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The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

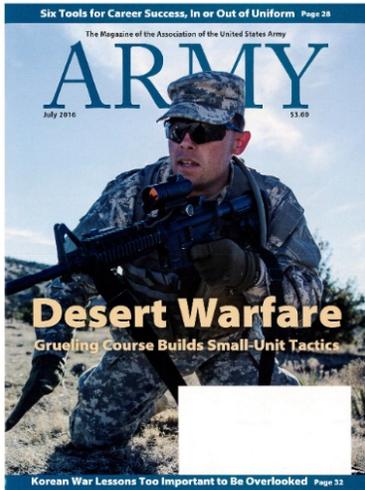
## Honoring Ike: Why the Eisenhower Memorial Matters

By Senator Bob Dole for *ARMY Magazine*, July 2016



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### Honoring Ike

Why the Eisenhower Memorial Matters By Bob Dale



It's a scene that occurs 365 days a year, in stifling summer heat and cold wind of winter. Some visitors are in wheelchairs. Others walk slowly, with canes or on the arm of a family member. Most are accompanied by adult children or grandchildren-members of the next generations, who listen intently to stories of war and remembrance.

They are our nation's World War II veterans. Each carries his or her own story as they visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is their memorial, dedicated in 2004 to honor the service and sacrifice of the 16 million people who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II.

I am proud to have raised funds to build the World War II Memorial. At least once a week from April through November, I go there to welcome visiting veterans and thank them for their service. Like old friends, we reminisce about our wartime experiences and how they shaped our lives. They never boast, but you know they've seen it all: heroism and horror, and buddies who didn't make it home. Many returned to build happy, successful lives. Educated via the GI Bill, they found steady jobs and made good livings for themselves and their families. They achieved the American dream.

Inevitably, the conversation turns to Gen. Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower, our hero in both war and peace. He was the man who planned the brilliant D-Day invasion that turned the tide and helped bring the war in Europe to an end; the West Point-trained military leader who, as our country's 34th president, led our nation into an unprecedented era of peace, prosperity and technological superiority. In so many ways, the Greatest Generation who fought under Eisenhower, the general, flourished because of Eisenhower, the president...

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*It's been more than 70 years, and it is time for Eisenhower to finally receive the recognition he deserves as both a great American general and a visionary president.*

- Senator Bob Dole, *ARMY* magazine, July 2016

## Ike in History



On July 10, 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law P.L. 480, the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act, now commonly known as the "[Food for Peace](#)" program within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The state of Kansas was instrumental in the program's conception, as it originated from a proposal by the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau in

Northwestern Kansas to utilize grain surpluses for foreign assistance in the developing world. Kansas Senator Andy Schoepfel sponsored the Act before Eisenhower signed it into law. Since its inception, the program has provided food assistance to more than 3 billion hungry people in over 150 countries and has served, as Eisenhower stated, as "a powerful instrument for all the free world in building a durable peace."



[[AUDIO LINK](#)] *President Eisenhower at the signing of the*

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*1960 Food for Peace agreement, courtesy of [William Lambers](#)*

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## Test Your Ike'spertise!

**Trivia Question:** In what town were Ike and Mamie married?  
(see answer below)

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**Trivia Answer:** On July 1, 1916, Eisenhower, a 25-year old Army Lieutenant, married 19-year old Mamie Geneva Doud at her parents' home in Denver, Colorado.

Visit the [E-Memorial Interactive Timeline](#) for more information.

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*Wedding portrait, courtesy of the [Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library](#), ID: 62-322*

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