



*Dear Friends,*

Due to a situation beyond my control, I am not able to travel to Kansas this weekend for the opening of the Cold War exhibit. Please know how very disappointed I am as I was so looking forward to visiting with each of you.

Abilene has been an amazing part of my life. Not only did you welcome Rob and me into the community, but you welcomed both of my sons as well. The community's support of the Library is remarkable and made my time at the Eisenhower Presidential Library absolutely extraordinary.

I enjoyed each and every personal story that you shared with me. Each memory about an interaction with the Eisenhowers. Every conversation about visiting the museum as a child. All of these shared experiences served to help me understand what this institution means to the community—and more importantly what the community means to this institution, and especially to the Eisenhower legacy.

It has been an absolute honor to work with the Eisenhower Foundation. We have collaborated over the years on numerous projects, not the least of which is the complete exhibit renovation. We have worked arm-in-arm to propel the Eisenhower legacy and to make this institution better. Most of all, I am grateful for the mutual respect and friendship shared between the two organizations. The Eisenhower Foundation is fortunate to have Meredith as their leader and I am happy to call her my friend.

My time with the Library staff has been without a doubt, the highlight of my Eisenhower journey. I continue to be impressed on a daily basis by the true professionalism of the people I get to call my colleagues. Their devotion and dedication to duty is reminiscent of the man who is the reason we are all here – Dwight David Eisenhower.

When I first came to Abilene, I admittedly had little knowledge of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, beyond what I recalled from my history books. Today, I leave this role with Eisenhower's lessons in my pocket. I know that:

- If anything goes wrong, it is my fault alone,
- build relationships,
- surround myself with people who know more than me,
- and listen to my advisors.

As I move on to a new challenge, I will continue to strive to meet the same ideals that I learned from President Eisenhower.

Sincerely,

*Dawn Hammatt*

