



NEWS RELEASE

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'Celebration Weekend' coming to Hoover Campus

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Oct. 8, 2014 – Fans of Herbert Hoover and history buffs alike will have plenty to see and do during 'Celebration Weekend', Oct. 23 through 26 at the Hoover Campus in West Branch. The 25th marks the 50 year commemoration of the Hoover State funeral in West Branch, where an estimated 75,000 people came to pay their final respects to Herbert Clark Hoover, 31st President of the United States.

"We're celebrating Hoover's life and legacy this week," said Jerry Fleagle, executive director of the Hoover Presidential Foundation. "For us, it's more like a Celebration Week, as we're putting together a long list of programs and events to honor President and Lou Henry Hoover's life."

Members of the Hoover family will be returning to West Branch and participating in many of the events.

"On Saturday, Oct. 18, Allan Hoover III and Leslie Hoover Lauble (Herbert Hoover's great-grandchildren), will take part in the Uncommon Student Award program, held in Figge Auditorium at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum," said Fleagle. The program awards \$30,000 to high school seniors from across the state. "On the 20th, Leslie will spend the day relating Hoover history at Herbert Hoover Middle School and Lou Henry Hoover Elementary in Waterloo."

In other events, Andrew Hoover, the late President's only living grandson, and Margaret and Alexander Hoover, great-grandchildren of the President, will visit Herbert Hoover Elementary School in Iowa City as part of the school's 60th year celebration. Margaret Hoover, Clifton Truman Daniel and John Taft will speak at the Foundation's Celebration Banquet on Oct. 23. The three are all descendants of U.S. Presidents and will focus on carrying on the legacy of their presidential ancestors. Tickets for the event remain on sale through Oct. 19 at the Foundation's website.

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“The main event on Oct. 25 is the 50 year commemoration of Hoover’s State Funeral,” said Fleagle. “It will be an uplifting program, incorporating elements of the State Funeral from 50 years ago, while integrating new honors.”

The guest speaker is Kenneth Quinn, former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia and current President of the World Food Prize. Special musical selections will be performed by the Eastern Iowa Brass Band and the eloquent and moving eulogy given 50 years ago by Dr. D. Elton Trueblood will be presented by Quaker minister Ruthie Tippen, formerly of West Branch. Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the White House, the Kingdom of Belgium and the Hoover family. The program begins at 3 p.m.

The morning of the 25th honors Hoover’s food relief efforts. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at the West Branch High School to pack meals for the Hoover Hunger Project, a joint effort of the West Branch Lions Club and the Hoover Presidential Foundation. Their goal is to package 100,000 meals for needy families. The meals will be used here in Iowa along with a portion to be shipped overseas. Anyone interested in volunteering or pledging financial support should contact the Foundation at 319-643-5327.

Also on October 25, a park ranger from Herbert Hoover National Historic Site will discuss archival photos and documents that illustrate the little-known legacy of Herbert Hoover. The presentation begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Figge Auditorium of Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. The presentation is free.

Herbert Hoover, the nation’s 31st President, was known as ‘The Great Humanitarian’ and is credited with saving over 10 million people world-wide from starvation during the course of his life.

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