

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
Meeting 4/25/02 (APPROVED 9/12/02)

Commissioners in Attendance:

Rocco C. Siciliano, Chairman
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Vice Chairman
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Ted Stevens
Representative Dennis Moore
Representative Mac Thornberry
Alfred Geduldig
Susan Banes Harris

Commissioners Absent:

Representative Jerry Moran
D. David Eisenhower

Others in Attendance:

Susan Eisenhower (President, Eisenhower World Affairs Institute), Kim Rullman (for Representative Moran), James Chang (Senator Inouye), Ed Danielson (Senator Reed), Ashleigh de la Torre (Senator Roberts), Mark Davis (Senator Stevens), Howard Bauleke (Representative Moore), Jonah Siegellak (Representative Moore), Erin DeCuir (Representative Thornberry), Melynda Clarke (GSA), Professor Louis Galambos (Chair, Legacy Committee), Carl Reddel (Acting Executive Director), Evan C. Thompson, Drew Ross, Michael Richman, Celesa Gibbs, Eileen Krichten

Chairman Siciliano called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcoming the Commissioners and guests.

Minutes of the February 28, 2002 meeting were reviewed with Senator Inouye moving to approve. Commissioner Geduldig seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Siciliano reported on his appearance before the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC) on March 1, 2002. Following his remarks to the Commission, Charles Atherton moved to approve recommendation of an Area I site designation for the Eisenhower Memorial. The motion was approved unanimously. The NCMC recommendation has been made to the Secretary of the Interior. Following the Secretary's concurrence and submission to the Congress, there is a 150-day period for the Congress to approve and then submit authorizing legislation to the President.

The Chairman introduced Professor Louis Galambos of Johns Hopkins University, editor of the recently completed series, *The Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower*. Dr. Galambos has agreed to chair a Legacy Committee, which will undertake a six-month study and prepare interim reports and a final concept paper to identify for memorialization the salient characteristics of President Eisenhower as a multi-faceted, lifelong public servant.

Professor Galambos described the projected work of the Legacy Committee. He intends to address three facets of Eisenhower's legacy: his military achievements, his presidential

leadership and his role as a public figure, particularly during the Cold War. The committee will consist of experts who have studied Eisenhower extensively and/or have known him personally. Professor Galambos requested the attendees to suggest the names of possible committee members.

Susan Eisenhower asked Professor Galambos if his Committee would be making specific proposals for the memorial design. He responded that they would not do so, but would attempt to distill the essence of the Eisenhower legacy by focusing on his values and ideals.

In response to a question from Senator Stevens about the completion of this study, Professor Galambos replied that the final report would be complete by the end of 2002.

Chairman Siciliano discussed the process of site selection for the memorial. He stated that eight potential sites had been identified in Area I, and a brochure providing details on these sites was given to the Commissioners. He noted that Commission consultant, Dr. Michael Richman, had conducted site tours for Commissioner Harris, as well as Andrew J. Demetriou, Evan C. Thompson, and Drew M. Ross.

Dr. Richman presented a map indicating the location of eight potential sites in Area I and reviewed the site brochure. He explained the process for site selection. He noted that site characteristics determine the design of a memorial and stressed the value of each Commissioner visiting the sites. He offered to conduct tours for the Commissioners. Dr. Richman also noted that information on potential sites in Area II was included in the brochure.

Commissioner Harris observed that she found the tour of the sites with Dr. Richman very useful and urged the other Commissioners to visit them as well.

Chairman Siciliano described President Eisenhower as the "number one public servant of the last century" and noted that both a living memorial and a "brick and mortar" memorial could be considered in parallel. He further stated that the Commission would consider and discuss specific proposals, but that such a decision was premature at this time.

Susan Eisenhower cited the relatively recent action in creating the Kennedy Center as an example of a readily recognized, high impact memorial. She also noted the recent action in the naming of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and the long-term existence of a statue of President Eisenhower in Alexandria, Virginia.

Senator Inouye remarked that as a result of having served on the Roosevelt Memorial Commission for 25 years, he had the opportunity to study all of the memorials in the city and several different concepts. He stated that the Roosevelt Commission reviewed at least a dozen concepts, from a Greek temple-like structure to a statue of the President. He asked that the Commissioners look seriously at the Eisenhower organizations' proposal. He stated that there are already 400 monuments in the city, with more than 50 in the Capitol building and that no one could name them all. He would prefer to see Dwight Eisenhower remembered for what he did and was.

Senator Stevens, author of a bill to create the Air Force Memorial, located near the Iwo Jima Memorial, cited the Air Force Memorial as an example in which opposing factions delayed the project. He stressed the need for unanimity before going forward with any plan.

Commissioner Geduldig stated that this discussion opened a new line of thinking. What is the legacy – is it Dwight Eisenhower standing for freedom, civil rights, etc.? Is it a series of events, laws, accomplishments? Is it both? He remarked on a living memorial being perceived as an elitist concept which may not reach the general public, using as examples the Fulbright Scholarship Program and the Woodrow Wilson Center. He noted that he himself stands in awe of Dwight D. Eisenhower's remarkable accomplishments but that young people today have short memories. He believes that the general public would learn more from an appropriate physical memorial than from a living memorial, but he remains open to hearing both sides and looks forward to the continuing discussion.

Susan Eisenhower commented that the Eisenhower organizations are nationwide and reach the grass roots, bringing outside voices to Washington, D.C.

Senator Stevens asked Ms. Eisenhower whether the building she proposed as a location was firm. She indicated that it was just an idea and that other places could be considered.

Senator Roberts commented that leadership was the key to Eisenhower's presidency and that his innate qualities – his humility, smile and leadership created a special public response. He questioned how one would convey those qualities to future generations. He mentioned that there is a World War II museum in Abilene, Kansas and that the University of Kansas has a leadership program based upon President Eisenhower's methods. He stated that the Commission should give the Eisenhower organizations' proposal serious consideration.

Representative Thornberry asked if building a statue at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building would require the same process of seeking Area I designation. After receiving an affirmative answer, he suggested that the Commission could look at options around that building.

Professor Galambos expressed his expectation that a memorial would and should capture both the public accomplishments and the personal qualities of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Chairman raised the question of scheduling a Commission meeting in Abilene in June. Senator Roberts noted that Dan Holt, Director of the Eisenhower Center, would not be available in June, so the timing was bad. Representative Moore stated that a meeting in Abilene would be nice, but at a later date. The Chairman asked Professor Galambos if a preliminary report of the Legacy Committee would be available by September. Professor Galambos indicated that a report would be available and the Chairman suggested that a Commission meeting be scheduled for September 12 or September 19 in D.C.

Carl Reddel, Acting Executive Director, gave a report on Commission operations, including a financial status and the upcoming office relocation.

Commissioner Harris requested that a memorialization chronology or model be made available for the next meeting.

Senator Inouye spoke to the importance of timing in regard to appropriations. He brought up the concerns of funding continuing programs and the question of matching funds.

Professor Galambos restated his need to recruit members for the Legacy Committee and asked that anyone having a name to suggest contact him or the Commission office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by:

Carl W. Reddel
Acting Executive Director