Happy Independence Day!

The EMC wishes all our friends a relaxing and happy 4th of July!
As you get ready to fire up your grill for the weekend festivities, you may want to consider adding the "Eisenhower Steak" to your party menu. Although you may be taken aback, Ike suggests cooking steaks directly in the coals of your grill - that's right, no grate! His recipe calls for a 3"-4" thick-cut steak (ribeye or New York Strip), seasoned liberally with salt and pepper, and laid directly on top of white-hot coals. Flip it once and when done to your liking remove from the fire, brush off the ash and coals, slice on the diagonal, and serve!

If you need a little coaching, check out these contemporary recipes featured in The Washington Post and The New York Times or watch Chef Tim Byres for step by step instructions.

Bon Appétit!
This week the Commission is pleased to announce the receipt of several generous gifts:

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We extend our deepest appreciation to all of our donors for their generous contributions in support of Ike’s memorial. Donations from our supporters make it possible for us to move ever closer to groundbreaking on the National Eisenhower Memorial in the heart of our nation’s capital.

Donate now at [Pay.Gov](https://www.pay.gov) to make an online contribution and join the many patriotic Americans, multi-national corporations, foreign nations and elementary school students in honoring this great American, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

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**Ike's Timeless Legacy**

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Got travel plans for the holiday weekend? Chances are you will be driving on America's interstate highways, one of Dwight Eisenhower's greatest and enduring legacies, which turned 61 this week.

On June 29, 1956, President Eisenhower signed the landmark Federal-Aid Highway Act, authorizing construction funding of the interstate highway system, the "greatest public works project in American history." It was quite the legislative achievement from the man who once said "I never saw a paved road in my youth." So remember to thank Eisenhower as you hit the road this holiday weekend.

Eisenhower was also instrumental in the creation of the Saint Lawrence Seaway, providing crucial support for the project by negotiating with members of Congress and opposition groups such as the railways. On June 26, 1959, he and Queen Elizabeth II presided over the Seaway's dedication and formal opening at Saint Lambert Locks in Montreal. This iconic joint project between the United States and Canada has enabled large ships and tankers to sail directly to and from the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes region. Since its opening, more than two billion tons of cargo have been transported through the waterway, increasing North American commercial opportunities and lowered costs for shipping goods to and from the Midwest.

At the Seaway's official opening, Eisenhower noted, "This waterway
linking the oceans of the world with the Great Lakes of the American continent, is the culmination of the dreams of thousands of individuals on both sides of our common Canadian-United States border. It is the latest event in a long history of peaceful parallel progress by our two peoples."

[VIDEO] Space Race, 1958
Learn more about Eisenhower's contributions to infrastructure and transportation in the E-Memorial Pivotal Moment, "Space Race, 1958: Launching America's Era of Space Exploration."

The country urgently needs a modernized inter-state highway system to relieve existing congestion, to provide for the expected growth of motor vehicle traffic, to strengthen the Nation’s defenses, to reduce the toll of human life exacted each year in highway accidents, and to promote economic development.

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Annual Message to Congress Transmitting the President’s Economic Report, 24 January 1956

Test Your Ike'pertise

Trivia Question: At 11:15 AM on July 7, 1919, the first Army transcontinental motor convoy departed Washington, D.C. Lieutenant Colonel Eisenhower would join up with the convoy later that night, upon its arrival in Frederick, Maryland. What was the end terminus of this trip across the country?

(See answer below)
The whole convoy, Utah, 1919, image courtesy of the Eisenhower Presidential Library

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Trivia Answer: At 8:30 AM on September 6, the convoy departed Oakland and crossed San Francisco Bay on two ferries, arriving in the city at 11:30 AM. The trip, which took 62 days and covered 3,251 miles, convinced future President Eisenhower that the country was in need of dramatic infrastructure improvements. Most notable among these improvements was the Interstate Highway System.
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