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Lessons from Eisenhower & D-Day
October 14, 2015 - Gettysburg Pennsylvania
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Camp David— *The True Story*

Last month's newsletter erroneously stated that Camp David was named for Dwight Eisenhower's father. So many friends wrote back telling us it was named for Ike's grandson, David, that we did some research to get the truth. Our friend and attorney, Bob Teeter, who went to school with David Eisenhower (the grandson), wrote directly to David, who replied with this story.

Back in the early 50s, the executive office of the President had acquired a number of military assets which the President had the prerogative to name. They included a rail car, a plane, a camp, and several boats. Ike named the plane and train for Colorado State flowers, in honor of Mamie [who grew up in Colorado]. He had four grandchildren: David, Barbara Anne, Susan, and Mary Jean. Ike named the camp "David" for him, and three boats for the girls—the "Barbara Anne," "Susie E," and the "Mary Jean." Dave never asked, but feels that the Camp was named for him by his Grandfather. If it was not, then he was the only one of Ike's four grandchildren not to have a Navy asset named for a grandchild, and he thinks that is unlikely.

Last week, we attended a panel discussion where Eisenhower's three granddaughters were asked that very same question about naming the camp and boats, and they verified David's story. Their memories of their grandparents were touching, as they recalled celebrating holidays in the White House and then living in Gettysburg just across the road from Ike and Mamie.

David Eisenhower also explained that any President can rename the Camp and other facilities, and many have considered doing so. Both of the Presidents Bush sounded him out about renaming the camp. David said he "approved" the renaming, of course, but nothing ever came of it."

Thank you, Bob Teeter, for sharing the real story. David's letter also gives us more insights into the thinking of one of our favorite leaders.

[Ike's letter to friend "Swede" Hazlett, July 21, 1953]



August 1, 1954 Ike with son, John Eisenhower, and grandson, David Eisenhower, putt on the lawn of the main lodge at Camp David



November 22, 1955 Cabinet meeting held at Camp David

Gettysburg Mourns Loss of Jim Getty



Our beloved Lincoln interpreter, Jim Getty, died September 26, 2015. A faculty member in our "Lessons from Lincoln" leadership workshops since 1989, Jim's portrayal of Lincoln was so realistic that people often wrote in their evaluations that they would work on becoming better leaders because of "what Lincoln told me" in the final day of class. Thank you, Jim, for your consideration and scholarship in tailoring every class, and for your personal friendship.

A wonderful note from Matthew Stafford, VP for Academic Affairs at Air University in Alabama, expresses our thoughts so much better than we can:

"There was so much more to Jim than his wonderful impersonation. Jim was a great scholar, constantly researching and learning more about our 16th President so that he could make stronger connections between Lincoln and modern audiences. "Off stage," he had a tremendous sense of humor and deep respect for those who selflessly serve our nation. He truly cared and was grateful for the opportunity to help people find in themselves their own greatness; their own "Lincoln." Everyone who ever met Jim was better for the experience. A tragic loss..."

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