

Dwight Eisenhower

Texas Hold 'Em
Thirty-Fourth, 1953-1961



Nicknames: "The Kansas Cyclone", "Duckpin"

Birth: October 14th, 1890, Denison, Texas

Death: March 28th, 1969, Washington, D.C.

Significant Events During Eisenhower's Terms: Korean War Ends ... Civil Rights Era Begins ... Army/McCarthy Hearings ... Rosa Parks ... Disneyland ... Rock 'n' Roll ... Elvismania ... Little Rock Nine ... Dr. Seuss's "The Cat In the Hat" ... Woolworth's Sit-In ... "The Pill" ... Alaska (#49) and Hawaii (#50) become States

Quotes: *"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, as only one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity...War is the least acceptable solution of our problems...War settles nothing."*
-- Dwight Eisenhower, 1950

"Nothing in the international or domestic situation especially qualifies for the most important office in the world a man whose adult life has been spent in the military forces." -- Dwight Eisenhower

"We shall never use our strength to try to impress upon another people our own cherished political and economic institutions...the impoverishments of any single people in the world means danger to the well-being of all other peoples...we reject any insinuation that one race or another, one people or another, is in any sense inferior or expendable...we shall strive to make [the United Nations] not merely an eloquent symbol but an effective force."
-- Dwight Eisenhower, 1st Inaugural Address, January 20th, 1953

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies...a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."
-- Dwight Eisenhower, 1953

"You have a row of dominoes set up, and you knock over the first one, and what will happen to the last one is the certainty that it will go over very quickly. So you have a beginning of a disintegration that would have the most profound influences." -- Dwight Eisenhower

"I felt as though I had been hit in the solar plexus with a ball bat – as though eight years of work had been for naught. It was a low moment..." -- Dwight Eisenhower, when his Vice President Richard Nixon lost his 1960 Presidential campaign to John F. Kennedy

"Ike didn't know anything, and all the time he was in office he didn't learn a thing...In 1959, when Castro came to power down in Cuba, Ike just sat on his ass and acted like if he didn't notice what was going on down there, why, maybe Castro would go away or something."
-- Harry S Truman (#33), 1961

"The United States never lost a soldier or a foot of ground in my administration. We kept the peace. People ask how it happened – by God, it didn't just happen, I'll tell you that." -- Dwight Eisenhower

"I have no patience with extreme Rightists who call everyone who disagrees with them a Communist, nor with the Leftists who shout that the rest of us are heartless moneygrubbers."
-- Dwight Eisenhower

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."
-- Dwight Eisenhower, in his farewell address, January 17th, 1961

How his term ended: Eisenhower retired after two terms as President. A limit of two terms became law (previously it had just been tradition) after FDR's unprecedented three-plus terms (four times elected). Congress passed the twenty-second amendment limiting Presidents to two full terms in 1947, and it was ratified by the requisite number of states in 1951.

Other Professions: Creamery Worker, Soldier, University President

Worst Mistakes: Eisenhower was behind the overthrow of Iran in the 1950s, ostensibly to prevent the spread of communism there. There was one big problem with that, though: Not only was the leader of Iran, Mohammad Mossadegh, not a communist, he couldn't abide them himself. The real reason for the coup was to keep Iran and its oil under British control. Besides keeping Iran under Britain's thumb, the coup brought a ruthless ruler to power there, namely Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The takeover was engineered by the British government and the CIA, with Theodore Roosevelt's grandson Kermit as their point man.

Eisenhower was also “there” for the United Fruit Company in Guatemala, following in William Howard Taft's footsteps in strong-arming “banana” Republics in Central America when their leaders weren't viewed as being subservient enough to U.S. interests.

Eisenhower lied when he claimed the U.S. was not involved in spying on Russia after an American pilot flying a spy plane crashed in that country. When that pilot, Gary Powers, was captured and fessed up to what he had been doing (spying on Russia for the U.S. Military), though, it couldn't really be denied any longer.

As mentioned in the Hoover (#31) chapter, Eisenhower took part in the bullying of the Bonus Marchers. “I was just following orders” does not suffice as an excuse, as the U.S. lawyers explained to the Nazi war criminals in Nuremberg – each person has an individual responsibility to refrain from actions he knows to be wrong.

Also, there are allegations in a book by James Bacque entitled “Other Losses: An Investigation Into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners at the Hands of the French and Americans after World War II” that Eisenhower deliberately starved German POWs during and after World War II.

Saving Grace: Eisenhower sent troops to Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 to protect nine black students who were courageously integrating an up-to-then all-white school there. Eisenhower dispatched the 101st Airborne to enforce the court order after Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus attempted to prevent black students from enrolling at the school.

Notes: Although “Ike” went by Dwight David Eisenhower, his real name was the reverse: David Dwight Eisenhower.

Eisenhower was the Commander of NATO forces after WWII.

As a result of the popularity that accrued to Eisenhower in America because of his role in the Allies winning World War II, Democrats and Republicans alike urged him to run for President (each side, of course, wanting him to represent their party). It was unknown which side of the aisle he was on because he did not reveal which party he preferred (Republican) until later.

Eisenhower was the driving force (no pun intended) behind the Interstate Highway System, which, like the Panama Canal, was sought mostly for military purposes (for quick movement of military machinery, weaponry, and personnel). In 1956, Eisenhower signed into law the bill that authorized construction of the eventual 47,000 miles that make up that system.

Alaska and Hawaii became the forty-ninth and fiftieth States in 1959, during Eisenhower's second term.

What became known as the "Eisenhower Doctrine" authorized the U.S. to use armed force to come to the aid of any nations "requesting assistance against armed aggression from any country controlled by international communism." This was similar to, but was more specific than and an extension of, the Truman Doctrine. Despite this claim, Hungary requested help from America after rebelling against Russian/communist rule in 1958, but were not given it. China also became "red" during Eisenhower's administration, although the U.S. backed nationalist (non-communist) leader Chiang Kai-Shek. The U.S. *did* come to the aid of Lebanon, though.

It is rumored that Eisenhower and his World War II driver/secretary/aide (in Europe) Kay Summersby carried on an affair. She wrote a book about it entitled *Past Forgetting: My Love Affair with Dwight D. Eisenhower*. Also, a book about Harry Truman states that he (Truman) came across and subsequently destroyed correspondence he had discovered, in which Eisenhower stated his intention to divorce his wife and marry Miss Summersby.

Eisenhower spent his retirement years on his farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.