

**Testimony regarding SB 262
Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Good morning. My name is John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for the Department of Administration. I here to provide testimony in support of SB 262, which would provide for the construction of a permanent statue on the Statehouse grounds to honor Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Several years ago, the Capitol Preservation Committee endorsed a plan for developing the landscaping of the Kansas Statehouse grounds, including the installation of a future statue on the northwest quadrant of the grounds. The statue was envisioned as one of several enhancements and memorials to distinguished Kansans.

In recent years, Gov. Sam Brownback has given support to establishing a permanent memorial to honor President and General Eisenhower on the Statehouse grounds. A private fund-raising campaign was undertaken for the construction and installation of the statue on the northwest quadrant. It was determined that the statue would be a replica of the Jim Brothers statue of Eisenhower that resides in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. That statue depicts General Eisenhower in his famous posture speaking to paratroopers as they prepared for their daring night jump in to Normandy ahead of the main Allied invasion in June 1944.

As the project progressed, attorneys for the Department of Administration reviewed guidelines for improvements to the Statehouse grounds. State law requires that any statue or memorial that is to be placed on the grounds be authorized through additional legislation, thus necessitating the proposed bill. The language is like the enabling legislation for other memorials and would take effect upon publication in the Kansas Statute Book.

The monies raised for the project would be placed in a fund with the state and used to pay the expenses related to the statue's purchase and installation. The cost of the project is estimated at \$140,000.

As you know, this legislation recently passed 39-0 in the Kansas Senate. Construction of the statue would begin once the legislation is enacted, including installation of a base. An exact date for installation of the statue would be determined.

The Department of Administration stands ready to assist with completion of this project.

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Dwight D. Eisenhower

Given by Kansas to the National Statuary Hall Collection

DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER WAS BORN in Denison, Texas, on October 14, 1890. His family moved to Abilene, Kansas, when he was less than a year old. Throughout school he distinguished himself as an athlete, and he was a star halfback at the Military Academy at West Point until a knee injury ended his football career. He was graduated in 1915 and stationed in San Antonio, Texas, where he met his future wife, Mamie Doud.

During World War I Eisenhower wished to lead troops in France, but because of his skills as an instructor he was kept stateside. He next attended the army's Tank School; served in the Panama Canal Zone; and continued his education at the Command and General Staff School (graduating first in a class of 275) and the Army War College. Noted as an outstanding staff officer, he next served in the Philippines as assistant to General Douglas MacArthur.

A series of increasingly responsible assignments and promotions followed, and in June 1942 Eisenhower was given command of all U.S. forces in the European Theater of Operations. He directed the invasions of Africa, Sicily, and Italy and then was called to take command of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), in preparation for the invasion of France. After the success of the D-Day landing, he continued to direct the Allied forces through the end of the war. Eisenhower commanded the occupation forces for six months and then succeeded General George C. Marshall as Army chief of staff. He resisted appeals to run for political office, served for a year as president of Columbia University, and then was selected to command NATO military forces.



Bronze by Jim Brothers
Given in 2003; located in the Rotunda.

In 1952 he accepted the Republican presidential nomination and was elected the nation's thirty-fourth president; he was reelected in 1956. The campaign slogan "I Like Ike" reflected widespread appreciation of Eisenhower's sincerity, generosity, and kindness. His time in office saw the end of the Korean War, the continuation of the Cold War, and the beginning of school desegregation. After leaving office he was respected as an elder statesman and remained popular among Americans. He died on March 28, 1969, and is buried in Abilene, Kansas. His statue replaced that of G.W. Glick, the first time that a state has replaced one of its statues.

April 2011

Proposed location of Eisenhower statue

