



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jerry Fleagle, IOM, CAE
Executive Director
Office: 319-643-5327
JFleagle@HooverPF.org

Herbert Hoover Statue dedicated in West Branch

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Aug. 5, 2017 – A statue of Herbert Hoover was dedicated today at the West Branch elementary school that bears his name. 53 years ago, the President dedicated the school on his 80th birthday. Today, he is remembered again.

Connie Laughlin, a secretary at the school, originally came up with the idea and led the project to its completion. “A year ago at Hoover-Days, I spoke to the Hoover Family and the Hoover Presidential Foundation board, asking for their support, and I received it,” Laughlin said. “After last August, all of my donations were matched by the family and the Foundation, dollar for dollar.” Laughlin is excited that the students can sit with the Great Humaitarian and look at him almost eye to eye.

Leslie Hoover-Lauble, Hoover’s great grand-daughter, spoke on behalf of the Hoover family. “Although great grand-dad was not a man who chased accolades or recognition as you’ve heard already, I think he would be very pleased with the statue (which I haven’t seen yet), but I think he would like it,” she said. “The ability for a child or adult to sit next to him is such a wonderful thing. I’m so grateful to Connie and what she did, to get lots of dreams to come true, and thank you all, who have made this come true.”

Steve Maxon of Max-Cast Sculpture and Foundry Services in Kalona has been hard at work on a statue of Herbert Hoover for display at Hoover Elementary School in West Branch. It has been 63 years since the school was dedicated to its namesake. Hoover said, “There is no greater honor that can come to a man than to have a school named after him.” This statue is a symbol of Hoover’s passion for the enrichment of children and the way he felt about the importance of education. It depicts Hoover sitting on a park bench with an arm outstretched. It’s designed in such a way that one may sit on the bench next to the president and take photos.

The work of Steve Maxon and his wife, Doris Park, is sought from coast to coast, and they are known for producing beautiful bronze works. A statue of Abraham Lincoln at Illinois College is among their most impressive. “The Lincoln statue is one of my favorites of all time,” said Maxon. Another more local wonder is the statue of Hayden Fry that was recently installed in front of the Coralville Convention and Visitor Bureau.

The statue is on permanent display just outside the front doors of Hoover Elementary in West Branch. Visitors are welcome to sit with the President, take selfies, and are encouraged to share them at #Hoover31.





About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is a private nonprofit organization for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The Foundation fosters the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas and values of Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States.

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