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The Hauenstein Center & President Gerald Ford

Ralph Hauenstein's Friendship and a Partnership



Hauenstein Center founding benefactor Ralph W. Hauenstein (right) knew Former President Gerald R. Ford since the 1940s and cherished their friendship.

President Ford had this to say about the Center:

"I am pleased with the extremely successful partnership between the Ford Presidential Library and Museum, the Ford Foundation, and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. The Hauenstein Center is making its mark with creative programs that help Americans see beyond the headlines. I'm delighted with the work Gleaves Whitney and his dedicated staff are doing to increase our understanding of courageous, effective leadership. It is especially rewarding to work with a presidential studies center so closely associated with my good friend, Ralph Hauenstein, whose is an inspiring example of a life well lived."

President Ford also wrote a letter honoring Mr. Hauenstein:

Dear Friends,

I am proud to join you in congratulating my friend, Ralph Hauenstein, on the publication of *Intelligence Was My Line: Inside Eisenhower's Other Command*. Ralph is a true American hero, having served our nation with distinction since the 1930s.

His role in the Second World War was particularly important to the success of the Allies under General Dwight D. Eisenhower in the European Theater of Operations. As Chief of the Intelligence Branch, U.S. Army, Colonel Hauenstein was an unheralded hero during Operation Overlord, when the Allies began their assault on Fortress Europe. He was also among the first American soldiers into liberated Paris, war-torn Germany, and Nazi concentration camps.

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Ralph's experiences in World War II shaped his outlook, as it shaped mine and so many in our generation. He understood the importance of international cooperation and of the untiring pursuit of peace. At the same time, he became a successful international businessman, using the same skills that had aided General Eisenhower at SHAEF and ETUSA.

I am delighted that Ralph Hauenstein and Don Markle have teamed up to tell the untold story of Ralph's service during the Second World War. I am impressed by the book's factual accuracy, humorous stories, and insights into the way the allies worked together to win the war in Europe.

I regret that I cannot be with you in person, back in Washington, D.C., to see Ralph again and to celebrate the publication of this wonderful book. But Betty and I wish our 94-year-old friend Godspeed, and now are looking forward to the next volume of his eventful life to come out.

Warmest regards,

Gerald R. Ford