



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 7410-2900
<http://eisenhower.archives.gov>

NEWS RELEASE

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General Richard B. Myers Featured Speaker at Annual Eisenhower Foundation Dinner

Every American who watched coverage of the Iraq War on television, will recognize the name of the guest speaker for the Eisenhower Foundation's annual dinner on Friday, October 13 at 6:15 p.m. in the courtyard of the Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas. General Richard B. Myers was named the fifteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2001. He served in this capacity as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. Myers retired from active duty in the United States Air Force in September 2005, and is currently a Foundation Professor of Military History and Leadership at Kansas State University.

Persons wishing to attend the Eisenhower Foundation dinner may call the Eisenhower Library at 785-263-6700 or toll free 877 RING IKE for ticket information. All proceeds will go to benefit the Eisenhower Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The celebration of President Eisenhower's birthday will begin earlier in the day, when H. Roemer McPhee, former Eisenhower White House staff member will join three other speakers for a panel discussion. McPhee served on President Eisenhower's White House legal staff from 1954-61, including service as Deputy Counsel to the President. He founded the Eisenhower Institute, Washington, D.C., and continues to serve on the Institute's board of directors.

The program, which focuses on the 1956 Presidential election when Eisenhower was running for a second term, begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Library auditorium of the Eisenhower Center. Peace, progress, and prosperity were key issues in the campaign, and the Cold War was escalating. Then Eisenhower suffers a heart attack. Daun van Ee, historical specialist at the Library of Congress, will address the Cold War issues during that election. From 1974-2001, van Ee was assistant editor, then executive editor, and finally co-editor of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower*, at Johns Hopkins University.

They Liked Ike, Period: The Status Quo Election of 1956, is the title of Michael Birkner's presentation. Birkner is a Professor of History and Professor of Liberal Arts at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he has taught since 1989. He is currently completing his ninth book, this one entitled, *Electing Ike: Sherman Adams and the Making of a President, 1952*.

Eisenhower's Heart Attack: How It Was Handled by the White House and by the Campaign Team is the title of remarks to be presented by Robert Gilbert, Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University, Boston. A specialist on the American presidency, he has focused attention on issues of presidential disability and succession. In 1994, he was appointed to the Working Group on Presidential Disability, established by President Jimmy Carter and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

There is no charge to attend this program, which promises to be of special interest to both high school and college students and instructors, as well as the general public. To reserve a seat, please call the Eisenhower Center at 785-263-6700 or toll free 877 RING-IKE.

Following the panel discussion, the annual VFW will open their all-night vigil at Eisenhower's gravesite at 4:30 p.m. Members from around the state stand guard through the night out of respect for the former five-star general and former President of the United States. The vigil will close the following morning at 7:30 a.m.

The birthday celebration will conclude Saturday morning, October 14, at 10:30 a.m. with the annual Presidential Wreath Laying Ceremony. Representatives of the Eisenhower Library and the Eisenhower Foundation will join Major General Carter Ham, Command Sergeant Major John Fourham, and Chaplain Lt. Col. Brent Causey from Fort Riley in the processional from the Library building to the Place of Meditation where the General will place a wreath on the former President's grave.