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Eisenhower Birthday, Washington D.C., 3/27/90

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G	18	29	1	5

Quinn
those of us lucky
enough to have
known him

(Smith/Blessey)
8 P.M.
March 20, 1990
IKE

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EISENHOWER BIRTHDAY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1990

(I was 40 miles away for the anniversary)

? Commission and Foundation members, Relatives of beloved Ike, Senator Dole, Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the White House. And to an event honoring the man who was indeed as much a citizen of London as of ⁱⁿ Abilene.

Every President has a favorite President. For Harry Truman, it was Andrew Jackson. // For Gerald Ford, Harry Truman. // For Ronald Reagan, it was ~~Fala's friend and Hitler's foe~~ -- Franklin Roosevelt. //

? Today, I say it loudly and so very proudly: My favorite President was Ike. //

words?
What
This year marks the centennial anniversary of Dwight Eisenhower's birth, ~~A~~ date your two groups have already done much to commemorate. // And as we gather here, questions rise like daisies from the Kansas plains. What made Ike so special? Why do we revere him in death -- even as in life? //

He is loved, not hated, at death, which is the matter

To begin, because Ike was a man of character -- ^{and} of which goodwill was at ^{his very} ~~the~~ core. He was a healer -- not hater. He had a deep faith in God -- and believed America to be divinely blessed. // We loved him even more for what he was than what he did. And even now, we salute the last words he spoke on earth: "I have always loved my wife. I have always loved my children.

I have always loved my grandchildren. I have always loved my country." //

These priorities are explained by a memorable speech Eisenhower gave shortly after V-E Day, in a ceremony at London's historic Guildhall. And which, in turn, explains a second reason we treasure Ike: His affinity with Americans. // "I come from the heart of America," he told his audience. Later, he would define that heart. // ~~He had~~ the great and priceless privilege of growing up in a small town." //

From small-town America Dwight Eisenhower learned values and social decencies -- ~~the mosaic that was his culture.~~ // He played baseball at West Point, and followed it avidly. He loved to read. He loved TV westerns. His favorite band was Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. // Of course, his foxtrot was better than mine. But, as Barbara says, whose isn't? // And a few feet from here is where Ike had his famous putting green. Ike made golf a nationally-popular sport. You'll know I've had a similar impact if someday we have a seniors' fishing tour. //

Barry! In part, then, America Liked Ike because he was one of us -- was trusted to act on behalf of us. // In fact, fracturing syntax, he even spoke like us. // Come to think of it, now I know why he's my favorite President. // Yet affinity alone cannot explain his appeal. ?

Dwight Eisenhower was intensely knowledgeable -- on becoming President, already a giant in foreign affairs. // Some people thought I had a pretty good resume when I ran for President, but

close

it didn't include the words "^{he}preserved civilization." // Ike's did. // Most Presidents try to save the world after they get elected. Dwight Eisenhower did it the other way around. // ^{got started a little early}

Next, Ike was decisive -- acting on instincts that were invariably wise. // You know, some critics can't figure out how Eisenhower was so successful as President without that vision thing. // Well, his vision was etched ⁱⁿ through a plaque which ~~stood~~ ^{sat} on his desk: "Gently in manner, strong in deed." // At home, it rested on a belief in private enterprise. And abroad, that a strong America would lead to negotiation, not confrontation. // Take a look today at Nicaragua or Poland or the USSR. Everything we are doing -- everywhere freedom is winning -- had its roots in the vision of this soldier, diplomat, and five-star general. ?

Finally, we revere Ike for the simplest -- and most honest -- of reasons. He produced, never postured. He didn't demagogue -- he delivered. // Listen to his record of Presidential hits. // Eight years of peace and prosperity. Eight years of America at unprecedented prestige -- of domestic unity unparalleled in our history. He was a role model, a national hero. // ^{evangelist's second father} What a magnificent legacy he ^{left} ~~leaves~~ to all Americans.

Dwight Eisenhower was President during most of the 1950s. Molding -- embodying -- one of the great decades in the history of man. He provided what he prescribed for America: "Faith, love of freedom, intelligence, and energy." And fashioned such a golden age that author Theodore White was moved to write,

"Never did the sun shine fairer across a great Nation and its prospects than it did in the age of Eisenhower."

What, in the end, was "I Like Ike?" Not cliché -- it was reality. // Reality not merely in Boise and Buffalo -- but also India and Italy, Budapest and Berlin. // Like us, they cherished his cheer and generosity. And saw him as the living symbol of America. // Like us, they knew Ike's greatness to eclipse the flesh and bones of biography. For he was -- to many, will always be -- first citizen of the globe.

In life, Ike enriched us all. Now, it's up to us to tell his story -- and so enrich our kids. That's what your Commission and Foundation are doing. And I thank you for it -- and pledge my help. God bless you, and God bless the land Ike so deeply loved -- the United States of America.

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R. L. ...

~~Handwritten notes:~~
w, u, i, n, s, e, m, p, l, e, P
Dnd ... of ...
Said ...
a ... the ...

Highway System. He supported the first civil rights law in 82 years. He was a role model, a national hero. // What a magnificent legacy he leaves to our kids.

Dwight Eisenhower was President during most of the 1950s. But more than that, he came to embody one of the great decades in the history of man. He provided what he prescribed for America: "Faith, love of freedom, intelligence, and energy." And fashioned such a golden age that author Theodore White was moved to write, "Never did the sun shine fairer across a great Nation and its prospects than it did in the age of Eisenhower."

Truly, "I Like Ike" was reality. And not merely in Boise and Buffalo -- but also India and Italy, Budapest and Berlin. Like us, they cherished his cheer and generosity. And saw him as the living symbol of America -- courageous and true. And like us, they knew Ike's greatness eclipsed the flesh and bones of biography. For he was -- quite literally -- first citizen of the globe.

Always, he made America proud -- and us proud to be Americans. Now, it's up to us to honor him with the lives we lead. That's what your Foundation is doing. And I thank you for it. God bless you, and God bless the land Ike so deeply loved -- the United States of America.

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Dwight Eisenhower was intensely knowledgeable -- on becoming President, already a giant in foreign affairs. // Some people thought I had a pretty good resume when I ran for President, but it didn't include the words "preserved civilization." // Ike's did. // Most Presidents try to save the world after they get elected. Ike did it the other way around. //

Next, Ike was decisive -- acting on instincts that were invariably wise. // You know, some critics can't figure out how Eisenhower was so successful as President without that vision thing. // Well, he had a vision -- etched through a plaque which stood on his desk: "Gently in manner, strong in deed." // His vision rested on a belief in private enterprise. And that a strong America was an America at peace. // Knowing war, he hated it -- said Ike to the Soviets in '55, "I've had enough of war." // So he kept us strong -- so that we could begin the age of summitry. For Ike believed in negotiation, not confrontation -- and that "open skies" could open hearts. // Take a look today at Panama or Nicaragua or Poland or the USSR. Everything we are doing -- everywhere freedom is winning -- had its roots in the vision of this soldier, diplomat, and five-star general.

Finally, we revere Dwight Eisenhower for the simplest -- and most honest -- of reasons. He produced, never postured. He didn't demagogue -- he delivered. Listen to his record of Presidential hits. // Eight years of peace and prosperity. Eight years of America at unprecedented prestige -- of domestic unity unparalleled in our history. Ike created the Interstate

my wife. I have always loved my children. I have always loved my grandchildren. I have always loved my country." //

These priorities are explained by a memorable speech Eisenhower gave shortly after V-E Day, in a ceremony at London's historic Guildhall. And which, in turn, explains a third reason we treasure Ike: His affinity with Americans. "I come from the heart of America," he told his audience. Later, he would define that heart: "I had the great and priceless privilege of growing up in a small town." //

From small-town America Dwight Eisenhower learned its values and social decencies -- and perhaps most of all, its culture. // He loved TV westerns and Zane Grey novels. His favorite band was Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. // Of course, his foxtrot was better than mine. But then, as Barbara says, whose isn't? // He played baseball at West Point, and followed it avidly. And a few feet from here you can still see the terrain of Ike's famous putting green. // Ike made golf a nationally-popular sport. You'll know I've had a similar impact if the next few years bring establishment of a seniors' fishing tour. //

In part, then, America Liked Ike because he was one of us -- was trusted to act on behalf of us. // In fact, mangling syntax, he even spoke like us. // Come to think of it, now I know why he's my favorite President. // Yet affinity alone cannot explain why he was perhaps the most beloved person in American history.

(Smith/Blessey)
8 A.M.
March 19, 1990
IKE

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1990

Commission members, Relatives of President Eisenhower, Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the White House. And to an event saluting the 100th birthday of a man who was indeed as much a citizen of London as of Abilene.

Every President has a favorite President. For Harry Truman, it was Andrew Jackson. // For Gerald Ford, Harry Truman. // For Ronald Reagan, it was Fala's friend and Hitler's foe -- Franklin Roosevelt. //

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To begin, ~~we revere him~~ because Ike was a man of character -- of which goodwill was at the heart. His life was based on duty. He was a healer -- not a hater. He had a deep faith in God -- and believed America to be divinely blessed. Small wonder that we loved him even more for what he was than what he did. Consider the last words he spoke on earth. "I have always loved