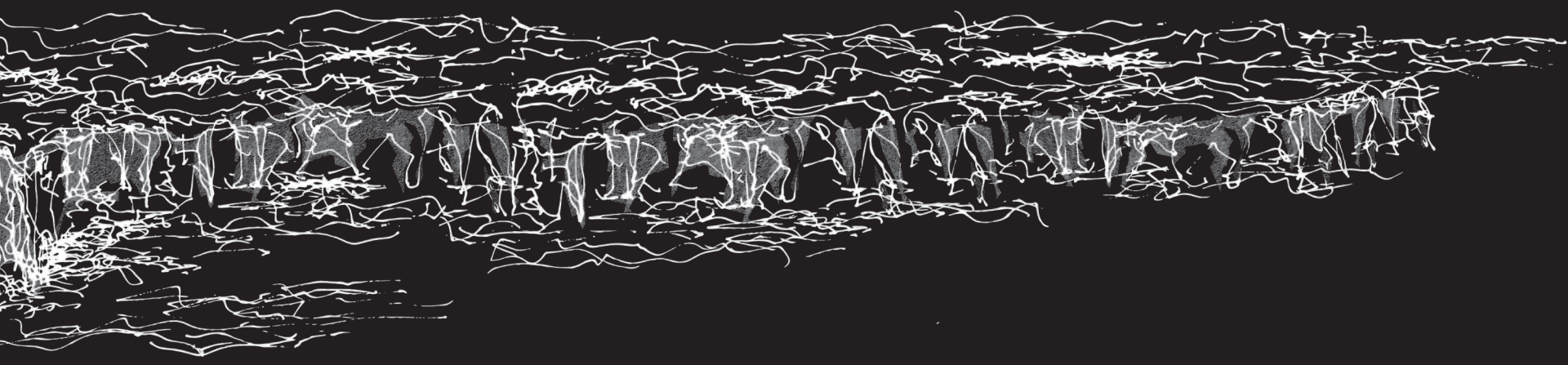
Dwight D. Eisenhower

MEMORIAL DEDICATION



SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Washington, DC

Chairman's Welcome

My fellow Commissioners and I are truly delighted that you have joined us for this historical dedication of the seventh national presidential memorial in our nation's capital — and the first of the 21st century.

Born in Denison, Texas, and raised in Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower, commonly known as "Ike", learned the meaning of hard work by selling home-grown vegetables and working twelve-hour, six-day shifts at the local creamery to finance his brother's college education. Eisenhower carried these basic values, Kansas values, throughout his life.

His work ethic helped earn a spot at the United States Military Academy. West Point's class of 1915, often referred to as "The Class the Stars Fell On," was comprised of 164 cadets. Of 164, 59 rose to the rank of General. Eisenhower earned five-star general rank. Eisenhower is remembered for his exceptional military professionalism and his inspiring leadership of millions of soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

On May 8, 1945, General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. You can imagine his pride in returning to his hometown in 1945 and stating, "The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene."

In his Second Inaugural Address he stated, "We look upon this shaken earth, and we declare our firm and fixed purpose — the building of peace with justice in a world where moral law prevails." His passionate belief in peace, freedom, and democracy inspired the creation of a legacy of incredible military and civilian achievements. During his two terms, he ended the Korean War, established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, enacted the Interstate Highway System, signed legislation improving social and economic welfare, admitted Alaska and Hawaii to the Union, and enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Soon after, he sent troops from the Army's 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock's Central High School to ensure support of desegregation and obedience to the rule of law.

America traversed numerous national and international milestones — his presidency participating in the twilight of the American Frontier and ushering in the dawn of space exploration.

Surrounded by the sculptures of General and President Eisenhower in the shadow of the tapestry depicting Normandy's coastline in peacetime, let us all be reminded of the lifelong dedication to service Eisenhower made to our nation, of the soldier turned General who led us to victory in World War II, of the 34th President who accomplished extraordinary achievements, and of the young boy from Abilene, Kansas, who dared to dream.

Senator Pat Roberts, Chairman
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

BECAUSE NO MAN IS REALLY A MAN WHO HAS LOST OUT OF HIMSELF ALL OF THE BOY, I WANT TO SPEAK FIRST OF THE DREAMS OF A BAREFOOT BOY. FREQUENTLY, THEY ARE TO BE OF A STREET CAR CONDUCTOR OR HE SEES HIMSELF AS THE TOWN POLICEMAN, ABOVE ALL HE MAY REACH TO A POSITION OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER, BUT ALWAYS IN HIS DREAMS IS THAT DAY WHEN HE FINALLY COMES HOME, COMES HOME TO A WELCOME FROM HIS OWN HOME TOWN. BECAUSE TODAY THAT DREAM OF MINE OF 45 YEARS OR MORE AGO HAS BEEN REALIZED BEYOND THE WILDEST STRETCHES OF MY OWN IMAGINATION, I COME HERE, FIRST, TO THANK YOU, TO SAY THE PROUDEST THING I CAN CLAIM IS THAT I AM FROM ABILENE.
HOMECOMING SPEECH, ABILENE, KANSAS • JUNE 22, 1945

Ike and Mamie Eisenhower leave the Capitol for the inaugural parade
Washington, DC, January 20, 1953
(Eisenhower Presidential Library)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 2020

The First Lady and I are honored to join you in celebrating the dedication of the Eisenhower Memorial.

From our Nation's earliest days, the United States and our citizenry have been inspired and strengthened by the contributions of exceptional and selfless leaders. The name "Eisenhower," in particular, fills the patriot's heart with pride and is an enduring stamp of American greatness. Deeply committed to the principles of liberty and democracy, General Eisenhower swept the trails of history with courage and purpose. Braving wars and commanding fearless armies, while later leading our country at home, Dwight D. Eisenhower's vision for a brighter future was rooted in, and ultimately supplied, our Nation's ever-expanding path toward greater justice and freedom.

Today's ceremony and the monument that has been erected commemorate the life and legacy of a noble general and titan of leadership. Starting at the storied United States Military Academy at West Point, Eisenhower dedicated his life to the service of our country. Later, as Supreme Allied Commander during World War II, he decisively directed his troops to storm the beaches of Normandy, forever shifting the tides of world history in favor of freedom. As President of the United States, he worked tirelessly to pursue peace and prosperity for generations of Americans to enjoy. He laid down the iron fist of law and justice when African American students were threatened by mobs as they tried to go to school in Little Rock, Arkansas, ordering Federal troops to provide support and order. To ensure American dominance into the future, he launched the American conquest beyond the skies and into space. His legacy leaves an indelible mark on our Nation's history and is synonymous with America's emergence as a global leader in the 20th century.

As we celebrate the dedication of the Eisenhower Monument, we pay tribute to his extraordinary influence on our American way of life. The First Lady and I thank those who worked hard to bring this project to fruition and send our very best wishes to all those who come to see it in the future.

The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
D-Day address to troops, June 6, 1944

General Eisenhower speaking with paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division on the eve of D-Day
Greenham Common, England, June 5, 1944
(Library of Congress)

BARACK OBAMA

September 17, 2020

I am delighted to join in the celebration of the dedication of the Dwight D. Eisenhower memorial. Ike's life was an extraordinary example of patriotism, humility, and service to others.

As General, he led our troops on a campaign to liberate a continent and rid the world of fascism.

As President, he connected a country and reached for the stars, paving the way for decades of economic growth. And while he passed away just a few months before the first Americans from the space program he created would land on the moon, it was his vision and his leadership that made that moment possible, and inspired generations of Americans to follow.

For Dwight Eisenhower understood what all great citizens understand – that it's our job to leave this country in a better place than where we found it. That's why we still celebrate and defend the adventure in free government of which he spoke – "to keep the peace; to foster progress in human achievement, and to enhance liberty, dignity and integrity among peoples and among nations."

I offer my best wishes for today and for all who will visit this living monument in the future. May we all strive to live a life like Ike's.

GEORGE W. BUSH

September 17, 2020

Greetings to those gathered for the dedication of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

In the Oval Office, I kept busts of leaders who inspired me. I often looked at that of five-star general and President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. And I thought about the calm confidence and skilled determination with which he led, both as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force during World War II and as President. He was committed to preserving our peace and prosperity, protecting our freedoms, and promoting equality and the civil rights of all Americans. Our country's respect for this great man has only increased with the years. I'm grateful that this special place of remembrance will serve as a permanent reminder of the lasting impact President Eisenhower made on the country he loved – and the world he helped save.

Laura and I appreciate all those who have worked hard to make this memorial a reality. Thank you for helping to preserve the legacy of our country's 34th President and honor his service to America.

We send our best wishes for a memorable and meaningful celebration. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

...the proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower
Homecoming Speech, Abilene, Kansas, June 22, 1945

Dwight Eisenhower camping with friends
Smoky Hill River, Abilene, Kansas, 1907
(Eisenhower Presidential Library)

WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

September 17, 2020

I am delighted to join in commemorating the dedication of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

President Eisenhower was the first president I was really aware of growing up. His life of service to our country—from his pivotal role in the Allied victory in World War II, to his eight years in the White House—was an inspiration to me as I followed his reelection campaign when I was in elementary school.

As president, his greatest achievements reflected the vision, values, and aspirations of a country pushing forward towards a future with greater opportunity for all—including building the Interstate Highway System, investing in the space program, and signing the National Defense Education Act, based on the idea that education is key to national security.

As Commander in Chief in the early days of the Cold War, he worked to build a bipartisan foreign policy that contained communism and maintained our security.

He also recognized how difficult it would be to preserve our constitutional democracy over the long haul. He did his part by sending federal troops to enforce the Supreme Court's order to integrate Little Rock Central High School in my home state, and to protect the brave students who were doing it.

I was proud to sign the bill authorizing the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial into law when I was president, and I want to thank David Eisenhower and the members of the commission for their efforts in shepherding this well-deserved tribute to fruition.

Best wishes to those who are gathered in celebration today. I hope everyone who will visit this Memorial in years to come will be inspired to follow President Eisenhower's example and do their part to build our future, protect our people, and preserve our democracy.

Bill Clinton

JIMMY CARTER

September 17, 2020

Rosalynn and I are pleased to join you in celebrating today's opening of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. As Supreme Commander of the WWII Allied Expeditionary Force and 34th US President, Eisenhower still serves as an extraordinary role model.

His D-Day invasion of Normandy was the turning point of WWII, resulting in its end in less than a year. As First Supreme Commander of NATO, he reinforced the confidence of a war weary Europe, convincing them to build up their defenses to prevent further Soviet threats. Following his tenure with NATO, Eisenhower launched his bid for a successful eight years as United States President. His service in the White House was highlighted by his plans to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes, the creation of the Interstate Highway System, the signing of the 1957 Civil Rights Act, the formation of NASA, and the statehood of Alaska and Hawaii.

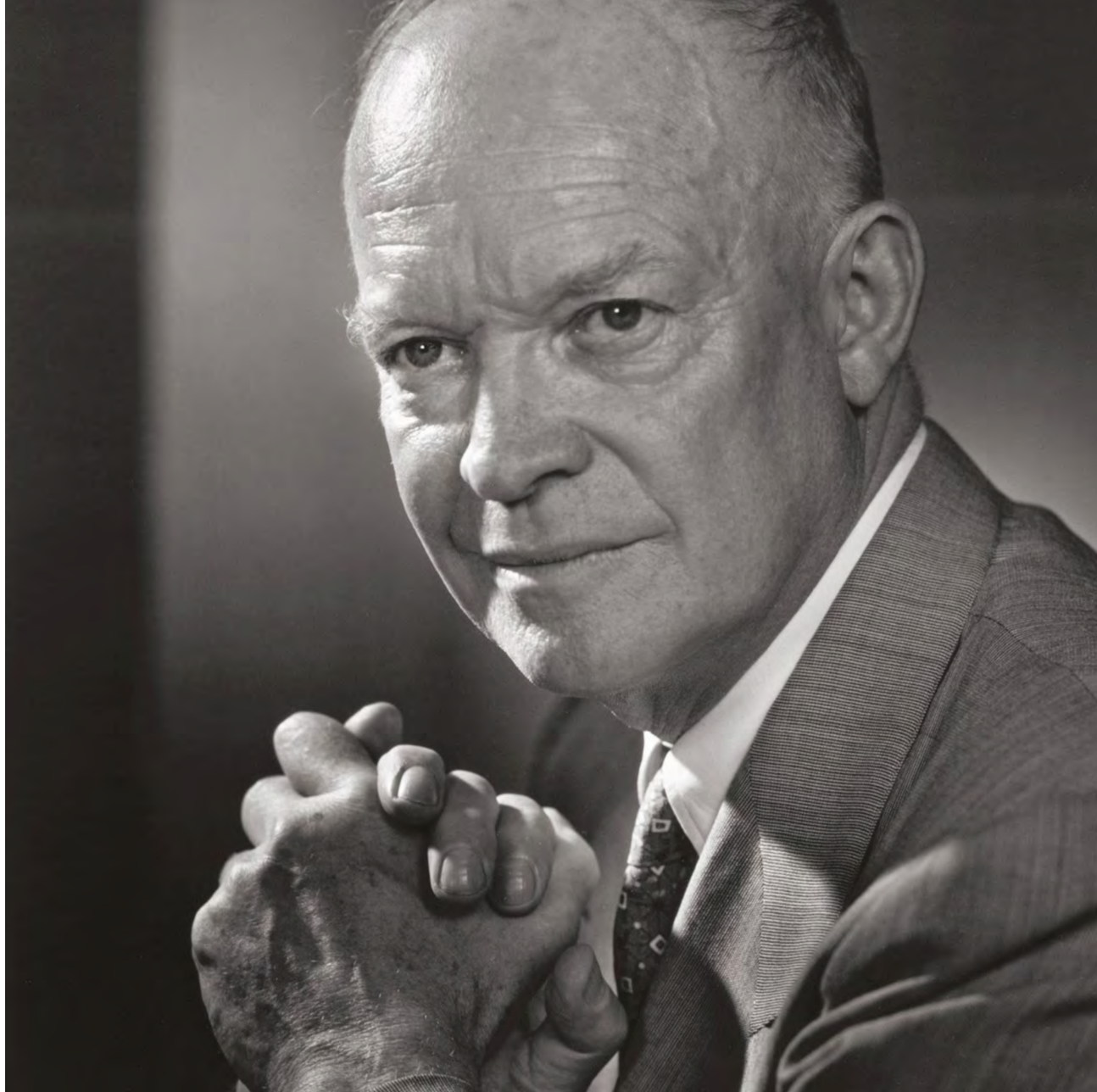
This memorial is a fitting tribute to one of America's most deserving great heroes.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

Mission

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by Congress in 1999 by Public Law 106-79. The Commission's congressional mandate was to establish an appropriate, permanent national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower. The enabling legislation dictates that a memorial should be created to perpetuate Eisenhower's memory and his contribution as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and as the 34th President of the United States.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower
(©Yousuf Karsh, 1955)

THE TIDE HAS TURNED! THE FREE MEN OF THE WORLD
ARE MARCHING TOGETHER TO VICTORY!
D-DAY ADDRESS TO TROOPS - JUNE 6, 1944
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Ceremony Program

PRELUDE
"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

West Point Alumni Glee Club

WELCOME
Mr. Bret Baier, Emcee

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
101st Airborne Division Honor Guard

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
Voices of Service

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Ms. Rachel Mast

INVOCATION
Rear Admiral Upper Half Barry Black, USN (Ret.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Representative Mike Thompson, Vice Chairman

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Ms. Greta Van Susteren

REMARKS
Senator Bob Dole, Commissioner

MESSAGE FROM THE DESIGNER
Mr. Frank O. Gehry

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

SPECIAL REMARKS
Dr. Condoleezza Rice

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Senator Pat Roberts, Chairman

FAMILY REFLECTIONS
Mr. David Eisenhower

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Voices of Service

FAMILY REFLECTIONS
Ms. Susan Eisenhower

RIBBON CUTTING
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

CLOSING REMARKS AND TURNOVER
Senator Pat Roberts

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
Voices of Service

POSTLUDE
"The President's Own" United States Marine Band

Portrait of Dwight D. Eisenhower
James Anthony Willis, Oil on Canvas, 1967
(White House Historical Association)

Ceremony Participants

BRET BAIER
Chief Political Anchor, Fox News
Anchor & Executive Editor of "Special Report with Bret Baier"
Four-time bestselling author, including the #1 bestseller
Three Days in January: Dwight Eisenhower's Final Mission

REAR ADMIRAL UPPER HALF BARRY C. BLACK, USN (RET.)
62nd Chaplain, United States Senate

BOB DOLE
United States Senator representing Kansas, 1969-1996
United States House of Representatives, 1961-1969
World War II veteran

DAVID EISENHOWER
Author of the best-selling Eisenhower at War, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History
Author of Going Home to Glory, a memoir of Life with Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1961-1969
Director, Institute for Public Service, Annenberg School, University of Pennsylvania

SUSAN EISENHOWER
Co-founder of the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College
Author of Mrs. Ike: Portrait of a Marriage
Author of the recently published How Ike Led: The Principles Behind Eisenhower's Biggest Decisions

FRANK O. GEHRY
Memorial Designer

RACHEL MAST
Graduate of Olathe South High School, Olathe, Kansas, Class of 2018
Self-advocate dedicated to helping others with Down syndrome live their dreams

CONDOLEEZZA RICE
66th Secretary of State
National Security Advisor, 2001 – 2005
Director, Hoover Institution, Stanford University

PAT ROBERTS
Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
United States Senator representing Kansas, 1997 – present
United States House of Representatives, 1981 – 1996
United States Marine Corps, 1958 – 1966

MIKE THOMPSON
Vice Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission
United States House of Representatives, 1999 – present
Senior Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
Vietnam War veteran

UNITED STATES ARMY 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION HONOR GUARD
Like a thunderbolt from the skies, the 101st Airborne Division, activated on 16 August, 1942, met their first rendezvous with destiny on D-Day June 6, 1944, beginning their proud legacy as "The Screaming Eagles."

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND | Director Jason K. Fettig
Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the United States Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
TV Host, Gray TV's "Full Court Press"
TV Host, Voice Of America's "Plugged In"

VOICES OF SERVICE
A vocal quartet comprising two retired and two active members of the United States Army:
Caleb Green, Ron Henry, Christal Rheams, and Jason Hanna, respectively

WEST POINT ALUMNI GLEE CLUB | Director Nancy Riley
All veteran, all volunteer West Point Alumni band of warrior singers whose mission is to sing for veterans, service members, first responders and their families.

WE LOOK UPON THIS SHAKE
THE BUILDING OF A PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN A WORL
SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
THE TIDE HAS TURNED; THE FREE MEN OF THE WORLD
ARE MARCHING TOGETHER TO VICTORY!

Audio Tour

Welcome to the official audio tour for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. This tour is your guide to exploring the Memorial's design and the stories it tells. Get to know America's 34th President, from his humble Kansas beginnings, through his victories in World War II, all the way to the White House, where he shaped a vision for America that we still pursue today. Whether you are listening from home or on-site at the Memorial, this audio tour will provide useful and informative insights into the Memorial and the remarkable man whose service it celebrates.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE MEMORIAL
This tour welcomes you to the Memorial and introduces you to its features, themes, and stories. Learn about the Memorial's design, the significance of its location, and Eisenhower's own vision for America.

2. FRANK GEHRY'S VISION
In a conversation with his biographer Paul Goldberger, world-renowned architect Frank Gehry reflects on how his design for the Memorial came to be and what Eisenhower's legacy means to him.

3. DREAMS OF A BAREFOOT BOY
How did a smalltown boy from Kansas grow up to be the leader of the free world? Hear about Ike's humble beginnings and his first steps towards greatness.

4. SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER
How did Eisenhower go from rebellious West Point cadet to Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force? Get to know the man of grit, intelligence, and charisma.

5. LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD
Hear about Eisenhower's priorities and principles as president and the institutions he established to make the nation, and its people, safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

6. THE NORMANDY TAPESTRY
Hear from Memorial architect Frank Gehry on how the tapestry was conceived and constructed — from a hand sketch to over 80 million individual wire welds.

AVAILABLE TO LISTEN AT:

Apple Podcasts

Google Podcasts

Spotify Podcasts

EisenhowerMemorial.gov/audio-tour

About the Memorial

Located at the base of Capitol Hill, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial is surrounded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Aviation Administration, Voice of America, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — all institutions to which Eisenhower was closely connected Together, these buildings demonstrate Eisenhower's broad promotion of improved national infrastructure, the foundation upon which he worked to build "a peace with justice in a world where moral law prevails."

At the center of the site is the contemplative memorial space where Eisenhower's legacy unfolds. Heroic-sized bronze sculptures, stone bas reliefs, and quotations from his most famous speeches and addresses celebrate Eisenhower's contributions to our nation as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in World War II and as the nation's 34th President.

General Eisenhower is commemorated in a bronze sculpture inspired by the famous photograph taken with the Army's 101st Airborne Division before their Normandy invasion. Behind the sculptures is a bas relief depicting the landings at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Eisenhower as the 34th President of the United States is commemorated in a bronze sculptural grouping. Flanking the president are figures representative of civilian interests and military power, with Eisenhower firmly in charge of balancing the two forces. Behind the sculptures is a map of the world in bas relief symbolizing Eisenhower's internationalism and role as a world statesman.

A life-sized sculpture of young Eisenhower and an inscription excerpted from his "Abilene Homecoming Speech" connect with Eisenhower's personal story as a humble citizen, raised in America's heartland, and welcomes visitors as they enter the memorial at the northwest plaza.

The memorial is framed by a unique transparent tapestry which features an image of France's Normandy coastline made from artistically woven stainless steel cable. The iconic Pointe du Hoc landmark featured in peacetime symbolically represents the peace Eisenhower won as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in World War II, and the peace he kept and nurtured as the 34th President during a unique time when the United States emerged onto the global stage.

Through self-sacrifice, dedication, and belief in the American spirit, Dwight D. Eisenhower truly and positively shaped our nation in countless ways.

TRUST FOR THE NATIONAL MALL

As the philanthropic partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring, enriching, and preserving the National Mall, the Trust will help oversee the maintenance and volunteer programs of the new Eisenhower Memorial. The Trust accepts private donations to support the long-term maintenance of this and other memorials, and its volunteer programs and educational opportunities, to ensure that the National Mall endures and evolves as a vibrant space for all. To support the future of the Memorial, visit nationalmall.org or email information@nationalmall.org.

E-Memorial

The Eisenhower Memorial is the first national presidential memorial to incorporate a digital complement — the E-Memorial — to convey Eisenhower's accomplishments to a 21st-century audience. Through dramatic storytelling, the E-Memorial engages visitors in the Eisenhower story, demonstrating why his memory and legacy require a memorial.

Included in the E-Memorial are educational resources offering cross-curriculum and primary source materials. Free downloadable lesson plans accommodate state and national teaching standards. An interactive timeline provides a superior educational experience for a tech-savvy generation of teachers and students.

IKE
EISENHOWER FOUNDATION

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission has partnered with the Eisenhower Foundation in Abilene, Kansas, — an organization deeply committed to Eisenhower's legacy. The Foundation is dedicated to ensuring the E-Memorial resources remain available to the public following the Commission's sunsetting. To support the future of the E-Memorial, visit EisenhowerFoundation.net.

Seven Pivotal Moments, designed to chronicle the events and milestones that served as turning points in Eisenhower's life, were chosen as the entry portals to the Eisenhower legacy. Each Pivotal Moment features an original short film with an interactive exploration of complementary stories told through historic archival media.

1. WEST POINT, 1911
A Life In Service To His Country

At age 20, Eisenhower left his hometown of Abilene, Kansas, for the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first step in what was to be a long and distinguished military and political career.

2. D-DAY 1944
The Decision That Changed The World

As the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the course of history by launching the D-Day invasion of France, undertaking "operations for liberation of Europe from Germans.".

3. NATO, 1951
A Coalition United For Peace

As the first Supreme Allied Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Eisenhower accepted the challenge to preserve peace at home and abroad in the Cold War era.

4. WINNING THE PRESIDENCY, 1952
Daring All for Our Country

Eisenhower's landslide victory in securing the presidency placed him at the forefront of one of the most challenging eras of U.S. history, guiding the nation and the world through dangerous and unsettling times.

5. WAGING PEACE, 1953
Fighting To End All War

In the first year of his presidency Eisenhower delivered his renowned cry for the end to war. His "Chance for Peace" speech would be a commitment for a brighter future.

6. LITTLE ROCK, 1957
The Civil Rights Battleground

Eisenhower acts to enforce the rule of law by sending federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, where a violent mob has prevented the integration of Central High School and the state of Arkansas refused to implement federal law and court rulings.

7. SPACE RACE, 1958
Launching America's Era of Space Exploration

Only months after the news of the Soviet Union's first satellite launch, Eisenhower put the first U.S. satellite into orbit, setting in motion the unprecedented feats NASA continues to achieve today.

CREATIVE TEAM

Bluecadet | Audio Tour
Code Koalas | Website Development
George Mason University's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media | Educator and Student Resources
Adam Kosberg | Film Production
Local Projects | Pivotal Moments and Interactive Timeline
Sundar Raman | Website Development

CONTENT COMMITTEE

Kim E. Barbieri
Michael J. Birkner
George A. Colburn
Lou Galambos
Daun van Ee

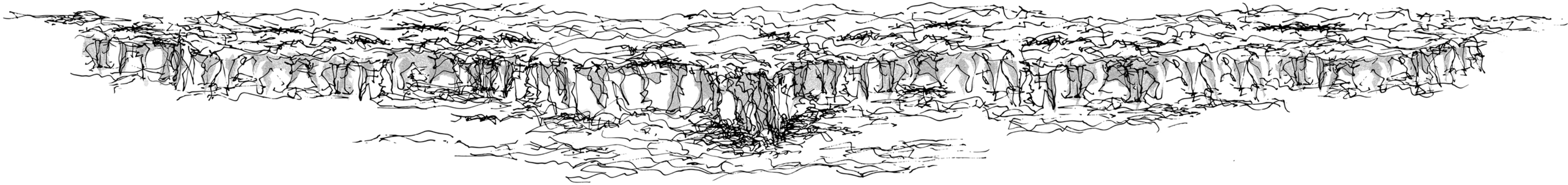
SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTISE

Carlo D'Este | West Point
Adrian Lewis | D-Day
Gergory Pedlow | NATO
William Pickett | The Presidency
Jack Foust Matlock, Jr. | Waging Peace
David Nichols | Little Rock
Roger Launius | Space Race

...these people gave us a chance, and they bought time for us,
so that we can do better than we have before.

So every time I come back to these beaches... I say, once more:
we must find some way to work for peace,
and really to gain an eternal peace for this world.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
CBS Reports: *D-Day Plus 20 Years*,
Normandy, France, June 5, 1964



Frank Gehry's line drawing of the Normandy coastline as depicted on the Memorial tapestry

Commission

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission is bipartisan and led by Chairman Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Vice Chairman Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA). The Commission consists of twelve members; eight members of Congress and four private citizens. The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on November 2, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS

Senator Pat Roberts, Chairman

Representative Mike Thompson, Vice Chairman

Senator Joe Manchin III

Senator Gary C. Peters

Senator Dan Sullivan

Representative William M. "Mac" Thornberry

Representative Michael K. Simpson

Representative Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Alfred Geduldig

Susan Banes Harris

Senator Robert J. Dole

Catherine Ann Stevens

Andy Demetriou, Special Counsel

FORMER COMMISSIONERS

Rocco C. Siciliano, Chairman Emeritus *

Senator Ted Stevens *

Representative Dennis Moore

Senator Bob Bennett *

David Eisenhower

Senator Daniel K. Inouye *

Representative Leonard Boswell *

Senator Jerry Moran

Senator Jack Reed

Bruce Cole *

Senator Thad Cochran *

*Deceased

SENATOR PAT ROBERTS | Chairman

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts is a Kansan through and through. He was born in Topeka and went on to earn his journalism degree from K-State. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is the most senior Marine in the Congress. He always puts Kansas' needs and concerns front and center in his public service career. For 16 years, he represented the Big First District, including his home of Dodge City, in the U.S. House of Representatives. Roberts is currently serving his fourth Senate term. He led post-9/11 and Iraq War intelligence reforms as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 2002-2006. He is currently the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and is the first member of Congress under the modern committee structure to chair both the Senate and the House Agriculture Committees. Roberts' father, C. Wesley Roberts, was Chairman of the Republican National Committee when Eisenhower was elected President. Roberts is also proud to serve as Chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, working to complete a national memorial to honor Dwight D. Eisenhower and inspire future generations with his leadership, integrity, life-long work ethic, and his total devotion to the values and processes of democracy.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE THOMPSON | Vice Chairman

Mike Thompson represents California's 5th Congressional District which includes all of Napa and parts of Contra Costa, Lake, Solano and Sonoma Counties. He was first elected to Congress in 1998. Prior to serving in Congress, Representative Thompson represented California's 2nd District in the California State Senate. Thompson was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the California State Senate. He served in combat with the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant/platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was also an instructor at the Army's Airborne School. He is currently co-chair of the Military Veterans Caucus. The Congressman is Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force and a member of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means. He is also a member of the Blue Dog Coalition which is composed of Democrats committed to fiscal responsibility and bipartisan problem-solving. Thompson is the co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Wine Caucus. He is also a member and former co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Thompson is a small vineyard owner and has taught Public Administration and State Government at San Francisco State University and California State University, Chico.

FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Washington, DC | January 20, 1953

We must be ready to dare all for our country. For history does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid. We must acquire proficiency in defense and display stamina in purpose. We must be willing, individually and as a nation, to accept whatever sacrifices may be required of us. A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both. ❖ Patriotism means equipped forces and a prepared citizenry. Moral stamina means more energy and more productivity, on the farm and in the factory. Love of liberty means the guarding of every resource that makes freedom possible — from the sanctity of our families and the wealth of our soil to the genius of our scientists. And so each citizen plays an indispensable role. The productivity of our heads, our hands and our hearts is the source of all the strength we can command, for both the enrichment of our lives and the winning of the Peace. ❖ This is the hope that beckons us onward in this century of trial. This is the work that awaits us all, to be done with bravery, with charity and with prayer to almighty God.

GUILDHALL ADDRESS

London, England | June 12, 1945

Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and sacrifices of his friends. Conceivably a commander may have been professionally superior. He may have given everything of his heart and mind to meet the spiritual and physical needs of his comrades. He may have written a chapter that will glow forever in the pages of military history. Still, even such a man — if he existed — would sadly face the facts that his honors cannot hide in his memories the crosses marking the resting places of the dead. They cannot soothe the anguish of the widow or the orphan whose husband or father will not return. The only attitude in which a commander may with satisfaction receive the tributes of his friends is in the humble acknowledgment that no matter how unworthy he may be, his position is the symbol of great human forces that have labored arduously and successfully for a righteous cause. Unless he feels this symbolism and this rightness in what he has tried to do, then he is disregardful of the courage, the fortitude, and the devotion of the vast multitudes he has been honored to command. If all allied men and women that have served with me in this war can only know that it is they whom this august body is really honoring today, then indeed I will be content. ❖ No petty differences in the world of trade, traditions, or national pride should ever blind us to our identities in priceless values. If we keep our eyes on this guidepost, then no difficulties along our path of mutual co-operation can ever be insurmountable. Moreover, when this truth has permeated to the remotest hamlet and heart of all peoples, then indeed may we beat our swords into plowshares and all nations can enjoy the fruitfulness of the Earth.

HOMECOMING SPEECH

Abilene, Kansas | June 22, 1945

Because no man is really a man who has lost out of himself all of the boy, I want to speak first of the dreams of a barefoot boy. Frequently, they are to be of a street car conductor or he sees himself as the town policeman, above all he may reach to a position of locomotive engineer, but always in his dreams is that day when he finally comes home. Comes home to a welcome from his own home town. Because today that dream of mine of 45 years or more ago has been realized beyond the wildest stretches of my own imagination, I come here, first, to thank you, to say the proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.

Artists

TOMAS OSINSKI | Tapestry Artist

An artist, architect, and industrial designer, Tomas Osinski has collaborated with Frank Gehry on many projects, including the Delft porcelain fountain at the Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Osinski was born in Poland and attended the Visual Art High School in Warsaw. He subsequently obtained a Master's Degree in Industrial Design from the Academy of Fine Art, also in Warsaw. Osinski's art has been featured in individual shows in Warsaw, Poznan, London, Lodz, and Los Angeles and collected by The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Contemporary Art in Lodz, Poland; and by several private collectors.

SERGEY EYLANBEKOV | Sculptor

Sculptor Sergey Eylanbekov made the sculptures that constitute an integral part of the memorial core. The sculptures were designed by the sculptor in consultation with Gehry. Eylanbekov, a world-renowned sculptor, was born in Russia. He attended Moscow School of Fine Arts and was then accepted into the prestigious Surikov Academy of Fine Arts, from which he graduated with honors. During the tumultuous period of change that occurred in the 1980s during the Gorbachev era, Eylanbekov decided to start life over in the United States, becoming a U.S. citizen. In the past twenty years, his artwork has garnered praise all over the world.

NICK BENSON | Inscription Artist

Nicholas Waite Benson began working at the John Stevens Shop at fifteen under his father, John Everett Benson. By the age of eighteen, he was carving commissioned work from his father's designs. In 1987, he began an intensive year of study in Switzerland at the Kunstgewerbeschule, Schule für Gestaltung Basel under the tutelage of Andre Gurtler, Christian Mengelt and Armin Hofmann. He returned to the U.S. in 1988 and continued to work under John Benson. Upon John's retirement in 1993, Nicholas took over as owner and creative director of the John Stevens Shop where he continues to work to the high standards set by his predecessors. In 2010, Benson was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship.

ROBERT WILSON | Thematic Artist

Since the late 1960s, Robert Wilson's productions have decisively shaped the look of theater and opera. Through his signature use of light, his investigations into the structure of a simple movement, and the classical rigor of his scenic and furniture design, Wilson has continuously articulated the force and originality of his vision. Wilson's close ties and collaborations with leading artists, writers, and musicians continue to fascinate audiences worldwide.

Design & Construction Team

FRANK O. GEHRY | Memorial Designer

In a competitive process under the guidelines of the General Services Administration's Design Excellence Program, renowned architect Frank Gehry was selected to design the Eisenhower Memorial. Raised in Toronto, Canada, Frank Gehry moved in 1947 with his family to Los Angeles where he subsequently received his Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of Southern California in 1954. Upon graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and with the assistance of the GI Bill, he studied City Planning at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design until 1957. Since then, Gehry has built an architectural career that has spanned over six decades and he has produced public and private buildings throughout the world. His work has earned Gehry several of the most significant awards in the architectural field, including the Pritzker Prize.

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Gehry Partners, LLP is a full service architectural firm with extensive international experience in the design and construction of academic, museum, theater, performance, and commercial projects. Founded in 1962 in Los Angeles, California, Gehry Partners' mission is to raise architecture to the level of art, while creating buildings that meet the client's functional and budgetary needs. Every project undertaken by Gehry Partners is designed personally and directly by Frank Gehry. All of the broad resources of the firm, and the extensive experience of the firm's senior partners and staff, are available to assist in the design effort and to carry this effort forward through technical development and construction administration. AECOM, a global engineering design firm based in Los Angeles, has partnered with Gehry Parters to provide engineering, landscape, and architectural services.

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Following a federal procurement, the General Services Administration awarded Clark Construction the contract for construction of the Eisenhower Memorial. Clark Construction Group is one of the most experienced and respected building and civil construction firms in the United States. Of its many projects of note, Clark recently completed the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C. and the Salesforce Tower in San Francisco.

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Wedding portrait of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mamie Geneva Doud
Denver, CO, July 1, 1916 (Eisenhower Presidential Library)

Ike and Mamie celebrating their 40th anniversary
Gettysburg, PA, July 1, 1956 (Eisenhower National Historic Site)

FAREWELL ADDRESS

Washington, DC | January 17, 1961

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"Elder Statesman"
Eisenhower in retirement at his farm, Gettysburg, PA, 1966
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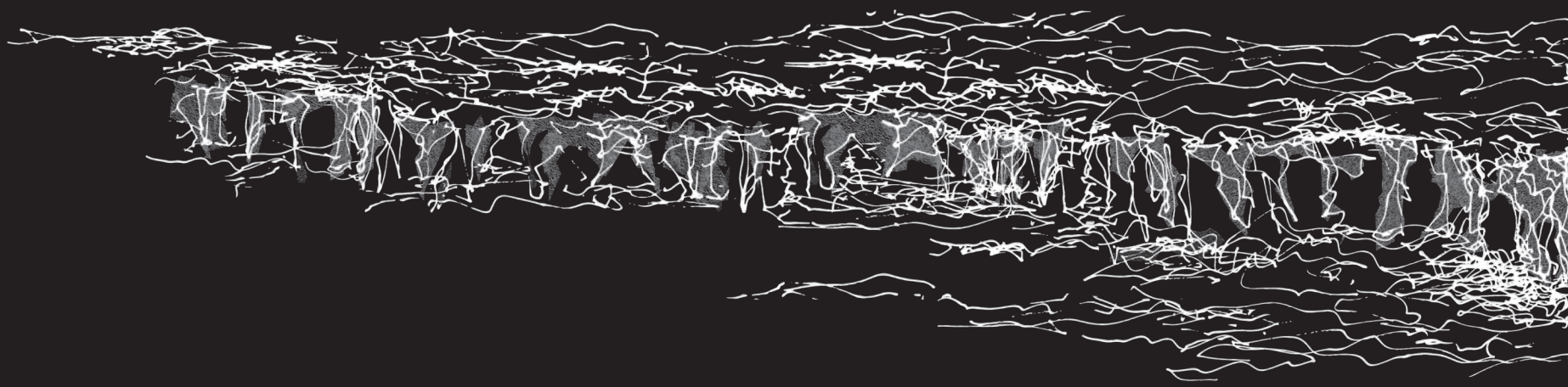

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