

Approved: February 2, 1999
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:10 a.m. on January 27, 1999 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Neal, Chair of the Dwight David Eisenhower Commission
Lynda Scheele, Executive Director of the Eisenhower Foundation
Gary Slimmer, Dept. Assistant Adjutant Kansas American Legion
Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairman Oleen announced would begin hearing on **SB 57 Designating October 14, Dwight D. Eisenhower Day** and **SCR 1607 Encouraging the observance of Dwight D. Eisenhower Day**

and would take up both bills at the same time because of the subject of the bills.

Senator Oleen introduced John Neal, Chairman of the Dwight David Eisenhower Commission, to speak as a proponent for these measures. (Attachment 1). Mr. Neal stated that the Eisenhower Commission was appointed on October 16, 1998 by Kansas Governor Bill Graves. The Commission was given the charge and will review the life and career of Dwight D. Eisenhower and make recommendations to the Governor no later than March 1, 1999 about how the state can honor and establish continuing tribute to Eisenhower. Among the Commissions recommendations will be the following: 1) The October 14, Eisenhower's birthday, be designated each year as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas; 2) That the state Dept. of Education work in concert with the Eisenhower Center and Foundation to develop programs and educational opportunities for young people of Kansas concerning the life and time of Dwight D. Eisenhower; and 3) the Division of Travel and Tourism of the Department of Commerce and Housing assist the Eisenhower Center and Foundation in promotion the Eisenhower legacy. The measures address these objectives and he urged their adoption.

Senator Oleen inquired if the commission had given consideration to the Kansas Historical Society, using their large collection of artifacts. The Kansas Historic Society has a traveling trunk series that can be checked out be school rooms. It is mailed to them for use in the classroom; it would be nice to have an Eisenhower traveling trunk in the series.

Chairman Oleen recognized Lynda Scheele, Executive Director of the Eisenhower Foundation who addressed the committee as a proponent for **SB 57** and **SCR 1607**. (Attachment 2) Dwight David Eisenhower is recognized the world over as a great general, a liberator, a champion of freedom. It is fitting and appropriate that the state of Kansas take the steps necessary to insure the Eisenhower legacy will be made available to all of the citizens of Kansas. The State of Kansas will be well served by honoring and remembering Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Senator Oleen introduced Gary Slimmer, Department Assistant Adjutant, Kansas American Legion, who gave testimony as a proponent. (Attachment 3) The American Legion applaud every effort by the Legislature to honor President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Both **SB 57** and **SCR 1607** will be steps to remind and educate all citizens, especially school children throughout the state, of the contributions of Eisenhower to Kansas and our nation. The American Legion Supports both of these measures.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 254-E, Statehouse, at 11:10 a.m. on January 27, 1999

Chairman Oleen read a note from Carol Wiebe, a member of the Eisenhower Commission, from Hillsboro, Kansas, expressing her endorsement for these measures. (Attachment 4).

A letter from Governor Bill Graves was entered into testimony supporting **SCR 1607** to establish the observance of October 14 as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day. (Attachment 5).

Chairman Oleen recognized Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, as a proponent of **SB 57**. The Kansas State Historical Society surveyed Kansans asking who they thought to be the most famous individuals from Kansas. Dwight David Eisenhower was identified by more respondents than any other Kansan. His like is a model for Kansans and designating October 14 as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas is a way of keeping that model alive. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Oleen closed the hearings.

Senator Vidricksen moved to favorably report **SB 57**. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Gooch will carry the bill.

A conceptual motion was made by Senator Vratil on **SCR 1607** and seconded by Senator Bleeker for a technical language change. Motion carried.

Senator Gooch moved to report **SCR 1607** favorably. Senator Biggs seconded. Motion carried. Senator Vidricksen will carry the resolution.

Senator Vidricksen moved to approve the minutes of January 21. Senator Becker Seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting of this committee will be January 28, 1999.

SENATE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: Jan 27, 1999

NAME	REPRESENTING
Gen Dick Sartz	Eisenhower Commission
William H Peterson	" " Foundation
John Zytarski	" Foundation
Van Delt	Eisenhower Library
Gary S. Simmons	American Legion
Lynda Scheele	Eisenhower Foundation
John Neal	Eisenhower Commission
Tom Anell	Eisenhower Commission

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

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

JANUARY 27, 1999

As Chair of the Dwight David Eisenhower Commission, I am here in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1607 and Senate Bill 57. With me are several members of our Commission as well as other citizens who are interested in these matters.

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 is 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 has held several meetings over the last three months and will be submitting its report to the Governor in the next two to three weeks. This report will contain 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.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm
Date: 1-27-99
Attachment: # 14 /

Among our recommendations will be 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 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 in support of Senate Bill 57 and Concurrent Resolution 1607.

Dwight David Eisenhower is recognized the world over as a great general, a liberator, a champion of freedom. It is sad that in his own beloved home state of Kansas his name is often not recognized at all by the younger generation, and is fading from the collective memory of older generations.

It is both fitting and appropriate that the State of Kansas take the steps necessary to insure the Eisenhower legacy will be made available to all of the citizens of Kansas -- today and in the future.

The Eisenhower Center is one of Kansas' premier cultural resources, bringing international attention to the state through its special programs and events highlighting different aspects of the Eisenhower legacy.

The Eisenhower Center is also one of the state's premier tourist attractions, generating visitation from every state in the union and many foreign countries, contributing significantly to the growing economic impact of the tourism industry.

But, although these things are important, to me the most important and compelling reason to support Senate Bill 57 and Concurrent Resolution 1607 was once eloquently stated by John F. Kennedy, who said "A nation [or state] reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

The State of Kansas will be well served by honoring and remembering Dwight D. Eisenhower.

LYNDA SCHEELE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EISENHOWER FOUNDATION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL 57
PRESENTED TO
SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BY GARY SLIMMER, DEPT. ASSISTANT 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 Gary Slimmer and I serve The American Legion Department of Kansas as its Assistant Department Adjutant.

Department Adjutant Chuck Yunker sends his best wishes to your Committee and apologizes for not being here today as he had to travel out of state.

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.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.
Date: 1-27-99
Attachment: # 3-1

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 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.

JAN 28 1999

Fed & State Affairs

Carol Wiebe

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm
Date: 1-27-99
Attachment: # 4-1

1-25-99

Dear Friend - so sorry I
can't join John Neal's group
from Eisenhower Commission
Wed. at the hearing. We
are making progress on
the commission's goals & hope
the resolution etc are
acceptable - hope to see you
Kansas Day! Carol ☺

Fed & State
1-27-99
4-1

STATE OF KANSAS

BILL GRAVES, Governor
State Capitol, 2nd Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1590



(785) 296-3232
1-800-748-4408
FAX: (785) 296-7973

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 27, 1999

The Honorable Lana Oleen
Statehouse, Room 136N
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Oleen:

Dwight D. Eisenhower was an outstanding leader who devoted his life to defending democracy. We are proud he was a Kansan and often referred to his Kansas values as guiding principles.

As you are aware, Executive Order 98-10 established the Dwight D. Eisenhower Commission in order to make recommendations on ways the State can honor and pay tribute to General Eisenhower. It is fitting that we would devote a day to recognize this Kansan who served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in World War II and then as President.

I appreciate and encourage your efforts with SCR 1607 to establish the observance of October 14 of each year as Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Graves".

BILL GRAVES
Governor

BG:dn

1. Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.
Date: 1-27-99
Attachment: # 5-1



KANSAS
STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

◆
6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
66615-1099

PHONE# (913) 272-8681

FAX# (913) 272-8682

TTY# (913) 272-8683
◆

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 Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee, January 27, 1999, by Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, on S.B. 57, designating October 14 each year as Dwight E. Eisenhower Day in Kansas.

Chair Oleen, I am Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. I come before you in support of S.B. 57, which would designate October 14 of each year Dwight D. Eisenhower Day in Kansas.

Last Friday 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.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.
Date: 1-27-99
Attachment: # 6-1