, and Hudson Podielsky '28 as scholarship recipients. Finally, Chairman Walton Jones and President John Burt placed the wreath at the *Eisenhower at Gettysburg* statue. Then the Allied Veterans retired the colors and played *Taps*.

Afterward, trustees, members and guests enjoyed a delicious Dobbin House buffet. At the conclusion of the meal, Trustee and Program Chair Paul Shevchuk presented his talk, *The Courtship of Ike and Mamie*. Everyone learned little known facts about their meeting, Ike's attempts to woo Mamie, their engagement and wedding.



## Development Activities

On November 9, 2023, the Eisenhower Society participated in the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree. The Giving Spree provided multiple ways to make donations: in person, drive through or online. The Eisenhower Society received \$9,829 at the Spree which includes an additional percentage match of funds. These funds were turned over to the Society for operational needs. We also received \$1,225 in donations and match for our Eisenhower Society endowment at the Community Foundation. In years to come this will provide an income stream for the Society. Thank you to all who donated.

The Adams County Bar Foundation generously donated \$3,000 to the Eisenhower Society to support the Dwight D. Eisenhower Senior Self-Improvement Awards. These funds continue the Society's efforts to support at-risk students. The Robert M. Lauman Charitable Foundation also presented a \$6,000 grant to the Society to support the D-Day +80 Symposium.

*Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors* Graphcom, ACNB Bank, Dobbin House Tavern, Gettysburg Rental, U. S. Bank, TRUIST Foundation, Gates Foundation, Gettysburg Heritage Center, Destination Gettysburg, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, World War II American Experience Museum and Musselman and Creager, LLP.

