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Honoring a general and a president

Looking toward the memorial to Dwight Eisenhower

By Bob Dole - - *Sunday, June 4, 2017*

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

As June 6 — the 73rd anniversary of D-Day — approaches, our nation gratefully remembers Gen. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#), our 34th president and the heroic military leader who brought World War II to an end, starting with the D-Day Invasion in [Normandy](#), France on June 6, 1944.

This fall, something very special will happen in Washington, D.C., ground will be broken at the site of the National Eisenhower Memorial, commencing construction of the memorial honoring [Eisenhower](#) in his dual roles as president and general. This great American spent his entire life serving our nation — first as a brilliant, strategic military leader, effectively leading the allied forces to victory during World War II. Later, as our nation’s visionary 34th president, he led the post-war United States through the beginning of the Cold War to peace and prosperity.

From his West Point graduation in 1915, to his retirement from the presidency in 1961, [Eisenhower](#) served his country and the memorial reflects his legacies as both president of the United States and general of the U.S. Army. The memorial will reflect [Eisenhower](#)’s life in its entirety, from his youth in the heartland of Kansas, to his military service around the world, and his guiding hand as president as America emerged as a world power.

It’s exciting to see so many aspects of the memorial currently well underway. The General Services Administration has sought proposals from construction firms anxious to compete for the honor of building the first presidential memorial of the 21st century.

Heroic statues will feature [Eisenhower](#) addressing members of the 101st Airborne on the eve of D-Day, and also as president in the Oval Office, flanked by both civilian and military aides, depicting the delicate tension and balance necessary to keep the peace for eight years.

Grounded in the values of his upbringing in Kansas, a life-size statue of young Ike will sit atop a wall inscribed with his “Homecoming Speech” from 1945 where he proclaimed, “The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.”

Unique to [Eisenhower](#) was his global view of the world even before he became president.