



Truman Presidential  
Museum & Library

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## **Bill Clinton Headlines Slate of Events Celebrating Truman Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

INDEPENDENCE, MO—Throughout 2007, the Truman Presidential Library & Museum will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its dedication with a stellar slate of events designed to commemorate the enduring legacy of President Harry S. Truman, ranked in a C-SPAN poll (2000) of presidential historians as the fifth-greatest U.S. president of all time.

Highlights include appearances by leading historians **Michael Beschloss**, **David McCullough**, and **Doris Kearns Goodwin**; an anniversary keynote address by former **President Bill Clinton**; the opening of a new exhibition, *Treasures of the Presidents*; and the groundbreaking for a new permanent exhibition featuring Harry Truman's working office at the library.

Harry Truman liked big ideas, and his library was to be no exception. Dedicated on July 6, 1957, the Truman Library set the standard for presidential libraries to come. He envisioned a classroom for democracy—not just a repository for papers and documents—and he hoped that his library would give young people, especially, “a better understanding of the history and the nature of the presidency and the government of the United States.”

At a time when presidential libraries are coming under increasing public scrutiny, the Truman Presidential Library & Museum is recognized as a leader among its peers and a model for future presidential libraries, both for its non-partisan examination of President Truman's administration and for the Library's innovative educational programs.

“I think President Truman would be proud of how the library is fulfilling his vision for an institution that serves the international scholarly community while providing a wide range of academic and popular programs in an open and nonpartisan manner,” said Michael Devine, director of the Truman Presidential Library & Museum.

With a historical collection of approximately 30,000 objects, 15 million documents, and 100,000 photographs, the Truman Library has played host to numerous historic events, including, most recently, the farewell speech of outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. For the everyday citizen, however, the Truman Library is known by its museum, with interactive exhibits that allow visitors to explore the life, times and presidency of Harry S. Truman. Truman's two-term tenure is considered by many historians to be one of the most eventful and most-studied periods in American history. Indeed, Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough observed that “you can

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understand more about our nation by spending a day in Independence and at the Truman Library than anywhere else in the country.”

During its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Truman Library will offer more reasons than ever to make Independence a destination in 2007. From programs by our nation’s leading presidential historians to the opening of a new exhibition on the American presidency, the Truman Presidential Library & Museum will offer something for everyone. Highlights include:

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum Series**

A dazzling array of today’s thinkers and opinion leaders will headline 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Among those scheduled to make appearances are presidential historians **Doris Kearns Goodwin** (April 12), **Michael Beschloss** (co-presented with Rainy Day Books on May 18), and **David McCullough** (June 13). **President Bill Clinton** will provide a fitting finale for this impressive series with a public program in late June or early July. (Program details will follow in future news releases.)

### **New Exhibition: *Treasures of the Presidents***

To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Truman Presidential Library & Museum proudly presents a major exhibition on the American presidency, ***Treasures of the Presidents***. Drawing on the collections of our nation’s presidential libraries, the exhibition will feature more than 200 rarely seen treasures of our American story, including ornate head-of-state gifts, campaign memorabilia, personal items from our First Families, documents that shaped the course of history, audio and video recordings, simple hand-made tokens of appreciation from ordinary people, and much more. The exhibition opens May 1, 2007 and will run through January 4, 2008.

### **Presidential Library Conference with David McCullough**

The directors of America’s presidential libraries, along with national archivist **Allen Weinstein**, will gather in Independence, Missouri in June 2007. As part of this conference, the Truman Library will present famed presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize winner **David McCullough**. In addition, the public may attend a forum highlighting the presidential library directors, who will discuss some of their favorite artifacts from their presidential libraries, including artifacts included in the *Treasures of the Presidents* exhibition.

### **Exhibition Groundbreaking**

The Truman Library will break ground for the much anticipated construction of a new exhibition gallery which will provide access to President Truman’s working office.

### **Free Fun on the 4<sup>th</sup>**

July 4<sup>th</sup> is Independence Day, and what better place to mark our nation’s most patriotic holiday than at the Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence, Missouri? Stay and play on the lush grounds and enjoy free Museum admission and giveaways. The day ends with a bang with a fireworks display near the Truman historic district.

**Margaret Truman Daniel**, the daughter of Harry Truman, and **U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton** are honorary co-chairs of the Truman Library’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. “Harry Truman’s legacy serves as a polestar for today’s leaders and, one hopes, for the leaders of tomorrow,” said Skelton. “The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his library is a milestone in our nation’s presidential history.”

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The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Truman Presidential Library & Museum is generously sponsored by James B. Nutter & Company, Missouri Division of Tourism, Bank of America , and William T. Kemper Foundation. Media sponsors include *The Kansas City Star*, Comcast, and Time Warner Cable.

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*The Truman Presidential Library & Museum is one of eleven presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The Truman Presidential Library & Museum is supported, in part, by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the not-for-profit partner of the Truman Library. To learn more, please visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org).*

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