



WhistleStop

Preserving the Legacy of America's 33rd President

SUMMER 2008

TrumanLibrary.org



TRUMAN TRIVIA

As the general election campaign heats up, we turn to Harry Truman for the essential qualities needed in the Oval Office. He once said, "No man should be allowed to be president who doesn't understand _____."

- a. the military industrial complex
- b. poker
- c. the common man
- d. hogs

Answer on page 7

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60th Anniversary Truman's Civil Rights Legacy

BY CASSIE MUNDT

July 26, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of one of the many monumental decisions Truman made during his time in office. Truman's willingness to raise the civil rights issue and formulate an agenda for reform demonstrated the ability of the nation and its people to confront the past and begin to accept the need for change.

African Americans have served in every United States military conflict since the American Revolution. However, it took until July 26, 1948, when President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, for the United States to begin giving equal treatment to the soldiers who fought to defend the nation's democratic ideals.

As World War II approached, the United States found itself fighting fascist regimes with racist ideologies, yet 10 percent of its own population were denied basic civil rights and opportunities. Conventional wisdom held that African Americans were racially inferior, or at least so socially and economically deprived that they lacked the character and discipline necessary for combat

duty and promotion.

"We know the way. We need only the will"

— HARRY S. TRUMAN

Truman, the son of Confederates, did not favor social equality for blacks and said so openly. But, he *did* believe in equality before the law. As more than one million African American veterans returned to the South, tensions rose. In Batesburg, South Carolina, Isaac Woodard, a uniformed and decorated young black sergeant, was brutally attacked and blinded by the mayor and city marshal. In Monroe, Georgia, two black veterans and their wives were taken from their car and gunned down by a white mob.

In response, Truman wrote to Attorney General Tom Clark, "It is going to take something more than the handling of each individual case after it happens – it is going to require the inauguration of some sort of policy to prevent such happenings."



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Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

TrumanLibrary.org
800-833-1225 | 816-268-8200

MUSEUM HOURS

Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.

EXTENDED SUMMER HOURS

Thursdays, May – September, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

MUSEUM ADMISSION

\$8 adults; \$7 seniors 65+

\$3 youth 6-15; 0-5 FREE

Truman Library Institute members
admitted free. Group discounts available.

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In Brief

2008 Dissertation Year Fellowships Awarded



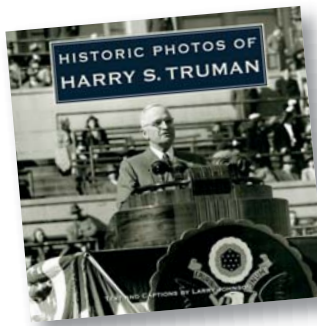
Michael Czaplicki

Each year, the Truman Library Institute awards a maximum of two Dissertation Year Fellowships for graduate students who have completed research related to the public career and presidency of Harry S. Truman and are ready to begin writing. The Research, Scholarship and Academic Relations Committee of the Truman Library Institute is pleased to award 2008 fellowships to Jason Petrusis (Columbia University) and Michael Czaplicki, pictured at left (University of Chicago). “These Institute-sponsored grants are absolutely essential to scholars making significant additions to the Truman historiography,” said committee chair Richard S. Kirkendall, Ph.D.

Truman Speech to Be Preserved by Library of Congress

Truman’s 1948 Democratic Convention speech has been selected for the U.S. National Recording Registry, a Library of Congress (LOC) initiative to save America’s aural history by archiving sound deemed “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.” In making its selection, the LOC noted that President Truman’s popularity was low and “political commentators were sure that Thomas Dewey would easily win the presidential election. One of Truman’s advisors admitted that the president had a ‘speaking problem’ — he relied too heavily on prepared scripts and his delivery was rushed and occasionally unintelligible. In this speech, Truman worked only from a loose script and, as a result, found his natural voice. In a down-to-earth and direct manner, which included colloquialisms from his home state of Missouri, the feisty president predicted, ‘Senator Barkley and I will win this election and make the Republicans like it. Don’t you forget it.’ The applause lasted for a full two minutes. Defying many predictions, Truman won re-election.”

▶ To listen to the original sound recording, search on the keywords 1948 DNC Speech at TrumanLibrary.org.



Picture Truman’s Life

A new edition by Turner Publishing Company offers Harry Truman’s life in pictures – from parades and politics to major decisions, like the 1948 order to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces. In *Historic Photos of Harry S. Truman*, Larry Johnson showcases the life, career, and triumphs of America’s 33rd president with fact-filled chapter introductions and nearly 200 rarely seen photographs culled from the collection of the

Truman Library. A beautiful volume to own, *Historic Photos of Harry S. Truman* is now available through booksellers.

Gear Up for Presidential Election

When it comes to presidential gear, the buck stops at our online Museum Store. Unique summer items under \$15 include a barbecue apron that declares, *If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen*; heavy-duty beverage glasses sporting the presidential seal; a handsome Truman ballcap; and a summer-weight T-shirt with the message, *I’d Vote for Truman*. **Shop securely online at TrumanLibrary.org.**





Premier Society Members Attend VIP Event at Nation's Newest Federal Reserve Bank



On June 19, premier members of the Truman Library Institute were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the new headquarters of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Bank president Thomas M. Hoinig welcomed guests to the stunning 600,000 square-foot facility, home to the remarkable Truman Coin Collection, on loan from the Truman Library. This rare and celebrated collection includes more than 450 coins dating from George Washington's presidential administration through the 1970s and Jimmy Carter's presidency. The centerpiece of the Bank's Money Museum, the historic currency featured in the Truman Coin Collection helps bring to life the events and personalities that have come to shape our nation's money.

Join the distinguished individuals of the **Buck Stops Here Society** and **West Wing Council**. Your membership helps preserve and share the legacy of President Harry S. Truman, and your investment is rewarded with exclusive, individualized benefits reserved for premier society members. To learn more, please contact Alex Burden, executive vice president, Truman Library Institute, at (816) 268-8243 or alex.burden@nara.gov.

Honorary Fellows Enjoy Evening with Curator Clay Bauske

More than 200 Honorary Fellows attended a June 5 members-only reception and private tour of the long-running exhibition *Lincoln: The Constitution & The Civil War*, made possible locally by the generous sponsorship of **UMB Bank**. Following wine and hors d'oeuvres and remarks by Truman Library Institute board member Chuck Foudree (pictured below), curator Clay Bauske led the gathering on a journey back to 1860 to explore the constitutional issues faced by President Lincoln. The exhibition runs through September 14, 2008.



HST Honor Roll

We welcome the following new Truman Library Institute members and gratefully acknowledge their important role in fulfilling President Truman's vision to help adults and students alike better understand our democracy, the American presidency, and each person's power to make a difference.

Mr. Richard Besgrove
Mrs. Lewis J. Bratt
Mr. Edward Carlin
Mr. Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D.
Mr. John W. Chalfant
Charina Foundation, Inc.
Mr. Carlo Ciccone
Mr. and Mrs. Geral Culp
Mr. Alfred Dannhauser
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Mr. and Mrs. Douglas N. Ghertner
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Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jacobson,
Herbert R. & Loreen K. Jacobson Foundation
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Mr. David Shipman
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St. Luke's Health System
Mr. Daniel Tolle
Dr. and Mrs. George Tracy
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ungerman
Ms. Sue Valentine
Mr. and Mrs. George H. Zimmerman
Mr. Louis Zwillenberg

New membership gifts received March 22 through June 15, 2008

Wild about Harry!

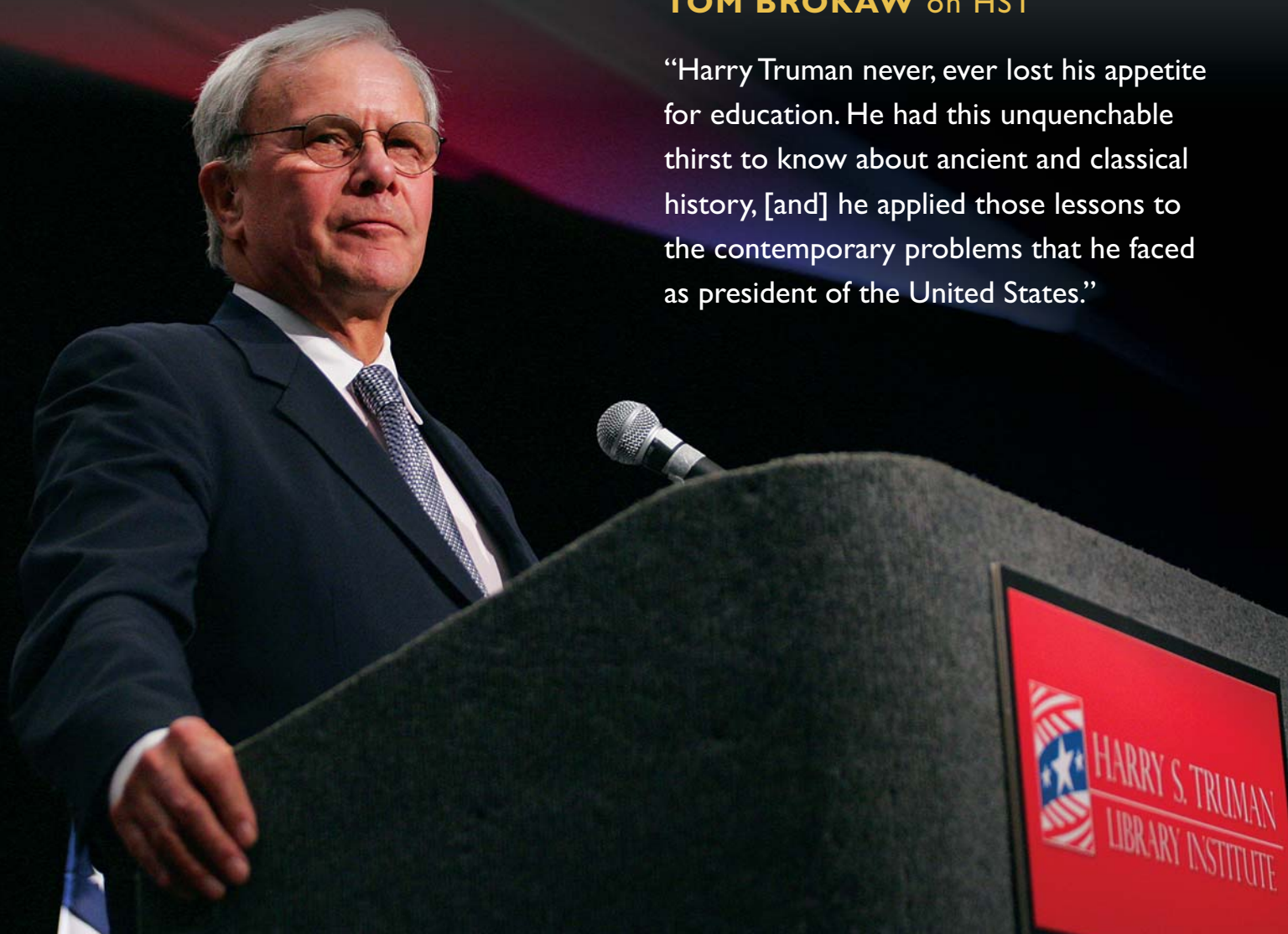
On April 10, 2008, legendary newsman and best-selling author Tom Brokaw anchored the Truman Library Institute's annual fundraising dinner, **Wild About Harry**, delivering a record-breaking event to support the legacy of Harry S. Truman and the presidential library and museum which bears his name. More than 820 attendees filled the ballroom of the Muehlebach Tower, a venue with special significance. For nearly a decade, the Muehlebach Hotel's Presidential Suite served as Truman's headquarters. Sixty years earlier, on election day in 1948, Truman sat in the suite with his staff

and followed the news. When an advisor told Truman about some good early results, Truman responded, "I've been telling you I was going to win all the time."

The fundraiser, led by event chairs Kay and Tom Martin and honorary chairs Mary and John Hunkeler and emceed by KCPT's Nick Haines, raised \$357,000 in support of the Truman Library. And in a year when pundits and presidential hopefuls are recalling Truman's decisive and courageous leadership, Kansas City proved it is still *Wild about Harry*: attendance jumped nearly 25 percent over the previous year;

TOM BROKAW on HST

"Harry Truman never, ever lost his appetite for education. He had this unquenchable thirst to know about ancient and classical history, [and] he applied those lessons to the contemporary problems that he faced as president of the United States."





record-breaking revenues were vaulted by 23 new individual and corporate sponsors.

“John and I are thrilled with the success of **Wild About Harry**,” said honorary chair Mary Hunkeler. “Tom Brokaw was an enormous draw, but the record-breaking triumph is attributable to the tireless efforts of our event chairs, Kay and Tom Martin, and members of the **Wild About Harry** Steering Committee. I am especially grateful to our new and renewing underwriters and sponsors who helped us shatter previous fund-raising records this year.”

The Truman Library Institute gives a presidential salute to the stellar volunteer leadership, underwriters and sponsors of **Wild About Harry**, all of whom helped “smash to smithereens,” as emcee Nick Haines declared, all previous revenue and attendance records.

Wild About Harry proceeds provide vital funding for the Truman Library’s acclaimed forums, educational programs, and exhibitions, including *Lincoln: The Constitution & The Civil War*, which opened in May and runs through mid-September.

Thank You
OVAL OFFICE UNDERWRITERS

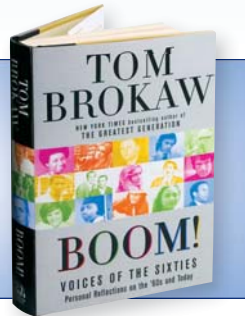


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WEST WING UNDERWRITERS

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A limited number of autographed copies of Brokaw’s best-selling titles, *Boom! Voices of the Sixties* and *The Greatest Generation*, are available to members of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute for the special price of \$30. To purchase your commemorative edition, please contact Judy Turner at (816) 268-8246.

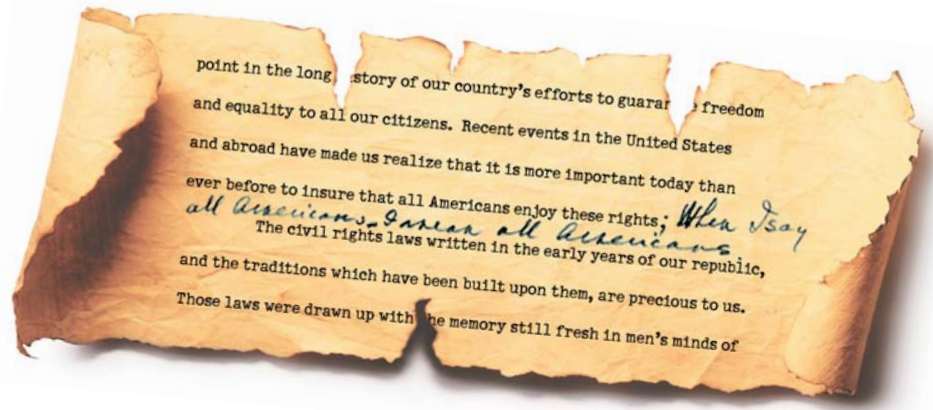


Photos (clockwise, from facing page): Tom Brokaw; Suzanne Glynn, Susan & John McMeel, Maureen McMeel; Shawsie Branton with Allen & Barbara Lefko and Frances Brown; Michael Devine, Truman Library director, and Maija Devine with Beth Smith, Mike Schultz, Jeannette Nichols, and Cathy Schultz; Ann Dickinson & Kirk Carpenter; Tom & Kay Martin, event chairs, with Tom Brokaw and Mary & Dr. John Hunkeler; honorary chairs; emcee Nick Haines; Peter & Cappy Powell with Vicki & Bill Reisler; Mike & Marlys Haverty; Tom Brokaw with Adele & Don Hall.





Photos (top to bottom): President Truman addressing the 1947 conference of the NAACP; African American and white soldiers during World War II; machine gun crew, Korean War.



Excerpt of President Truman's revisions to 1947 NAACP speech

HST's Civil Rights Legacy

CONTINUED FROM COVER

On December 5, 1946, Truman issued Executive Order 9808, which established a multiracial committee on civil rights to propose measures to strengthen and protect the civil rights of the American people. A year later, the Commission issued its landmark report, *To Secure These Rights*, which recommended legislative and administrative action to end all discrimination and segregation in the Armed Services.

On June 29, 1947, Truman became the first U.S. president to speak to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and gave one of the strongest statements heard on civil rights since Abraham Lincoln. "It is my deep conviction that we have reached a turning point in the long history of our country's efforts to guarantee freedom and equality to all our citizens," Truman declared. "It is more important today than ever before to insure that all Americans enjoy these rights." His handwritten revisions to the speech underscore the point: "When I say all Americans, I mean *all Americans*."

When the 1948 Democratic National Convention called for a liberal civil rights plank, Truman had the backing he needed. On July 26, 1948, Truman signed Executive Order 9981 to desegregate the military: "There shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." Six years later, following the Korean War, all branches of the armed services were officially integrated.

On July 24, 1998, former Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered the keynote address for the Truman Library's recognition of the 50th anniversary of Executive Order 9981. "It [the Army] was the only place when I was coming out of college – the only institution in all of America, because of Harry Truman – where a young black kid could dream... the dream I dared not think about at age 11," Powell said. "It was the one place where the only thing that counted was courage; where the color of your guts and the color of your blood was more important than the color of your skin."

Cassie Mundt is a 2008 communications and archives intern for the Truman Library. A senior at Truman State University, Ms. Mundt is majoring in history and business and will pursue a master's degree in museum studies following her graduation in December.

Timeline

August 14, 1945

- The Japanese surrender, ending World War II; thousands of veterans prepare to return to the United States.

February 13, 1946

- Young African American Sergeant Isaac Woodard is brutally attacked three hours after being honorably discharged.

July 25, 1946

- Two African American veterans and their wives are gunned down in Monroe, Georgia. Truman responded, "Whatever my inclination as a native of Missouri might have been, as President I know this is bad. I shall fight to end evils like this."



December 5, 1946

- Truman issues Executive Order 9808, which establishes a multiracial committee on civil rights to propose measures to strengthen and protect the civil rights of the American people.

June 29, 1947

- Truman becomes the first president to address a conference of the NAACP.

October 29, 1947

- The President's Committee on Civil Rights issues its landmark report, *To Secure These Rights*. The report recommends legislation and administrative action "to end immediately all discrimination and segregation based on race, color, creed, or national origin in all branches of the Armed Services."

Colin Powell on Executive Order 9981

Last June, Walter Isaacson sat down with former Secretary of State Colin Powell for a conversation about America's present and past, including President Truman's Executive Order 9981; GQ magazine published the interview in June 2007. Nine years earlier, Colin Powell had delivered the keynote address for the Truman Library's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Truman's bold action to end segregation in the military. In that address, Powell remarked, "Nothing would have kept me from being here...because I and so many other men and women of color who have served this nation in uniform owe so much to President Harry S. Truman and Executive Order 9981."



In reflecting on the changes in America that have occurred in your lifetime, how important to you and the nation was President Truman's executive order integrating the armed services in 1948?



Black people had served for 300 years, going back to the early Massachusetts militia. They had served the nation even when the nation had not served them. They chose a way to show their commitment to the nation, and that was to shed the same red blood that their white fellow citizens had shed. They did it time after time, through every one of our wars. And they did it knowing that while in the military, they would be discriminated against.

Truman changed that by executive order, because he knew that Congress would not approve it. When I came along in 1958, I hit the right timing. The army was leading the nation in integration. I was from a diverse neighborhood where everybody was a minority, and so I didn't *feel* like a minority. All of us were

immigrant-family kids from the West Indies or Eastern Europe or the South or Puerto Rico. And we called each other by our minority names, which you can't use anymore. So when I entered the army, which then had essentially a white Episcopal power structure, I had an advantage over some of the blacks who came out of the South. These were young men who had never been around the white power structure except to say "yes, suh." And they were suddenly in an integrated environment. For them, the cultural change and the power-relationship change was shocking. They had never been to a lunchroom counter or a workplace or a school that was not segregated. They had been raised in an environment where white was power and black was not. It was a lot harder for them, yet many prevailed. I had the right mixture of diversity and education to enter a system that now said, "You can go wherever you want inside the army as long as you can perform."

Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, serves on the National Advisory Council of the Truman Library Institute.

TRUMAN TRIVIA

FROM PAGE 1

Answer Truman once said, "No man should be president who doesn't understand hogs, or hasn't been around a manure pile." First, however, Truman declared that one seeking the presidency must be honorable, know how to get elected, then know what to do after getting elected. A self-educated man, Truman also noted that "not all readers become leaders, but all leaders must be readers." Finally, these words of advice to our 44th president: "If you don't have a good sense of humor, you're in a hell of a fix when you are president of the United States."

SAVE THE DATE

60th Anniversary
DESEGREGATION OF
THE U.S. ARMED FORCES



WITH
U.S. Rep.
John Conyers

JULY 28, 2008 | 4 PM



Please join us for a remarkable program honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces. A special appearance by U.S. Congressman John Conyers is made possible by honorary co-chairs and U.S. Congressmen Ike Skelton and Emanuel Cleaver.

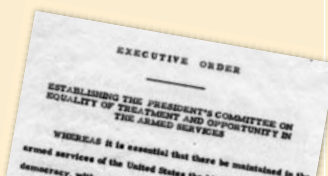
Watch for complete details by mail or online at TrumanLibrary.org

July 1948

- The Democratic National Convention calls for a liberal civil rights plank, which prompts a walkout by the Southern Democrats who later nominate Strom Thurmond as the presidential nominee of the States' Rights Party, also known as the Dixiecrats.

July 26, 1948

- Truman signs Executive Order 9981 to desegregate the armed services and prohibit race-based employment discrimination in the federal government.



November 2, 1948

- Truman is narrowly reelected.

October 30, 1954

- The Army announces that all of its units are integrated in addition to the rest of the armed services.

ONLINE EXHIBIT

Learn more. View Executive Order 9981 desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces, hear Colin Powell's address marking the 50th anniversary of 9981, and explore President Truman's civil rights legacy in the online exhibit. Coming soon to TrumanLibrary.org.

Program Highlights



Truman Birthday Celebration

President

Truman's 124th birthday was honored with a presidential wreathlaying ceremony, which was attended by Senator John Warner, pictured above visiting with John and Linda Truman in Truman's Working Office. "It was important to me to come and pay my respects," said Senator Warner. "I owe the president quite a lot. Without the G.I. Bill, I don't know where I'd be today."



HST Legacy Symposium

The Truman Library, in partnership with the Harry S Truman Little White House in Key West, Fl., presented the 6th Annual Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium, May 16-17. The symposium, titled *The Immigration Legacy of Harry S. Truman*, featured presentations by Truman's eldest grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel; National Archives staff; Truman Library Institute board member Richard S. Kirkendall (above); and others.



Berlin Airlift Anniversary

The Truman Library marked the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift – Truman's response to the Soviet blockade of Berlin – with a program featuring Gail Halvorsen, the Cold War pilot known around the world as the Candy Bomber. Halvorsen's appearance was made in conjunction with the Truman Library Institute's 2008 Teacher Institute.



U.N. Peacekeeping Anniversary

On May 31, the Truman Library and Greater Kansas City United Nations Association co-presented *Tribute to the Blue Helmets: The 60th Anniversary of U.N. Peacekeeping*. The program featured Major General Anis A. Bajwa, U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Lt. Colonel Graeme Finney, leader of a multinational U.N. force in East Timor, and included a wreathlaying ceremony to honor peacekeepers who lost their lives in service to the world.



International Academic Conference

Truman Library director Michael J. Devine led a delegation representing the Truman Library and Truman Library Institute to participate in a conference titled *Harry S. Truman, the State of Israel, and the Quest for Peace in the Middle East*. The conference, held in Jerusalem and co-sponsored by the Truman Library Institute, convened at the Truman Peace Institute at Hebrew University on May 29, 2008 and was one of a series of events undertaken by the Truman Library Institute to commemorate President Truman's decision to recognize the new state of Israel just minutes after its founding on May 15, 1948.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
LIBRARY INSTITUTE

www.trumanlibrary.org

Whistle Stop is published by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, a non-profit organization that supports the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

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