
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Dwight D. Eisenhower and the State of Colorado

While I am, of course, delighted to be “home,” I confess to a strong feeling of nostalgia [for Colorado]... The weather here [in Washington, DC] is murky, damp and cold—and there is none of that beautiful and beneficent Colorado sun.

-- DDE to Dr. George M. Powell, one of the doctors who treated the President’s heart attack at Fitzsimons Army Hospital (Nov. 16, 1955)

- **Ike looked forward to periodic visits to Colorado before, during and after his presidency.** For several weeks every summer between 1953 to 1955, he shifted his operations to what some have called ‘the Summer White House,’ in a suite of offices at Lowry Air Force Base. He would often spend time at the Cherry Hills Country Club, just outside Denver, when he was in town. Another favorite place was the ranch of close friend Aksel Nielsen near Rocky Mountain National Park.
- **Dwight Eisenhower married Mamie Doud at the Doud family home in Denver, Colorado** at noon on July 1, 1916. Mamie had lived in Colorado since she was nine years old, living briefly in Pueblo and Colorado Springs before moving to Denver. Mamie’s family home at 750 Lafayette Street served as the presidential residence when Ike visited Colorado.
- **In 1954, Eisenhower signed legislation to establish the US Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs.** When President of Columbia University, he served as chairman of the Military Service Academy Board that recommended the establishment of a separate service academy and curriculum for the newly independent Air Force. A subsidiary commission reviewed 580 proposed sites in 45 states before recommending the Colorado location. The Academy golf course is named in his honor.
- **Ike lauded the medical professionals and health personnel** for the care he received following his first heart attack in on September 24, 1955. He was taken to Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora, CO to receive treatment and recuperate. Until he returned to Washington in November, Eisenhower carried out necessary official duties from there. In 2000, a suite of rooms on the hospital’s eighth floor was restored to appear as it did when Eisenhower was recuperating there.
- **The Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel, the highest vehicular tunnel in the world,** traverses the Continental Divide approximately sixty miles west of Denver on Interstate 70.



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