

## **WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY REUNION**

### **ABILENE, KANSAS**

**SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2022**

Thirteen former members of the White House Communications Agency (WHCA), held a reunion in Abilene, Kansas, on September 7-8. The attendees were from nine states with Presidential service from Kennedy to Clinton. During the two-day event, the group visited the Eisenhower Museum and Library, laid a wreath at the gravesite of President and Mrs. Eisenhower, held a public meeting on September 7 with presentations on memories and experiences while serving with the White House Communications Agency and was provided with a tour of Seelye Mansion, a nationally known historic residence. The reunion was concluded with a Wheels Up Dinner at Brookville Hotel/Legacy Restaurant, a Kansas legendary facility.

The reunion was kicked off with a welcoming coffee and pastries at the Alamo Saloon in Abilene Old Town. After a welcome to Abilene by Mayor Dee Marshall, Mike Ebbing (WHCA 1970-1972) and Harland Priddle (WHCA 1970-1974), Co Chairmen for the reunion, distributed name tags and reviewed the schedule for the two-day period.

Following the welcoming coffee, the group was given a guided tour of the Eisenhower Museum and Library.

Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Eisenhower, was guest of Honor at a luncheon in the Seelye Mansion. During the luncheon period, the WHCA Alumni were presented a copy of a letter from Mary Jean expressing her appreciation for the group visiting the Eisenhower Museum and Library. The group also was provided a copy of a letter from Marlin Fitzwater, Press Secretary for President Reagan and President George. H. W. Bush and a proclamation from the City of Abilene declaring September 7 & 8 as White House Communications Days in Abilene. Marlin Fitzwater graduated from Abilene High School and grew up near Abilene.

The wreath laying ceremony was held in the Place of Meditation with Mary Jean Eisenhower participating in the wreath laying ceremony. The ceremony began with playing Hail to the Chief and was concluded with taps immediately following the wreath placement.

The public meeting for the community was held at 7:00 p. s. at the Abilene with Mike Ebbing, Chief Switchboard Operator at Camp David from 1970-1972 and Harland Priddle, Deputy Commander of WHCA from 1970-1974. Their narration and slide presentations covered memories and experiences during their time with WHCA. There was a packed house with every seat filled

On Thursday morning, the group held a private conversational period under shade trees near the Eisenhower Library with members exchanging stories and experiences in WHCA with other attendees. Following a buffet lunch from a local restaurant, Hitching Post Restaurant, the group was given a guided tour of the Seeyle Mansion.

The Wheels Up Dinner, held at the Brookville Hotel/Legacy Restaurant. facility, included their special fried chicken and all the trimmings served family style.

## EISENHOWER MUSEUM AND LIBRARY TOUR



Group picture taken at the conclusion of the tour. Left to right: Tam Glotzbach, Don Murray,, Bob Ethen, Wayne Vorland, Dave Ludwig, Mike Ebbing, Mike Stratton, Roger Newton, Jim Ferguson, Harland Priddle, Emmett Capt and Ken Bench



**Tom Glotzbach, Harland Priddle and Mary Jean Eisenhower laid the wreath followed by playing of TAPS.**



**Mike Ebbing, Mary Jean Eisenhower and Harland Priddle following the wreath laying.**