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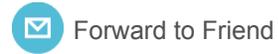
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GENERAL 'LY SPEAKING

Week of July 10, 2017

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Salute to Senator Dole!

The Commission sends its best wishes this July 22nd to our Finance Campaign Chairman, Senator Bob Dole, on his 94th birthday. Thank you Senator for your service to our country and devotion to Ike's memorial.



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From left: EMC Chair Senator Pat Roberts, Finance Chair Senator Bob Dole, Susan Eisenhower, Franki Roberts, Anne Eisenhower, Governor Dirk Kempthorne, September 2016

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Ike's Timeless Legacy

Health, Opportunity, and the Pursuit of Happiness

On July 10, 1954, President Eisenhower signed what is known today as the [Food for Peace program](#) into law as part of the 1954 Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act. The program established a structure for U.S. distribution of foreign food aid from agricultural surpluses that had amassed in the postwar period.

Eisenhower's vision that "Food can be a powerful instrument for all the free world in building a durable peace," was originally conceived in his home state of Kansas as a leading agricultural state and further championed in its early years by leaders such as Senator Dole. Through its expansion under successive presidencies, over 3 billion people in over 150 countries have benefited directly from food assistance from the program, now administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Food for Peace is a defining initiative of Eisenhower's efforts to wage peace, a legacy that continues today as the United States is a leader in the war against hunger and poverty in the developing world, providing a foundation for people to live healthy and productive lives, and on a larger scale, for a more stable world.

Make a Contribution

Join us in honoring and celebrating Ike's life and legacy by memorializing him in our Nation's capital.

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President Eisenhower with Congressman Dole, who was instrumental in continuing the Food for Peace program, 1961, image courtesy of the [University of Kansas](#)

President's Council on Youth Fitness



A Physical Education teacher testing kids in 1955, image courtesy of

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Do you remember taking the pull-up bar test in gym class in school? How many sit-ups could you do in a minute? Well you have like to thank (or not thank) in part for undergoing that assessment each year.

In December 1953, the *Journal of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation* published an article, "Muscular Fitness and Health," coauthored by Dr. Hans Kraus and Bonnie Prudden, that produced jarring statistics on the poor state of youth fitness in America. Upon being presented the findings, Eisenhower was shocked and alarmed that the physical fitness of America's children was not up to par with their European counterparts by even a close margin. At the height of the Cold War, this was a fact that could easily be exploited by Soviet propaganda, which would jump on the opportunity to expound the image of the "Soft American." The growing comforts of modern life such as the automobile, the advent of television as a new form of leisure, and the changing nature of work had arguably contributed to a society less aware of the importance of physical fitness than during an era when most Americans walked for transportation and earned a living through manual labor.

As a military officer and athlete himself, and as the President who established the [Department of Health, Education and Welfare](#) (today separate departments), Eisenhower was keenly aware of the importance of physical fitness as a public health concern as well as a security concern for America's fighting force. Following the findings from the President's Conference on the Fitness of American Youth at the U.S. Naval Academy, Eisenhower created the President's Council on Youth Fitness (today the [President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition](#)) on July 16, 1956.

The Council would serve as a "catalytic agent" to stimulate local communities and individual Americans to promote, provide for, and engage in active lifestyles. Following enhancements under successive presidencies, the Council continues its mission today under the Department of Health & Human Services to encourage lifelong healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities and/or special needs. The Council's flagship program, the President's Challenge, continues today to particularly motivate students to meet health and fitness standards in physical education classes.

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Bob Bennett (1933 - 2016)



President Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, image courtesy of [General Mills](#)

We know that no nation may live by itself alone. To preserve the individual freedoms we prize so highly, we must not only protect ourselves as a nation, but we must make certain that others with like devotion to liberty may also survive and prosper. We have wanted a world in which we might live in peace and confidence, and in striving toward that goal we have understood that to help others was often the best way ourselves to advance.

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Speech to the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Evanston, Illinois, August 19, 1954

Test Your Ike'spertise

Trivia Question: Disneyland opened on July 17, 1955. In what year did Eisenhower visit the park in Anaheim, California?

(See answer below)

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Trivia Answer: Ike and Mamie visited Disneyland with their grandchildren on December 26, 1961. In a thank you letter sent the next day, he assured Walt that "much as I have heard about Disneyland, it exceeded all my expectations."



Ike and Mamie meeting the press outside the Disneyland Fire Department, Anaheim, California, 1961, image courtesy of [Disney Parks](#)

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