



Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum

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NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating 100 Years of the Carnegie Library

Famous Kansan and Former White House Press Secretary Featured Speaker

ABILENE—Marlin Fitzwater, will return to his hometown of Abilene on September 9 to help celebrate 100 years of the Abilene Public Library (Carnegie Library). The Abilene Public Library and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum are partnering to host several events featuring Mr. Fitzwater in celebration of Carnegie Library's long history. Carnegie Library first opened its doors in October 1908.

The first event will feature Fitzwater reading to preschoolers in the children's section of the Abilene Public Library. Later, Fitzwater will speak in the afternoon at an Abilene High School student assembly—where he first developed his passion for journalism.

The day will close with Fitzwater presenting at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. He will speak on "Growing Up in Abilene and White House Stories I Tell My Friends" in the Visitors Center at 7:30 p.m. To confirm your reservation for this event, call 785-263-6700 or 1-877-RING IKE as seating is limited to 300.

Karl Weissenbach, Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum states, "We are pleased to be part of the community effort to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Abilene public library, and honored to have Mr. Fitzwater speak at the Eisenhower Center."

Fitzwater was born and raised on a small farm near Abilene and received a journalism degree from Kansas State University. He worked for several local newspapers before moving to Washington, D.C. Fitzwater's career as a public employee in Federal government eventually led him to the White House. There he served as Press Secretary for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. In 2004, he received the William Allen White Citation for Journalism from Kansas State University and the New Hampshire Political Library Award for "a decade of service with integrity to the presidency." Most recently, he was a consultant and writer for the television show, "West Wing," for three seasons.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the young people of our community to hear Fitzwater speak," says Brenda Bowers, of the Abilene Public Library. "He is a perfect example of a small-town boy who has gone out into the world, accomplished so much, and done it so graciously. Along the way, he has not forgotten his hometown roots and mentions Abilene at every opportunity."

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The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Homecoming Speech, Abilene, Kansas, June 22, 1945

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