



WhistleStop

Preserving the Legacy of America's 33rd President

SPRING 2009

TrumanLibrary.org



This year marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of Harry S. Truman in Lamar, Missouri, on May 8, 1884. See pages 4-5 for a schedule of Truman125 event highlights.

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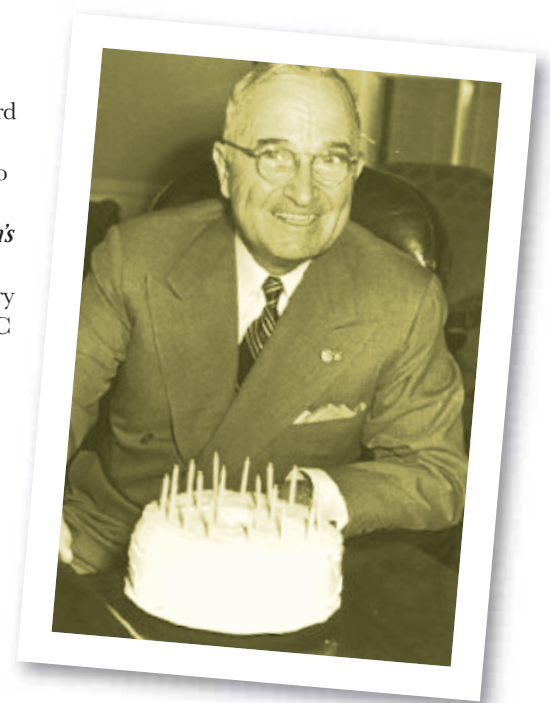
Friends of Truman Library Provide Leadership and Funds for Truman 125

May 8, 2009 marks the 125th birthday of Harry Truman, and his presidential library is preparing a celebration worthy of America's 33rd commander in chief. Special events include the premiere of a new photo exhibit, *Truman 125: A Life in Photographs*; the reopening of *Truman's Working Office*; a Salute to Captain Harry and the Doughboys of Battery D; and a special appearance by ABC political commentator Cokie Roberts at the Truman Library Institute's annual fundraising dinner, *Wild About Harry*.

Truman125, as the yearlong celebration has been called, is supported by a lead gift from longtime friends of the Truman Library, Norman and Elaine Polsky of Kansas City, Mo.

Their generous gift of \$100,000 was a personal one, said Mr. Polsky, a veteran of World War II. In 1945, he was a Marine officer preparing for the invasion of Japan. "I am alive today because of difficult decisions made by President Truman," Polsky said. "I am so pleased to play this role in **Truman125**. I can think of no better way to salute my former commander in chief than by supporting the events honoring his 125th birthday."

Other major gifts supporting **Truman125** have been generously contributed by Beth K. Smith; Mary and John Hunkeler; Daniel Weary, Courtney S. Turner Charitable Trust; and by Truman125 Honorary Chairs Adele and Donald Hall.



Truman 125 events include the premiere of a new photo exhibit and the reopening of *Truman's Working Office*.

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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.

MUSEUM ADMISSION

\$8 adults; \$7 seniors 65+
\$3 youth 6-15; 0-5 FREE
Truman Library Institute members
admitted free. Group discounts available.

WhistleStop is published by the Truman Library Institute as a service to volunteers, friends and members.

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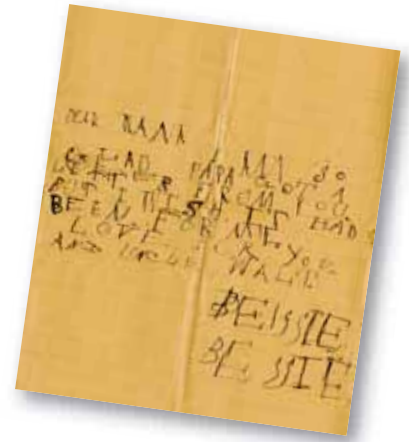
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In Brief

Bess Truman Family Papers Opened for Research

On February 17, 2009—the 85th birthday of the late Margaret Truman Daniel—the Truman Library opened for research documents from the Bess Wallace Truman family. Found among the papers of the former First Lady's mother (Madge Gates Wallace), grandfather (George Porterfield Gates) and youngest brother (Fred Wallace) was the earliest known example of Bess Wallace's handwriting (shown above). Also included in the opening was President Truman's personal ledger book (1945-53) and newly declassified documents from the Psychological Strategy Board Files. **To learn more, visit the Research pages at TrumanLibrary.org.**



White House Event Shines Light on Truman Legacy

Clifton Truman Daniel, Truman Library Institute honorary chairman and grandson of President Truman, participated in the Dec. 15 White House Hanukkah Reception. In his remarks, President Bush called attention to Truman's 1948 decision to recognize Israel and thanked the Truman Library for the loan of the Truman menorah, given to President Truman by Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. The leaders' grandsons are pictured at left lighting the Truman menorah together.

Truman on His Way Back to White House

On the eve of Presidents' Day, C-Span announced the results of its Survey of Presidential Leadership, reconfirming Truman's place among our nation's greatest leaders, right behind Lincoln, Washington, and the Roosevelts. Although President Obama was not among those surveyed, he apparently concurs: he has asked to borrow the Truman Library's Frank O. Salisbury portrait of Truman (right), which will now hang in the White House Cabinet Room.



International Delegations Tour Museum



The appointment book of Truman Library Director Michael Devine was filled with international visits in February, beginning with Jane Redman from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, followed by a visit from the chief curator from the

Hermitage Museum (formerly the palace of Catherine the Great) in St. Petersburg, Russia. On February 16, Dr. Devine hosted an international delegation of educators representing 13 nations (including China, Liberia, Mexico, Romania, Portugal, Tajikistan, and Vietnam); a week later, he guided a private museum tour for public officials from Korea traveling with the Asian Affairs Center at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Truman125

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The Hall family name is synonymous with philanthropy—it has been said that no two people have done more for the Greater Kansas City community, and that includes the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

“The Halls have been outstanding supporters of the Truman Library for many years,” said William C. Nelson, chairman of the Truman Library Institute’s board of directors. “Through the Hall Family Foundation, Adele and Don generously contributed lead gifts for the *Classroom for Democracy Campaign*, *Truman Working Office Campaign*, and traveling exhibitions, such as *Churchill and the Great Republic*. Their vision and dedication have, quite literally, helped bring Truman’s presidential library into the 21st century.”

Joining the Halls on the Truman125 Honorary Committee are Clifton Truman Daniel, President Truman’s eldest grandson; author David McCullough; U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill; U.S. Representatives Ike



Norman and Elaine Polsky

Skelton, Dennis Moore, and Emanuel Cleaver; and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, to name a few.

“We are grateful for the outpouring of support for **Truman125**,” said Nelson. “The yearlong celebration will be one of inspiration, reflection and action as the Truman Library Institute continues advancing the mission of the Truman Library and the legacy of one of our nation’s greatest leaders.”

Truman125 Honorary Chairs

Adele and Donald Hall

Truman125 Honorary Committee

U.S. Senator Kit Bond
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3 Minutes with Clifton Truman Daniel



If your grandfather were alive today, he’d be turning 125 on May 8. What would he think of the world today?

CTD: The man who said there was nothing new in the world but the history you didn’t know would not be surprised at the state of the world. Disappointed, hopeful, but not surprised.

What would he likely say about the inauguration of America’s first African American president?

CTD: “It’s about damn time.”

What is your grandfather’s greatest legacy?

CTD: He might say the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. I say it was upholding the ideal that an ordinary citizen can rise to the highest office in the land and, through faith, loyalty, honesty, empathy, and determination, stand the world on its ear.

Having faced historically low approval ratings in office, would he be surprised to learn that he’s now ranked as our nation’s fifth-greatest leader?

CTD: First off, he’d say he was just doing his job. Then he’d argue with you about the ranking system.

His presidential library has changed a lot since he last sat in his office facing the courtyard. What do you think he’d be most proud of?

CTD: He’d be most proud of the fact that at its core it hasn’t changed at all. It is the premier educational institution he always dreamed it would be. You want to irritate him, put up another statue of him somewhere.

Did Harry Truman have a favorite birthday cake?

CTD: I don’t know, but whatever it was, I always ate more of it than he did.

Clifton Truman Daniel is the eldest grandson of Harry Truman and serves as honorary chairman of the Truman Library Institute.

125 YEARS AND AMERICA IS



Wild about Harry!

The Truman Library Institute's 10th annual fundraising dinner, **Wild About Harry**, will be the premiere gala event celebrating the 125th birthday of President Harry S. Truman.

Wild About Harry will take place Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the historic Muehlebach Hotel in vibrant downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The evening will begin at 6:15 p.m. with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner and entertainment by a line-up of special guests, including author and political commentator Cokie Roberts and Clifton Truman Daniel, eldest grandson of President Truman.

The event is led by honorary co-chairs Adele and Donald Hall, who have been outstanding supporters of the Truman Library for many years. "We are honored to serve as the honorary chairs of **Wild About Harry** and all events celebrating President Truman's 125th birthday," said the Halls. "The Truman Library plays an important role in our democracy and in the education of our young people, and we are encouraging our friends and colleagues to join us in supporting this vital mission." Adele and Donald Hall are joined in their leadership of **Wild About Harry** by event co-chairs Page Branton Reed and Shawsie Branton, lifelong friend of the late Margaret Truman Daniel.

"Last year, **Wild About Harry** raised more than \$350,000 in support of Truman's presidential library," said Truman Library Institute executive vice president Alex Burden. "This year, in celebration of Truman's 125th birthday, we're raising the bar and hope to surpass last year's mark." Event proceeds provide vital funding for the world-class exhibitions, public forums, and nationally acclaimed educational programs of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Sponsorship packages for **Wild About Harry** start at just \$1,000; individual tickets cost \$150 and are on sale now. To be part of this memorable event, visit TrumanLibrary.org or contact Kim Rausch at (816) 268-8237 or kim.rausch@nara.gov.



"I am excited to be part of Wild About Harry, the well-deserved celebration of President Truman. All of the activities and exhibits at his presidential library fill me with eager anticipation for my visit."

— COKIE ROBERTS



Photo by Bruce Matthews

Honorary Chairs Adele and Donald Hall

Special thanks to our Oval Office Underwriters:

Mary Shaw Branton and Family



Adele and Donald Hall

Norman and Elaine Polsky Family Supporting Foundation - GKCCF



A Bugle Call to Battery D Descendants

Veterans Day Salute to Captain Harry and the Battery D Doughboys

In celebration of Harry Truman's 125th birthday, the Truman Library Institute will honor Veterans Day 2009 by reviving a tradition that Truman treasured: The Battery D Reunion. For the first time ever, the Truman Library will bring together Battery D descendants, leading Truman historians, and WWI authorities to reflect on the living legacy of "Captain Harry."

This special **Truman125** event will include a fascinating program and panel discussion, staged dramatizations of personal letters from the trenches, and a reception for surviving descendants of Battery D.

WILDER THAN EVER ABOUT HARRY!

Celebrate HST's Birthday Weekend, May 7-9

Please join us for these special highlights. For more birthday weekend details and a complete listing of upcoming events, visit TrumanLibrary.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

10 a.m. - Live from the Truman Library...

The Walt Bodine Show, KCUR 89.3 FM's popular call-in radio show, will broadcast live from the Museum galleries. Listeners will be invited to share their personal memories of President Truman.

Champagne Toast

By Invitation Only - Premier members and special guests of the Truman Library Institute are invited to a private reception and tour.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009

Special Museum Admission

On Truman's 125th birthday, Museum admission is just \$1.25.

Exhibition Premiere | Truman125: A Life in Photographs

Organized by the Truman Library, this fascinating new exhibit will present 125 images – from the iconic to the never-before-seen – that will inspire and provide insight on Harry Truman's life and times.

9 a.m. - Presidential Wreath Laying

All are welcome to view a national tradition, the President's ceremonial wreath laying honoring the birth of Harry S. Truman. No admission is charged for the wreath laying.

Exhibition Reopening | Truman's Working Office

Step inside the newly constructed limestone pavilion to experience the recently restored office of President Truman.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009

125-foot Birthday Cake

Beginning at 9 a.m., Museum volunteers will serve birthday cake – 125 feet of it! Come have a piece of the fun; admission is just \$1.25 all day long.

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. - Puppet Show Premiere | Happy Birthday, Harry!

A charming new puppet show introduces children to young Harry, the ordinary boy who would become an extraordinary world leader.

11 a.m. – "The Truman & Wallace Families of Independence"

Many landmarks in Independence are named for the relatives of Harry and Bess Truman. Join Archivist Tammy Kelly as she shakes the family trees to share rarely seen letters, artifacts and photographs from the Truman Library's collections.



Answer the Call!

Did your ancestor serve under Captain Harry in World War I? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

1. Visit TrumanLibrary.org for a complete Battery D roster.
2. Battery D descendants: please complete the online information and registration form or contact Susan Medler at (800) 833-1225.
3. Mark your calendar for Veterans Day Weekend and the "Salute to Captain Harry and the Battery D Doughboys."

Truman Traveler

Truman Legacy Symposium
Truman Little White House
Key West, FL | May 15-17, 2009



Please join us for an unforgettable weekend honoring the legacy of Harry S. Truman.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Your experience begins with an afternoon barbecue on the lawn of the Truman Little White House. In the evening, you're invited to a private reception and rededication of the Truman Little White House. Before you head back to your hotel, enjoy a guided tour of Truman's favorite presidential retreat.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

The 7th Annual Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium examines "Truman and the Congress: A Conflicted Legacy." Donald Ritchie, from the U.S. Senate Historical Office, is keynoter; other presenters include leading Truman scholars and former Truman aides. Formal activities conclude at 2 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Explore Key West on your own time and at your own pace – from historical tours to fishing excursions to sea kayaking.

COST

Travelers are responsible for travel expenses and arrangements. Symposium fees will be waived for Truman Library Institute members.

LEARN MORE

For more details or assistance with customized vacation packages, please call Judy Turner at (800) 833-1225.

Welcome New Members

The Truman Library Institute gratefully acknowledges the following new membership gifts, received between Aug. 29, 2008 and Feb. 25, 2009.

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Now more than ever, your membership provides an unbeatable value. With three new exhibitions in 2009, monthly Talkin' Truman programs, and other special events honoring Truman's 125th birthday, a basic membership pays for itself after just two Museum visits and some distinctive shopping in the Museum Store. Plus, your membership provides vital funding for world-class traveling exhibits, outstanding forums and public programs, and the Truman Library's nationally acclaimed educational programs. To upgrade your membership or review your benefits, please call Kim Rausch at (816) 268-8237. Thank you for your support.

Urgent Needs



Each year, nearly 20,000 young people participate in one of the Truman Library's nationally acclaimed education programs, including The White House Decision Center. But the number of school children able to participate is dramatically dropping, due to the economic crisis. As district budgets are being slashed, kids are seeing school closures, teacher layoffs and a freeze on field trips.

"We're getting a lot of calls," said Mark Adams, education director for the Truman Library. "Public schools are really struggling, and teachers are calling to see if scholarship funds are available."

The Truman Library Institute is responding to the need with a new initiative, *Partners in Education*. Through this new funding program, scholarships are being extended to schools and students most in need, and we're looking for friends and donors who can help. Even smaller gifts make a difference. For instance...

- **\$12 covers the admission for one student attending The White House Decision Center.**
- **\$36 will send 3 students to The White House Decision Center.**
- **\$50 will admit an entire 4th grade class to the Museum.**
- **\$99 covers round-trip charges for shipping the Truman Footlocker to an out-of-state classroom.**
- **\$300 will pay for a school's bus transportation to the Truman Library.**

Harry Truman understood that the future of our democracy depends on the education of our children. If you are able to make a *Partners in Education* gift, please use the enclosed gift envelope, or contact Judy Turner at (816) 268-8246 or judy.turner@nara.gov. Thank you.

Tax Incentives for IRA Gifts Extended through 2009

Act now to take advantage of a newly extended tax break that can benefit both you and the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

Congress has temporarily extended the legislation that allows you to make a tax-free gift from your IRA accounts. If you are age 70½ or older and do not need all or a part of the distributions from your IRA, you can make tax-free gifts totaling up to \$100,000 in 2009 from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities. If you and your spouse each have an IRA account, you can each make up to \$100,000 in gifts. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for IRA gifts,

you will not be required to pay income tax

on any amounts you distribute to qualified charities, including the Truman Library Institute.

You can use your IRA to upgrade your membership, make a special gift in honor of Harry Truman's 125th birthday, or satisfy or prepay a current pledge. To learn more, contact Alex Burden, executive vice president at the Truman Library Institute, at (816) 268-8243 or alex.burden@nara.gov.



New National Archives Exhibit Is a Primer on Becoming President



On Feb. 7, 2009, the Truman Library opened **School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents**, an exhibition focusing on the early education of American presidents from Herbert Hoover through George W. Bush. The exhibition, organized by the National Archives and Records Administration, will run through Aug. 30, 2009.



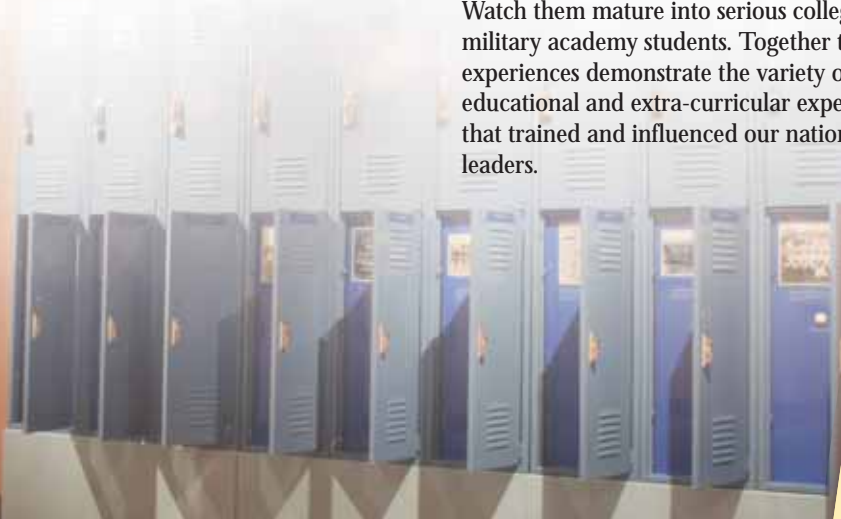
The family-friendly, multimedia exhibit engages visitors of every age and interest. More than 150 documents, artifacts, photos and films drawn from the collections of the National Archives Presidential Libraries reveal fascinating details about children that would grow up to be presidents. Journey back to a time of one-room school houses, large public schools, and private tutors. See these future presidents as young sports stars, choir members, and musicians. Watch them mature into serious college and military academy students. Together these experiences demonstrate the variety of educational and extra-curricular experiences that trained and influenced our nation's future leaders.



Exhibit Highlights

- Discover why John F. Kennedy missed 65 of the term's 88 days in kindergarten.
- Read Richard Nixon's 8th-grade autobiography.
- Read what Harry Truman wrote in middle school about "Courage."
- Peek at report cards for Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, and Jimmy Carter.
- Learn what the presidents really thought of their teachers.
- Learn which president, while in college, received offers to play professional football.

Learn more and read related articles at TrumanLibrary.org.



Did You Know?
Fourteen of the 17 twentieth-century presidents were reared in small towns, including Harry Truman. Can you name the three big-city boys?

ANSWER: T. Roosevelt, Taft, Kennedy

Program Highlights



Evolution of the National Security Council | 2.2.09

Dr. D. Robert Worley provided the keynote for an exploration of the National Security Council's role in protecting the nation. Since Harry Truman, presidents have structured the NSC's role differently, and Worley drew on these vastly different examples to demonstrate what works, what doesn't, and what needs to happen going forward. Nearly 200 attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the Truman Center for Governmental Affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Kansas City Public Library.

Presidents' Day Weekend | 02.09

The Museum welcomed more than 1,320 visitors for events spanning Presidents' Day weekend. On Feb. 13, Patricia Krider from the National First Ladies Library delivered a talk titled *Fabulous First Ladies* in honor of America's 33rd first lady, Bess Truman. The following day saw the second in a year-long series of *Talkin' Truman* programs; with a nod to Valentine's Day, the program's focus was the love letters of Harry and Bess. On Presidents' Day, 590 visitors (and two television stations) stopped by for a taste of White House history. Volunteers served home-baked presidential cookie recipes spanning four centuries. Harry Truman, portrayed by Niel Johnson, greeted Museum visitors and held mock press conferences.



National History Day | 2.28.09

Each year, nearly 800,000 students compete for gold in the National History Day contest, the nation's oldest and most highly regarded humanities contest for grades 6-12. The first round of competition is played out in regional venues across the country, including the Truman Library, thanks to the education staff, who train teachers, coach students, and organize the regional competition. This year, more than 400 earnest, informed and anxious students performed or exhibited in the regional competition; 66 were advanced to the Missouri semi-finals.



Photo by Amy Elrod

Inaugural Broadcast | 1.20.09

It was standing room only when the Truman Library aired CNN's live coverage of Barack Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20. Those wishing to witness presidential history in Truman's presidential library were welcomed to the viewing free of charge; more than 300 people took us up on the offer. The historic inauguration had national reporters and pundits looking back to another remarkable election and inaugural, Harry Truman's in 1948: in the weeks surrounding President Obama's swearing in, Truman was mentioned in cable and TV news programs more than 1,400 times.



HARRY S. TRUMAN
LIBRARY INSTITUTE

www.trumanlibrary.org

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Tax-deductible donations and bequests may be made to the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO 64050-1798

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