Why is Dwight Eisenhower a Notable Kansan?

Abilene High School baseball team

Abilene, Kansas
Oct. 25, 1910.

Sen. J. L. Bristow,
Salina, Kans.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th instant has just been received. I wish to thank you sincerely for the favor you have shown me in appointing me to West Point.

In regard to the information desired; I am just nineteen years and eleven days of age, and have been a resident of Abilene, Kans. for eighteen years.

Thanking you again, I am

Very truly yours,
Dwight Eisenhower

Eisenhower’s thank you note to Senator Joseph L. Bristow for his appointment to West Point.


Because no man is really a man who has lost out of himself all of the boy, I want to speak first of the dreams of a barefoot boy. Frequently... he sees himself as the town policeman... but always in his dreams is that day when he finally comes home to a welcome from his own home town. Because today that dream of mine of 45 years or more ago has been realized beyond the wildest stretches of my own imagination, I come here, first, to thank you, to say the proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene...

—General Dwight Eisenhower

... To make this talk I have come to the President's office in the White House. ... I felt that, in speaking from the house of Lincoln, of Jackson and of Wilson, my words would better convey both the sadness I feel in the action I was compelled today to take and the firmness with which I intend to pursue this course until the orders of the Federal Court at Little Rock can be executed without unlawful interference.

—President Dwight Eisenhower

President Eisenhower radio and television address announcing the sending of the 101st Airborne to Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas.


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