



NEWS RELEASE

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\$1 Million Donation Fuels Historic Transformation of Herbert Hoover Museum and Library

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – December 13, 2023 – The Hoover Presidential Foundation announced a contribution of \$1 million from Joanne and the late Ernest Buresh of Cedar Rapids. This extraordinary gift propelled the Timeless Values | Modern Experience campaign to reaching roughly 73 percent of the \$20 million goal, aimed at a comprehensive and state-of-the-art makeover of the Herbert Hoover Museum and Library. Ernie and Joanne Buresh's generous million-dollar contribution marks a significant milestone in the campaign's fundraising efforts.

The Buresh family's engagement with the museum extends well over 50 years, as Joanne and Ernie visited with the family when their daughters, Wendy and Sandra, were young. Their desire to contribute financially came as Ernie and Joanne were inspired by the philanthropic gesture of longtime friends, F. Forbes "Ozzie" Olberg and Ann Olberg, who had contributed to one of the existing spaces in the museum. Ernie found the act admirable and felt compelled to support the only President born in Iowa – Herbert Hoover.

Joanne shared, "Ernie admired President Hoover for all that he did for our country and the world, recognizing that he and his wife deserved more recognition for their intellectual and humanitarian contributions that have often gone unnoticed." Ernie, a staunch supporter of anything "Iowa based," believed in giving credit where it's due and saw an opportunity to honor the Hoovers' legacy.

In April 2022, Ernie Buresh, a well-respected figure in the banking industry, passed away at the age of 95. Joanne, now 93, recognizes the importance of continuing Ernie's legacy and ensuring their name is forever associated with a place they both enjoyed, with their family, over the years. The Buresh family's love for travel and a commitment to doing things together as a family resonate with the values exemplified by the Hoovers.

To honor Ernie's memory and the family's values, Joanne has designated their donation to support the "London Life" exhibit within the museum. This exhibit will offer a glimpse into the personal side of the Hoovers' lives, showcasing the parallel between their own family experiences and the Hoovers'.

Joanne and Ernie's love story began in 1949 on a blind date, and they were married later that year. Over the years, they lived in Swisher, Anamosa, and finally Cedar Rapids, where Joanne currently resides. Joanne, a dedicated community volunteer, spent time during their years in Anamosa contributing her time (as did Ernie) to supporting the community hospital, as well as volunteering for the Heart Association, the Cancer Society, and other local entities. Their commitment to community service and philanthropy, and their belief in the transformative power of history and education, align perfectly with the goals of the Herbert Hoover Museum and Library's "Timeless Values, Modern Experience" campaign.

The Buresh family's donation represents a significant step towards achieving the campaign's overall goal, and their commitment to the project is a testament to the enduring legacy of Herbert Hoover and the importance of preserving history for future generations.



The Foundation and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum extend their deepest gratitude to Joanne and the late Ernie Buresh for their exceptional support, dedication, and impact on the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum Renovation project. Their remarkable generosity has paved the way for an enhanced museum experience that will inspire generations to come.

About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.

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<<photo: Ernie and Joanne Buresh>>
