



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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NEWS RELEASE

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Dwight D. Eisenhower Birthday Events

The annual Dwight D. Eisenhower birthday celebration will begin Thursday, October 13 at 1:30 p.m. with Dwight D. Eisenhower Day. Area school children will gather on the grounds of the Eisenhower Center, Abilene, Kansas, to hear 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year, Keil Hileman from Monticello Trails Middle School, Shawnee, KS. His passion for teaching has led to a number of creative endeavors, in particular the creation of his students' Classroom Museum. After years of collecting historical artifacts, such as a 3000-year old Chinese coin, a 1790s slave collar and an early 1900s nickel and cast iron stove, Heilman opened the 2003-2004 school year with a new 6-8 grade classroom called Museum Connections, complete with an in-school museum twice the size of a typical classroom. Other special guests will be Archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, and Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, Sharon Fawcett, both from Washington, D.C. The program will include special music by St. John's Military School Band, a balloon release, and a student wreath laying at the Place of Meditation.

The Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars Vigil will begin at the grave of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower at 4:30 p.m., on Friday, October 14. The Kansas VFW began the vigil in 1990 during the Eisenhower Centennial and has continued the event as one of their state projects. VFW posts from throughout the state stand an all-night honor guard in the Place of Meditation. The annual Eisenhower Birthday dinner, sponsored by the Eisenhower Foundation, will be held Friday evening, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library courtyard. Featured guests are Kansas Lt. Governor John Moore, Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, and Lt. Col. David Batchelor, commanding officer of the 1-41 Infantry, which has just returned from combat duty in Iraq. They will make brief remarks. For dinner information call the Library at 785-263-6700.

The following morning on October 15, at 10:30 a.m., Gen. Hardy will return to the Eisenhower Center to lay a wreath on Eisenhower's grave, commemorating the former President's birthday. All events are free and open to the public.

The Eisenhower Center is one of eleven presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.