

Approved: 3/22/99
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Susan Wagle at 1:45 P.M. on March 18, 1999 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Reps. Edmonds, Mason, Mayans, Mays, Rehorn, all excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Russell Mills, Legislative Research
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: State Representative Shari Weber
John Neal, Eisenhower Foundation
Lynda Scheele, Eisenhower Foundation
Chuck Yunker, American Legion
Raymon Powers, Historical Society
William Richards, Retired Officers Association

Others attending: See attached list

Rep. Ruff made a motion to report **HB 2489** favorable for passage. Rep. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, reviewed **SB 57**, Designating October 14, Dwight D. Eisenhower Day and **SCR 1607**, Encouraging the observance of Dwight D. Eisenhower Day. She said **SB 57** does not create a holiday, but only a commemorative holiday. Hearing was opened on both bills.

State Representative Shari Weber testified that every year on October 14 Kansans would have a renewed awareness of Dwight D. Eisenhower's contribution. (Attachment #1)

John Neal, Chair of Dwight David Eisenhower Commission, testified that the Eisenhower Commission was established by Governor Graves by Executive Order. He said there is much work to be done on promoting education concerning Eisenhower. (Attachment #2)

Lynda Scheele, Executive Director of the Eisenhower Foundation, said we must do all we can to preserve the legacy of Eisenhower. (Attachment #3)

Chuck Yunker, Kansas American Legion, testified in favor of **SB 57** and **SCR 1607**. He said it would be a significant step to educate all citizens, especially school children, of Eisenhower's contributions to this state and to the nation. (Attachment #4)

Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, testified he is concerned about the lack of knowledge by youth on the accomplishments of Eisenhower. (Attachment #5)

William Richards, Kansas Council of Chapters of Retired Officers Association, testified he served under General Eisenhower, and he feels Eisenhower deserves to be memorialized by his fellow Kansans. (Attachment #6)

Rep. Cox testified that under the leadership of President Eisenhower the United States had eight years of peace, and he supported both the bill and the resolution.

Hearing was closed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS

GUEST LIST

DATE: 03-18-99

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dale Brunton	Dept of Admin.
Shirley Moses	✓
Van Hatz	Eisenhower Center
Dinda Schaele	Eisenhower Foundation
Ramon Powers	Kansas State Historical Society
John Zetawer	Eisenhower Foundation
[Signature]	Eisenhower Foundation
Carol Winkler	Eisenhower Foundation
Steve Ellington	Eisenhower Foundation

STATE OF KANSAS

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68TH DISTRICT
Assistant Majority Leader

Testimony for House Federal & State Affairs Committee
March 18, 1999

Thank you, Chairman Wagle, and members of the committee for your time this afternoon to voice my support for Senate Bill No. 57 and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607.

Dwight David Eisenhower was a great statesman; a great political leader; a great military leader; and a great Kansan. He established his roots in Kansas. We should all be very proud that he chose Abilene as the site of his presidential library and museum.

The Eisenhower Center is a tremendous asset, not only to Abilene, but to the state of Kansas and the people of Kansas. Almost every school child in the state of Kansas has visited the Eisenhower Center at some point during their educational years. It is a great teaching tool and needs to be promoted as such. It is also a valuable resource for research, and for accurate historical information.

Dwight David Eisenhower made a great contribution to this country and it is important that we recognize and remember this fact. It is also important and essential that we promote our state and the Eisenhower Center for the greatness they both possess. The state of Kansas benefits in many ways from the people who stop in Abilene to visit the Eisenhower Center.

Proclaiming October 14th as Dwight David Eisenhower Day in the state of Kansas would bring renewed awareness to this magnificent facility. Every year when October 14th rolls around, Kansans would be reminded of Eisenhower's contribution. It would be very beneficial to the Eisenhower Center as well as recognizing Eisenhower's contribution to our state, our country and the world.

I encourage you to consider these bills favorably.

Respectfully submitted,


Shari Weber
Representative, 68th District

House Fed + State
03-18-99
Attachment #1

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS**

**BY JOHN NEAL, CHAIR
DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER COMMISSION**

MARCH 18, 1999

As Chair of the Dwight David Eisenhower Commission, I am here in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607 and Senate Bill 57.

The Dwight David Eisenhower Commission was established by Kansas Governor Bill Graves by Executive Order No. 98-10, signed on October 16, 1998. The charge given to the Commission was as follows:

“The Commission will review the life and career of Dwight D. Eisenhower and make recommendations to the Governor no later than March 1, 1999, on ways the State can honor and establish continuing tribute to Eisenhower. Annual recognition, public awareness campaigns, inclusion of recognition in education curricula, and enhancement of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene for education and tourism are among the topics to be considered by the Commission.”

The Commission submitted its report to the Governor on February 26, 1999. This report contains numerous recommendations for ways in which the state of Kansas and the Eisenhower Center in Abilene and the Eisenhower Foundation can work together to create a greater awareness of the life of Dwight D. Eisenhower and to attract more visitors to the Center.

*House Federal & State
03-18-99
Attachment #2-1*

Among our recommendations are the following:

- That October 14, Eisenhower's birthday, be designated each year as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas;
- That the state Department of Education work in concert with the Eisenhower Center and Foundation to develop programs and educational opportunities for the young people of Kansas concerning the life and times of Dwight D. Eisenhower; and
- That the Division of Travel and Tourism of the Department of Commerce and Housing, as well as other state agencies and entities assist the Eisenhower Center and Foundation in promoting the Eisenhower legacy and the Eisenhower Center as an international cultural and educational center.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607 and Senate Bill 57 address these objectives, and those of us here today urge their adoption.

As our most famous son, Dwight D. Eisenhower left a legacy of which all Kansans can be proud. His lifetime of service to this country and the world are recorded and remembered in the outstanding exhibits and facilities at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene. Each year approximately 100,000 people visit the museum. In addition, over 180 school groups, comprising a total of 18,000 to 19,000 students 16 years of age and under, also visit the museum.

Unfortunately, many of our youth and citizens today were not alive during the Eisenhower years, and they are not automatically familiar with his life and service to this country. Therefore, if we are to effectively perpetuate Eisenhower's memory and recognition of his outstanding service to his country and the world, we must constantly strive to find ways to bring his legacy to the attention of all citizens.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607 and Senate Bill 57 will greatly assist in these efforts, and that is why we urge their passage. Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Eisenhower Foundation. I bring greetings from the citizens of Abilene.

The State of Kansas has no greater hero, no more famous son than Dwight D. Eisenhower. His life's accomplishments and his worldwide influence stand as silent testament to his greatness. Yet, at the height of his success, the pinnacle of his career, he was quick to state "I come from the very heart of America." On the occasion of his homecoming, after receiving a hero's welcome, he made the profound statement "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene".

Dwight D. Eisenhower never forgot his roots – and yet, as great as he was, most Kansas children don't know who he was, or what he did. There are adults who can't spell his name, or tell you during what decade he was president. We must do all we can to preserve the legacy of our greatest hero and insure that Kansans are not ignorant of his accomplishments or deeds.

Dwight D. Eisenhower is truly worthy of the honor being proposed – during his lifetime he achieved international respect and recognition. Today, over fifty years later, his name is still revered in those countries that were liberated by the American and Allied armies. Some of the most important legislation written in our lifetimes was passed during the Eisenhower administration

There are many lessons to be learned from the strength of character and humility of such a man. Our young people need to know that a small boy from a large family of modest means can grow up to liberate the world from oppression and hold the nations highest office with honor and dignity.

President John F. Kennedy once said "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but by the men it honors". I believe that the same can be said for a state, and that by honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower, Kansas will reveal itself as a state that holds dear the memory of its greatest heroes and doesn't forget the legacy that has been left behind for the benefit of future generations.

Lynda Scheele
Executive Director
Eisenhower Foundation

*House Federal & State
03-18-99
Attachment #3*

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL 57 AND SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1607
PRESENTED TO
HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BY CHARLES M. YUNKER, DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 57 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 1607. My name is Charles Yunker and I serve The American Legion Department of Kansas as its Department Adjutant.

The American Legion Department of Kansas has, for the past 17 years, annually held a Pilgrimage at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene during which time we conduct wreath laying ceremonies inside the Place of Meditation followed by almost two hundred roses which are placed around the fountain just outside the Place of Meditation.

Our ceremony includes a band concert, a flyover-weather permitting, noted speakers and a 21 gun salute. We also attract not only members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion from all corners of Kansas, but also Legion family representatives from Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Iowa on an annual basis.

Therefore we applaud every effort by the Legislature to honor President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Both SB 57 and SCR 1607 will be significant steps to remind and educate all citizens, especially school children throughout our state, of the contributions

*House Federal & State
03-18-99
Attachment #4-1*

of Eisenhower to this state and our nation.

Your efforts in SB 57 and SCR 1607 should serve to increase awareness of the Eisenhower legacy and the Eisenhower Center in Abilene. ~~As a former educator myself~~ I feel both measures will help enforce positive education in our schools.

Again thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you today on behalf of The American Legion in support of SB 57 and SCR 1607.



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KANSAS HISTORY CENTER

Administration
Center for Historical Research
Cultural Resources
Education / Outreach
Historic Sites
Kansas Museum of History
Library & Archives

HISTORIC SITES

Adair Cabin
Constitution Hall
Cottonwood Ranch
First Territorial Capitol
Fort Hays
Goodnow House
Grinter Place
Hollenberg Station
Kaw Mission
Marais des Cygnes Massacre
Mine Creek Battlefield
Native American Heritage Museum
Pawnee Indian Village
Pawnee Rock
Shawnee Mission

Testimony before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, March 18, 1999, by Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, on S.B. 57 and SCR 1607.

Chair Wagle, I am Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. I come before you in support of Senate Bill 57 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 1607, which would designate October 14 of each year Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas and encourage Kansas to participate in the observance of that day.

Recently, the Kansas State Historical Society opened the exhibit *Leading the Way: Famous Kansans* in the special exhibit gallery at the Kansas Museum of History. We undertook this exhibit because it was the subject most identified by our visitors as the topic they wanted us to feature. To identify famous Kansans, we surveyed Kansans asking whom they thought to be the most famous individuals from our state.

In that survey Dwight David Eisenhower was identified by more respondents than any other Kansan. He is our state's "most famous" son, and I am certain that he will always be among our most famous.

We admire Dwight David Eisenhower because of his many accomplishments including Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and 34th President of the United States from 1953 to 1961.

We also admire him for his characteristics--his strength of character, his openness, and his decency. As Kansans, we like to think that many of his strengths of character came from his Kansas heritage--a heritage we share with him. Dwight David Eisenhower's life is a model for us. Designating October 14 as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas is a way of keeping that model alive for us.

House Fed + State
03-18-99
Attachment #5

KANSAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS THE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Topeka, Kansas
18 March 1999

Honourable Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee, Kansas State Legislature:

The Kansas Council of Chapters, The Retired Officers Association, consisting of approximately three thousand (3,000) members, supports the favorable passage of Senate Bill 57, Designating October 14, Dwight D. Eisenhower Day.

The achievement of Dwight D. Eisenhower transcend those of any Kansan in memory! This is a Kansan who served as General of the Armies that defeated the Nazis and Fascists of Europe in World War II, and, later was elected President of the United States of America.

He was raised in the Kansas traditions of Duty, Honor and Country, and we are the beneficiaries of his incomparable service and life!

Dwight D. Eisenhower was a distinguished patriot and servant to all of the peoples of this great Nation! He deserves to be memorialized by his fellow Kansas citizens, and October 14 should be designated Dwight D. Eisenhower Day!

For the President, James R. Henry, Capt USN-Ret:



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House Fed & State
03-18-99
Attachment #6