

MINUTES: DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 1, 2016

April 29, 2015: Room S-211, U.S. Capitol Building

Washington, D.C. 20004

Commissioners in Attendance:

Senator Pat Roberts  
Senator Joe Manchin  
Senator Gary Peters  
Representative Mike Thompson  
Susan Banes Harris  
Rocco C. Siciliano (via speakerphone)

Commissioners Absent:

Representative "Mac" Thornberry  
Representative Mike Simpson  
Representative Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Alfred Geduldig  
Bruce Cole

Commissioners' Staff:

Amber Kirchhoefer (Sen. Roberts)  
Jackie Cottrell (Sen. Roberts)  
Erin Burns (Sen. Manchin)  
Bentley Johnson (Sen. Peters)  
Jennifer Goedke (Rep. Thompson)  
Jonathan Halpern (Rep. Bishop)

EMC:

Carl Reddel  
Victoria Tigwell  
Dan Feil  
Joyce Jacobson  
Annemarie Spadafore  
Shannon Honl  
Asia Edwards  
Chris Cimko  
Pete Jordan  
Albert Cramer  
Josh Poorman  
Collin Figley

Special Counsel:

Andrew Demetriou, Esq.

Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) Support:

Rick Striner  
Lou Galambos  
Charles Sills  
Michael Williams

Advisory Committee:

General P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.)  
Ambassador Gil Robinson

Gilbane/General Services Administration (GSA):

Carol Moore

GSA:

Seth Greenfeld, Office of General Counsel

AECOM:

Maura McKendrick

OSL:

Tony Lynch  
Annie Bluhm  
Alexandra Krukowski

U.S. House of Representatives:

Machalagh Carr (House Oversight and Government Relations Committee)  
Amy Hall (S&I Group, House Appropriations Committee)  
Bill Klein (S&I Group, House Appropriations Committee)

Media:

Peggy McGlone (Washington Post)  
Brett Zongker (AP)  
Hannah Hess (Roll Call)

Others Present:

Dennis Moore (Former Congressman and Commissioner)  
Howard Bauleke (former Chief of Staff to Rep. Dennis Moore)

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

Interim Vice Chair Susan Banes Harris called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m., welcoming all in attendance, especially Senator Gary Peters, the newest member of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, former Commissioner and Congressman Dennis Moore, and General P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.), Co-Chairman of the Commission's Advisory Committee.

Vice Chair Harris directed the commissioners' attention to a letter in their packets from Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano. In this letter, dated April 29, Chairman Siciliano expressed his regret that he could not attend this meeting of the commission due to ill-health. Chairman Siciliano therefore requested Vice Chair Harris to preside at the meeting in his stead. Mr. Siciliano also expressed in this letter his support for new bipartisan leadership for the commission, specifically the nomination of Senator Roberts to serve as chair and Representative Thompson to serve as vice chair.

Vice Chair Harris expressed thanks to Chairman Siciliano on speaker phone for his tireless work on behalf of the commission. She observed that the authorizing legislation that established the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission requires the members of the Commission to select a Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, who shall not be members of the same political party.

Senator Manchin moved that Senator Pat Roberts be elected chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission and that Representative Mike Thompson be elected vice chairman. This motion was seconded by Senator Peters. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Harris thereupon requested Senator Roberts to chair the meeting.

Chairman Roberts, speaking to Mr. Siciliano, congratulated him on his many years of dedication to the work of the commission. Chairman Roberts informed Mr. Siciliano that his fellow commissioners have prepared for him a thank you gift consisting of a ceremonial gavel that is mounted, together with a plaque and an "I Like Ike" button, in a black bordered and glass-fronted presentation case.

Chairman Roberts welcomed Senator Peters to the commission and thanked his fellow commissioners for their vote of confidence in himself and Representative Thompson. He said that he had received expressions of confidence from members of the Eisenhower family and stated that his own goal in this project has always been the creation of a lasting and fitting tribute on the Mall to the favorite son of Kansas, Dwight D. Eisenhower. He observed that his own commitment to this project is enhanced by the fact that the proposed design for the Eisenhower Memorial includes imagery that captures Ike's boyhood home in Abilene. But he also observed that for all of its Kansas associations, the Eisenhower Memorial signifies a great deal more, because Dwight D. Eisenhower belongs to the world and to the ages. He affirmed that he is pleased with the memorial design, which has evolved through several refinements, and that — like Eisenhower on the eve of D-Day — he will accept nothing less than total victory, even though the process of completing the work of the commission may not be easy.

Chairman Roberts requested the commission to approve the draft minutes for the EMC meetings of June 19, 2013 and September 17, 2014. Commissioner Harris moved that the minutes be approved. Vice Chair Thompson seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

Chairman Roberts called upon Executive Architect Dan Feil to report on the status of design approvals for the memorial.

Mr. Feil reported that after the preliminary approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and re-revised concept approval from the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in October 2014, there have been three presentations to CFA on specific items such as landscape, inscriptions, art work and lighting. Some final items such

as tapestry details and the tapestry lighting will be presented to CFA in May. He stated that final design approvals from CFA and NCPC are anticipated within the next sixty to ninety days.

Directing the attention of commissioners to exhibits within their information packets, Mr. Feil observed that the same basic elements continue to comprise the memorial design that they supported at their September 17, 2014 meeting: a large metal tapestry of five bays, two free-standing columns, and two blocks of statuary and inscriptions. He noted that the bas relief for the presidential block has been changed to a world map in low relief behind the bronze statues of Eisenhower, one military advisor and two civilian advisors.

Mr. Feil noted that the inscriptions consist of substantial excerpts from three addresses: the Guildhall Address, the first Inaugural Address, and the Farewell Address. He added that the members of CFA were pleased that these inscriptions comprised significant and extended portions of the speeches rather than "snippets." He reported that one more presentation to CFA in May will take place before seeking the anticipated final approvals.

Chairman Roberts asked commissioners if they had any questions for EMC staff. Hearing none, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

## **Senator Roberts Remarks to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission Meeting**

**April 29, 2015**

Thank you, Susan. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank Rocco Siciliano for his years of dedicated service to this cause. I am sorry that he is not able to be with us in person today.

I would like to welcome Senator Peters to the Commission. Your first official action was very much appreciated – by me especially.

I would like to also thank my fellow commissioners for their vote of confidence in me to be the new Chairman of this Commission. I very much look forward to continuing our work in this new capacity.

I am also grateful to Congressman Mike Thompson for his willingness to serve as Vice Chair on the Commission.

Over the last few weeks, I have heard from members of the Eisenhower family and have been grateful for their expressions of confidence and encouragement to me.

I accept this new responsibility for the same reasons that I became a member of the Commission. It has always been my goal to ensure there is a lasting and fitting tribute on the national mall to Kansas' favorite son, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

For me, one of the most poignant aspects of this design is that it captures the President and General's boyhood home in Abilene, Kansas. And I believe that Ike would like that too as he said, "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene."

But this memorial isn't about my preferences or even about Kansas. Eisenhower didn't just belong to Kansas or even to the United States. He belongs to the world and the ages.

The design has gone through years of approval and refinement. Although I am pleased with the progress we've made, our work is not yet complete.

General Eisenhower told the troops before they stormed the beaches of Normandy, "Your task will not be an easy one." But he also said, "We will accept nothing less than full Victory!"

It has not been easy to get where we are with this memorial, but Ike never stopped because it wasn't easy. And neither will we.

This President, General, American, and Kansan represents the very best of our history and should be memorialized for the ages.

As Chairman, I will adopt General Eisenhower's words and work to obtain full Victory.