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# DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

## MEMORIAL COMMISSION

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### KNOW THE FACTS

The National Eisenhower Memorial will be durable, sustainable, and will tell the compelling story of a remarkable American life for generations to come.

**TIMELINE:** Once funding is provided by Congress construction can begin, which is expected to take three years to complete. The goal of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission is to have the memorial completed by 2019 in order to celebrate the memorial's dedication on or about June 6, 2019, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of President Eisenhower's passing. After dedication, the memorial is transferred to the Department of Interior's National Park Service for continued operation.

**DESIGN:** The Frank Gehry design for the National Eisenhower Memorial honors Dwight D. Eisenhower as both President and General. Using classical memorial elements -- sculpture, bas reliefs, quotations and tapestries -- the design unifies his great achievements, telling the remarkable story of an American life that began on the plains of Kansas and went on to dominate the world stage. Eisenhower is depicted in three bronze statues, as General, as President, and as a young man about to leave for West Point. As explained in a recent *TIME* magazine article, Gehry has taken his inspiration for the design from a speech that Eisenhower himself gave in Abilene, after he returned triumphantly from World War II.

**DESIGNER SELECTION PROCESS:** The General Services Administration used its "Design Excellence Program" to procure the memorial's designer. The procurement was open to any U.S. citizen who had a design portfolio and was advertised widely, including in FedBizOpps. Federal law does not permit the selection of a design until the impacts are weighed among a number of alternatives. Consequently the selection process is about selecting a designer with a vision, not a specific design.

**APPROVALS:** More than three years of professional design and redesign has resulted in approval of the memorial as fitting and proper by the two entities that perform these tasks for Congress. The Eisenhower Memorial has received final approvals from both the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission in 2015.

#### Environmental Assessment

- An Environmental Assessment was conducted, opened for public comment, and completed with a Finding of No Significant Impact determined by the National Park Service.

#### Site Approval

- The site was approved by a unanimous vote of Congress and endorsed by President Bush, after which Preliminary and Final approvals were granted by both the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

#### Historic Preservation

- As required by the Historic Preservation Act, a Memorandum of Agreement has been entered into by all germane parties: the National Capital Planning Commission, DC, State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service and the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

**SUPPORT OF THE DESIGN:** Following the approval of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* editorialized that all proper deliberation and due diligence has been done and that it was now time for Congress to fund the

project.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars endorsed the memorial project at its recent national convention and urged Congress to fund the project and the American Legion is expected to do so shortly. Senator Bob Dole has joined the EMC in its efforts and become a leading advocate supporting the move to secure funds to begin construction.

**DURABILITY:** The National Eisenhower Memorial will be constructed of proven high performance materials, including: bronze, stone, concrete and stainless steel. The stainless steel alloys that will be used in the tapestries and welds have been fully tested and examined to ensure their strength, durability and longevity.

**MAINTENANCE:** The National Park Service commissioned a study to estimate the National Eisenhower Memorial's annual operational and maintenance costs. The costs will be on a par with those of the Martin Luther King Memorial. The study also determined that no special maintenance protocols will be required for the memorial's upkeep. These studies have a historical accuracy of 1-5%.

**ECONOMIC BENEFIT:** An economic impact study has concluded that the National Eisenhower Memorial will attract a significant number of visitors – resulting in a conservative estimate of \$40 million in additional revenue going to Washington, DC each year.

**FUNDING NEEDED:** The Obama Administration's request for FY 2016 is \$2 million for operating expenses and \$68 million for construction. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission request for FY 2017 is \$2 million for operating funds and \$24 million for site construction with similar amounts to follow for subsequent years to construct the memorial. All preceding Presidential memorials (Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR and the Kennedy Center) have been funded totally or near-totally funded by Congress.

**COST:** Expenses for the National Eisenhower Memorial include a number of hard and soft costs, including: Site Preparation (utilities and foundations); Design Work; Design Management; Construction Management; Construction; Contingency Funds; Operations. In comparison to other contemporary national memorials, such as the World War II and the Martin Luther King Memorial (MLK), the cost of the National Eisenhower Memorial is on a par with the MLK and less than the WWII.

**SITE:** The National Eisenhower Memorial will unite four acres of underused land and parking spaces into a dynamic new urban park near The National Mall and Smithsonian Museums in Washington, DC. To be known as Eisenhower Square, the site is surrounded by a number of federal agencies related to the Eisenhower Administration, including: the Departments of Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services (formerly Health, Education and Welfare); the Federal Aviation Administration; NASA; and the Voice of America.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has used an inclusive and participatory process since its inception. Since 2010, there have been a total of thirty-one public meetings held for consideration of the design.

**ABOUT US:** The Eisenhower Memorial Commission was established in 1999 by Public Law 106-79. The bipartisan Commission consists of four members of the U.S. Senate; four members of the U.S. House of Representatives; and four commissioners appointed by the President of the United States. The mission of the EMC is to establish an appropriate, permanent national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Armed Forces in World War II and as 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.