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GENERAL'LY SPEAKING

June 6 - 10, 2016

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

American Legion Post 20 Hosts Memorial Presentation

On Monday, in conjunction with the 72nd anniversary of D-Day, EMC Executive Director Brigadier General Carl W. Reddel, USAF (Ret.) and Deputy Executive Director Victoria Tigwell gave a presentation on the Eisenhower Memorial to the members of [American Legion Post 20 of the National Press Club](#). Post 20, founded at the suggestion of General John Pershing, is one of only two posts in the nation's capital to be continuously active since the earliest days of the American Legion. At the meeting, the Post also honored John Metelsky, a Merchant Marine veteran of World War II, presenting him a Merchant Marine flag. The U.S. Merchant Marine suffered the highest losses proportionally of all the services in WWII.



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General Carl Reddel (right) and Victoria Tigwell (left) present the Eisenhower Memorial



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Join us in honoring and celebrating Ike's life and legacy by memorializing him in our Nation's capital.

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Remembering D-Day

Monday, June 6 marked the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day invasion. In commemoration of the 20th anniversary in 1964, Eisenhower participated in a special CBS program with Walter Cronkite, where the pair retraced the events surrounding the Allied invasion of Normandy. Beginning at Southwick House in England, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force, Eisenhower recalled the strategic planning of the operation and discussed the choice of Normandy as the landing site. At the Royal Navy Yard in Portsmouth, the tandem re-enacted Ike's journey on D-Day, culminating in Eisenhower's return to Normandy, where he visited the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.



[VIDEO]



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
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[D-Day Plus 20 Years: Eisenhower Returns to Normandy](#)
Video courtesy of [CBSNews](#)

These men came here to storm these beaches for one purpose only. Not to gain anything for ourselves. Not to fulfill any ambitions that America had for conquest. But just to preserve freedom, systems of self-government in the world.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower, Interview with Walter Cronkite, June 6, 1964, Normandy, France

Ike In History

On June 7, 1948, Eisenhower was appointed President of [Columbia University](#). During his tenure, Eisenhower founded [The American Assembly](#), a non-partisan public policy institute, still in existence today. The Assembly brings together some of our nation's brightest citizens across various sectors to discuss and find solutions to major issues in American democracy. As part of the Congressional memorialization of Eisenhower, The American Assembly story (along with the five other Eisenhower legacy organizations) will be showcased on the [E-Memorial](#).



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General Eisenhower's last photograph at Columbia University taken just four days before being inaugurated as President of the United States, January 6, 1953, image courtesy of [Columbia University Archives](#).

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Test Your Ike'spertise!

Trivia Question: In *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co, Inc.* on June 8, 1953, what did the Supreme Court unanimously rule was illegal in Washington, D.C. restaurants? (see answer below)



A protest outside Murphy's, a D.C. restaurant with a segregated lunch counter, June 1952, image courtesy of [Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University](#)

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Trivia Answer: Segregation. This case, alongside *Hurd v. Hodge* and *Bolling v. Sharpe* signified a larger shift in D.C. history, in which President Eisenhower played a key role. As early as the 1952 presidential campaign, he pledged to remove “every vestige of segregation in the District of Columbia.” During the 1950s, Eisenhower worked towards full integration from several angles. He pressured Hollywood

film makers to force desegregation of D.C. movie theatres; convinced owners of Washington hotels to desegregate; and persuaded local electric and telephone companies to hire African Americans and then promote them to managerial positions. Eisenhower also worked behind the scenes to replace segregationist members of the District's Board of Commissioners with civil rights advocates.

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