

Written Statements for Submission to the National Capital Planning Commission
Project: Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
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Submissions for the October 2, 2014 NCPC Meeting

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9/30/2014

Statement of Professor Louis Galambos, Johns Hopkins University

Between 1971 and 2001, I spent a substantial part of my life editing 16 volumes of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* and studying his career as a military leader, author, head of a great university, first military commander of NATO, and President of the United States. Since we completed *The Papers*, I have been a consultant with the Eisenhower Memorial Commission on matters involving the Eisenhower Legacy.

On the basis of that long experience with Ike, I have come to the following conclusions: First, that Dwight Eisenhower provided the United States with very high orders of vision and leadership in both domestic and foreign relations. Second, that his services to the nation as a Supreme Commander in World War II and as President during some of the most dangerous years of the Cold War deserve memorialization in Washington, D.C. Third, that the site selected for the Eisenhower Memorial is uniquely suited to a man who started his life in the horse

and carriage years of the late nineteenth century and then ushered America and its military into the space age. Fourth, that the design by architect Frank Gehry does an outstanding job of capturing the values and accomplishments of a leader who never forgot that he came from the other side of the tracks in Abilene, Kansas. The compromises that Frank Gehry made as he designed the memorial should also remind us that Eisenhower believed that compromise and conciliation were the essence of the democratic society to which he dedicated his life.

October 1, 2014

Commissioners
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W., North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Dear Commissioners:

The students of Navarre Elementary in Toledo, Ohio are ready to visit the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C. Nearly two years after collecting donations and learning about President Eisenhower, the children have inquired if the memorial is complete and when they can view it online. Imagine their disappointment when I share that groundbreaking and approval for the design has not yet even occurred.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has worked tirelessly to address the needs and apprehensions of the opposition. The design of the memorial has been revised, concerns with the NCPC principles have been rebutted, and the public has learned that some with resistance to the project do not have altruistic intentions at heart.

The time to move forward with this memorial is now. Students are waiting to see the fruits of their labor, World War II veterans are waiting to honor their leader, and Eisenhower's legacy is waiting to take its proper place in our nation's capital. I strongly urge the Commissioners to vote in support of preliminary approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Robyn Hage
Teacher
Navarre Elementary School

Eisenhower Memorial NCPC Testimony
By Brandon Mansur
October 2, 2014

Ladies & gentlemen of the National Capital Planning Commission, it is an honor to be writing to you today on a matter of importance to me; recognizing the life and legacy of a simple American icon, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

When I first heard of the plan to carve out a plot of land in front of the Department of Education building, my immediate thought was “what a great idea!” Aside from the reality that the plot of land has enough room for a memorial to be built, I can think of no higher honor of recognizing the accomplishments of Dwight Eisenhower than by building a monument in his honor in front of the very government entity that promulgates education throughout this country; one that also happens to be a creation of Eisenhower.

It is evident, from the years following Eisenhower’s time, that one of his lasting legacies is the effort he forged in upholding education for *all* children in this country. Despite the unyielding political and social pressure to do nothing, Eisenhower’s decisive action to protect students as they went to school in Little Rock in 1957 paved the way for future efforts to integrate schools thereafter.

The design of this Memorial, and the educational aspects it entails, will only be enhanced by the location of this Memorial. In that vein, as Commissioners tasked with preserving meaningful legacies and balancing the construction of Memorials in the National Capital Region, I urge you in your deliberations over the construction of this Memorial to consider the subtle yet meaningful symbolism of the location and how the Memorial will utilize this space to encapsulate Eisenhower’s legacy.

On that note, Dwight Eisenhower took a brief moment in his First Inaugural Address to remind the citizens of this country that “a people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.” With that in mind, I would just like to point out that you, as a commission, have an opportunity to support a memorial that takes into account principles of what monuments should be on the National Mall above all other factors—accessibility, proportionality, and relevance to the people who visit it. It is my sincere hope that we do not lose our privilege of honoring someone like Eisenhower without your support. It is time to build it now.

Thank you for your time and attention.

JUDY BURGESS

Wichita, Kansas

September 29, 2014

The Commissioners
National Capital Planning Commission
Washington, D.C. 20004

When the Eisenhower family moved back to Kansas in 1892, Eisenhower was 2 and Abilene was only 23 years old. It was the American frontier – what better place to field a national military and political leader in this new country.

Now, over 120 years later, Kansas continues to celebrate the man we call Ike. Most recently, Wichita honored him by changing the name of its airport to the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport and the City Government of Abilene passed a resolution endorsing the Frank Gehry design for the proposed memorial.

Ike's story, as told in this design, honors his legacy and will educate and inspire future generations. As a passionate fan and active promoter of the Eisenhower legacy, I support the Gehry design and the work of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. Now is the time to move the project forward.

Respectfully,
Judy Burgess

(Former Mayor of Abilene, Kansas)

To: The National Capital Planning Commission
From: Michael Williams – CBS Radio
Date: October 1, 2014
Re: Eisenhower Memorial

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the approval of the current design of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. I do not believe that there is a person who opposes the memorialization of Eisenhower; likewise, it is virtually unanimous public opinion that the memorial is long overdue.

The contention and debate over the design has been vigorous and useful, yielding useful input and the type of civic interaction of which Ike himself would have approved. Those that oppose the design contend in part that unusual methods are being implemented. An examination of history reveals that employing unusual methods was at the heart of Eisenhower's genius.

Eisenhower was an unquestioned patriot and a lover of the game of golf. As an American of African descent, a patriot and a lover of the game of golf, the year 1957 resonates with me. In September of that year, the schools of Little Rock, Arkansas were squarely in the public eye as violent mobs tried to prevent the integration of public schools in defiance of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in 1954. Eisenhower knew that the rule of law must prevail, that courage and fortitude in that moment would define the history of the nation's move toward equality. So he took the unexpected and unorthodox step of sending Federal troops to Little Rock to defend the students' rights and the authority of the Judicial and Executive branches.

I'm pretty sure Charlie Sifford was reading the papers in September of 1957, that he saw how the determination of those kids who bravely walked a gauntlet of hatred, all because they wanted that which is guaranteed to all. Now a member of the Golf Hall of Fame, Sifford became the first African-American to join the PGA Tour in 1961. But for years prior he was barred from Tour membership, forced to play in extremely hostile conditions in those few events that would allow him to qualify.

I'm sure that Sifford was inspired and energized to see a President who was willing to use the full authority of his office to uphold equality with disregard for politics and popularity. The evidence for my supposition is that on November 10, 1957, just two months after Little Rock, Sifford became the first African-American to win a PGA Tour-sanctioned event, the Long Beach (CA) Open. I am warmed and

encouraged by the notion that Eisenhower's foresight in the South brought strength and resolve to one man's quest for excellence a continent away.

When Eisenhower sent those troops to Little Rock it was seen as unorthodox, even radical. In hindsight it is seen as an act of courage and conviction. In hindsight, what seemed risky at the time has come to be considered a rational choice, an obvious choice. I believe that some consider the current design of the Eisenhower Memorial to be unorthodox and risky. I am just as confident future generations will look on the Memorial's design as the reasonable and obvious choice by those who were tasked to make the decision.

Respectfully,

Michael Williams
Golf Analyst - CBS Radio
Washington, DC
2014 Middle Atlantic PGA Media Person of the Year

Samuel C. O. Holt
Testimony for NCPC Meeting
October 2, 2014

My name is Samuel Holt. I have spent the bulk of my working life in the fields of media and education.

I have taught American history at the university level both in a normal classroom setting and in an extension system, in which I taught not only adult learners but also US Navy SSBN crews. I served as head of programming for both PBS and NPR and was Executive Producer of The Discovery Channel's first educational project. And, as a college drop-out, I actually covered Eisenhower's second nominating convention with CBS News.

Based on this experience, I worked for a short time with the Eisenhower Memorial Commission staff on their concept of a first for a presidential memorial: an electronic package of multimedia materials to enrich and expand the experience for both real and virtual visitors to the memorial site.

I did that because I firmly believe that a memorial to Ike incorporating public outreach and education is important. I am firmly convinced that Ike will be seen increasingly as one of the most important presidents of the 20th Century. Having experienced his presidency during my college and postgraduate years, I know that it was not one of inactivity, as is often claimed after the turmoil of 1960's.

Beyond that, I believe strongly that there are powerful personal reasons **for** which Eisenhower deserves memorialization.

His career represents an almost stereotypical model of the citizen soldier. Democracy was in his DNA, and his personality made it easy for him to connect with not only the international senior staff which he constructed in Europe but also the troops he commanded. And he accomplished most of his strategic aims while holding casualties down.

This extraordinary leader had a great technical interest and skill at implementing his vision. He grew up in a Midwest with relatively few miles of paved road, yet left in place preliminary plans for what became the Internet, satellite-based communications, and the lunar landing. He was an agent of change in transforming America domestically and in leading his country to unprecedented global power and prestige. And he did it while maintaining a civil political discourse.

His world class legacy deserves a world class memorial.

SUSAN B. HARRIS
REMARKS FOR NCPC
OCTOBER 2, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Susan B. Harris. I was appointed to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission by President Bill Clinton as one of its original members. I am honored to serve in this bipartisan effort to memorialize the legacy of a truly great American, President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

I am also a long time Washingtonian and have been active over the years in numerous important projects in our nation's capital, important efforts to further our understanding and appreciation of the American values that underpin this great country—values that Eisenhower indeed personally embodied and that must be recognized and shared with future generations.

So I am speaking today not just as the Vice Chair of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and standing in for our Chairman, Mr. Rocco Siciliano, but as a grateful citizen as well.

I want to thank the National Capital Planning Commission and the staff for its long and hard work as we have cooperated and will continue to cooperate to create a lasting and valuable tribute to Dwight Eisenhower. Thank you for your studied consideration of Frank Gehry's evolving concepts and helping to maintain a coherent strategic vision of how the memorial can seamlessly take its place in our beautiful city. Your guidance and leadership have been crucial.

With cooperation and compromise, I believe that our work here today begins an exciting next chapter in this important national project. Thank you very much.

National Capital Planning Commission Proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial

Thank you. I appear again as an individual, who served as chief of staff for 12 years for former U.S. Representative Dennis Moore of Kansas, who served as a member of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission from its inception to his retirement at the beginning of 2011. As a member of the Commission's Executive Committee, he was one of the most active Commission members.

As a native Kansan who began his Washington, D.C., career as a Senate intern in 1980, I can think of no better location, than at the foot of Capitol Hill, for a national memorial to the most important American in our history who spent his formative years in Kansas, with its representation of the American Great Plains as its backdrop.

Within walking distance of the U.S. House, and across the street from the Air and Space Museum, the Eisenhower Memorial will be built in a location that will be a destination for millions of world tourists. The Eisenhower Memorial is to be built in a very challenging, urban location. This is not an easy project, from any vantage point. Much has been said about the proposed memorial previously, with everyone from the Eisenhower granddaughters to a wealthy Chicago investor attempting to influence its outcome, so I will not repeat it. The Commission has put before you today a revised proposal that addresses the three design principles that remain outstanding before this body.

Design Principle 1: Preserve reciprocal views to and from the U.S. Capitol along Maryland Avenue SW. The revised design has widened the view corridor from 95' to 135'. This design creates a more proportionally horizontal framed view of the U.S. Capitol.

Design Principle 4: Reflect the L'Enfant Plan principles by shaping the Memorial site as a separate and distinct public space that complements the Department of Education Headquarters and other surrounding buildings. The design revisions eliminate the East and West tapestries allowing the influence of the adjacent buildings to define and unify the site.

Design Principle 6: Respect the building lines of the surrounding rights of way and the alignment of trees along Maryland Avenue. The proposed northern singular columns are set back more than 47' from the Independence Avenue Right of Way and are fully located within the planes of the adjacent building facades.

Having staffed Representative Moore's Commission service, I know firsthand how carefully and deliberately this complicated process has been undertaken by-the-book by the staff and commissioners, as stewards of public funds. I'm glad to have this opportunity to again recognize their service. I am particularly pleased to note that the Memorial as planned would include, presented in context, President Eisenhower's memorable quote: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes."

The proposed Memorial stands on its own merits, and I urge the Commission to approve the Eisenhower Memorial application that is before it today. Thank you.

Remarks for General Kelley at NCPC

Oct. 2, 2014

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

My name is P.X. Kelley.

While I was Chair of the American Battle Monuments Commission, we completed two important memorials in Washington DC, the Korean War Memorial and the WWII Memorial.

In some ways, being Commandant of the Marine Corps was less complicated.

I have read the Executive Director's Report that recommends approval of the Eisenhower Memorial and I simply want to encourage you to do that today.

When you are in the middle of developing, approving, and building a memorial, it seems like dedication day may never come.

But what I learned with those memorials, and what I hope we are seeing today, is that step by step, with perseverance and dedication, we can eventually open these memorials to be enjoyed by our fellow countrymen and, in Eisenhower's case, fellow citizens around the world.

I want to thank you, in advance, for what I hope is your approval of this project and for making possible the memorialization of this great American.

PERSONAL COMMENTS/TESTIMONY
National Capitol Planning Commission Session, Oct. 2, 2014

By Charles F. Sills

Chairman of the Board
Federal Allies Institute

Member of the Board & Sr. Advisor, International Security, Energy & Environment
Eurasia Center/Eurasian Business Coalition

Executive Committee, VET-Force (Veterans Entrepreneurial Task Force)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Commissioners,

The purpose of my brief testimony here today, is to express my personal support for rapid execution of the Dwight David Eisenhower National Memorial...for the plain reason that General & President Eisenhower's stature, honor, considerable achievements and legacy strongly deserve visible expression, and promotion as a model and template for Americans, especially young Americans, and for the World at large...

Given my own background in International Business, Defense Policy, and Energy & Environmental issues, the more I have learned about President Eisenhower's accomplishments on the global stage in regional and international security, and in science enterprise and education as well, the more impressed I've become. After leading the Allied forces to victory in Europe in World War II, Gen. Eisenhower was appointed Military Governor of the U.S. Occupation Zone in Germany, where he laid the groundwork for the post-war recovery of Europe. He worked under Secretary of Defense James Forrestal on the reorganization of the U.S. Military. And he served as first Supreme Commander of NATO.

It is important to note that Eisenhower had a keen understanding of the technological underpinnings of a strong, effective National defense posture: He initiated the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which in turn led to the development of the Internet among other invaluable civilian spinoffs; strengthened American science education by establishing the National Defense Education Act; and he created NASA. On the international stage, he ended the Korean War; defused a potentially wider conflict in the Middle East by intervening in the Suez Crisis; and refined and managed the 'Containment' strategy vis-à-vis Soviet Communist expansionism.

I believe that any citizen, anywhere in the World, who has sufficient knowledge of contemporary history to recognize the image of Gen. Eisenhower, would have an automatic positive response. The purpose of memorializing is to translate that generalized world image into visible and enduring detail: Detail that will educate and motivate people here in the United States and around the world; and new generations. It is necessary to translate Eisenhower's legacy – of strong world leadership for democratic values and the sustainment of free nations, and conflict prevention through regional security frameworks – into actionable lessons. The physical monument and the international partnerships programs and 'e-Legacy' productions that it will generate, will accomplish this: It will teach. Therefore, I recommend putting in place this tribute to General & President Eisenhower, as expeditiously as possible...

Thank you for your attention...

DAVID M. CHILDS, ARCHITECT

49 EAST 86TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK 10028

Preston Bryant, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500-North
Washington, DC 20004

26 August 2013

Dear Chairman Bryant,

I am writing with regard to the design by Frank Gehry for the Eisenhower Memorial now under consideration by the Commission. As a former chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission and of the Commission of Fine Arts, I applaud the Gehry proposal for being both a bold new addition to Washington's urban design and also one that reinforces the historic L'Enfant city plan.

The Gehry design has undergone significant revisions since it was first presented. These changes have modified many details of the initial scheme, but to date they have refined the concept, and have not weakened the powerful and inventive solution that this important site and program deserve. But to remove the east and west pairs of columns, as was recently suggested in a discussion at the Commission of Fine Arts, would destroy the grand urban space fundamental to the concept, and in its place leave a meaningless planar wall.

The site is an important one within the Monumental Core, but it is one that is surrounded by buildings and landscapes that vary in their relationships to the geometry of L'Enfant's grid. Gehry's plan respects all the traditional rights-of-way, view corridors and surrounding buildings in a complex but seemingly effortless solution that brings harmony to one that now suffers from a lack of coordination. To modify these proposed placements, alignments and dimensions would unbalance a brilliant solution.

I therefore urge you to support the proposal as it has now been submitted to you. The strength and timelessness of this design will be a proud addition to the list of Washington's most important civic undertakings.

Respectfully yours,

David M. Childs, FAIA



OLIN

Chairman Preston Bryant
National Capitol Planning Commission
C/o Office of the Secretariat
401 9th Street, NW
Suite 500-North
Washington DC 20004

20 August 2013

Dear Chairman Bryant,

I write to you and your fellow commissioners in support of the current scheme for the Eisenhower Memorial as designed by Frank Gehry and strongly urge you to resist attempts to alter or change this superb work of art and civic design. I believe it to be a remarkably significant and positive addition to our nation's capitol and the historic tradition of memorials and a worthy tribute to this great national leader in war and peace. Like many innovative works by great artists this project both builds upon tradition and invents new ways of seeing and experiencing ideas and messages of consequence that are not immediately appreciated or understood by some at the time, even discomforting them as seems to have been the case. It is, however, a great work of art and design by one of America's most significant architects and as such is a coherent work, all of which parts are significant.

Gehry's memorial design draws strength from a long tradition of monuments extending as far back as the Ara Pacis in Rome, a handsome roofless enclosure framed by carved narrative friezes erected in the first century CE to commemorate Peace after a devastating civil war. As members of the Fine Art Commission have pointed out the proposed Eisenhower Memorial also forms a roofless room of superb proportion and quality, framing key views of the L'Enfant plan and establishing an honorific space that unifies the disparate buildings and agencies on its edges that currently can only be characterized as disappointingly characterless and incapable of framing a civic space adequately. The two panels at the east and west are essential to the scheme, in part for the narrative imagery they contain, and in part for the manner in which they frame the space and form part of the twin gateways framing the historic diagonal view to the Capitol as well as for the manner in which they also address and engage the buildings behind them – the FAA and Cohen buildings – in effect bringing them into the composition as well as the Education building. In addition to accomplishing these goals and in the dimensions established for heights, setbacks, and widths, the current design specifically embodies successfully the 5th and 6th principles that NCPA articulated earlier for the memorial.



Letter to Chairman Bryant
20 August 2013
Page 2 of 2

There is not a good track record for projects, especially memorials, which have been compromised, reworked, and watered down by various committees and numerous cooks. I recommend with full enthusiasm and without reservation that the Commission approve the current Frank Gehry proposal for the Eisenhower Memorial as it is. This elegant and imaginative work of art and design that is a tribute to one of our greatest leaders in both war and peace is certain to join other famous memorials in our nation's capitol as a pilgrimage sight, sought out by visitors from America and around the world.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie D. Olin
FASLA, AAAL, AAAS Hon AIA, Hon RIBA

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Witold Rybczynski

7801 Lincoln Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19118

March 26, 2014

National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW
Suite 500-North
Washington, DC 20004

To the Commissioners,

I should like to express my strong support for the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial.

I witnessed the early evolution of Frank Gehry's design over several years as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, joining my fellow commissioners in voting enthusiastic and unanimous approval of the concept during the September 2011 meeting.

There is a significant difference between the Eisenhower memorial and those on the National Mall; the latter are isolated places, the former is an urban space in a built context. In that sense, the Eisenhower memorial resembles Trafalgar Square, which consists of a personal memorial—Nelson's Column—set in a memorial square. The chief role of the tapestries, although they allude to the Kansas plains, Eisenhower's birthplace, is to define the square in such a way as to raise it above the ordinary.

I continue to find the idea of a roofless temple compelling. Having examined a full-size mock-up of a portion of tapestry on the site, I remain convinced that the scale of the columns and the tapestry are appropriate to this location. The urban design improves its surroundings—a challenging task—while respecting L'Enfant's plan.

The proposed memorial will both honor a great president and embellish the national capital.

Sincerely yours,

Witold Rybczynski

Emeritus Meyerson Professor of Urbanism, University of Pennsylvania

Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC
Architects and Planning Consultants
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August 27, 2013

Mr. L. Preston Bryant, Chairman
c/o office of Secretariat
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Bryant,

As a member of the jury which selected Mr. Gehry's design several years ago I have followed with great interest the evolution of it through the various steps in the approval process. This process is now at a critical juncture and I feel compelled to offer my support to the design.

Mr. Gehry is known throughout the world for the sculptural strength of his highly personal sensibility to architectural form. What struck me as extraordinary, when I first viewed his design for the Eisenhower Memorial, was the degree to which he eschewed this personal vocabulary in favor of a serene and highly contextual method of making a response to an almost unresolvable urban situation. I found it to be brilliant, particularly when viewed in comparison to his fellow competitors whose solutions looked far more "Gehry-like" than did his. He rejected the temptation to form a sculptural object of the Memorial in favor of making a contemplative room within the larger urban context.

Two elements make the character of his design of the Memorial in sympathy with the character of Washington D.C.. The first of these, massive stone columns, connect the space to the classical language of the city. The second, the woven stainless steel scrim, creates a magical veil through which the surrounding buildings can be viewed but which, in conjunction with the columns, embraces and defines a room within a room. Together, these form the backdrop for the elements which convey to the world Eisenhower's legacies; as young man looking to the future, as a great leader in battle and as a great leader in peace.

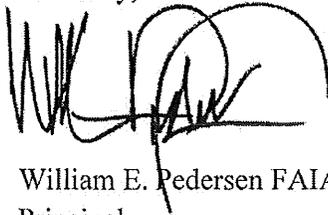


Mr. L. Preston Bryant, Chairman
c/o office of Secretariat
National Capital Planning Commission
August 27, 2013
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Now, the critical presence of two pairs of these columns, on the east and on the west, is being called into question. To my mind, their elimination places in jeopardy the very intention of the design itself. This pair of columnar elements gives the enclosure which not only creates the inner room but also sponsors a larger connection to the surrounding context. They are two arms which form a spatial embrace. Their amputation would leave the inner elements of the Memorial, which convey the meaning of Eisenhower's life, stripped of their backdrop and adrift without reference.

KPF

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Pedersen', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

William E. Pedersen FAIA
Principal