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# GENERAL 'LY SPEAKING

Week of August 12, 2019

Dispatches From  
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

## Finished Bronze Sculptures: On Display in Pietrasanta



At the beginning of August, the city of Pietrasanta, Italy, hosted an unveiling ceremony for the first-completed group of sculptures commemorating Eisenhower. Inspired by the famous photograph of General Eisenhower with the 101st Airborne paratroopers on the



### Countdown to Dedication

**269**

DAYS

- MAY 8, 2020 -

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eve of D-Day, the grouping will remain on display for three weeks prior to being crated and shipped to the memorial's site for installation later this year.

During World War II, Pietrasanta was strategically situated on the Gothic (Green) line—a German defensive fortification—in northern Italy. It is this region where US troops fought during the final Allied offensive of the Italian Campaign in the spring of 1945.

The small Tuscan community of Pietrasanta—known as the "City of Artists"—has a centuries-old artistic heritage focused on stone carving and sculpture. In keeping with their tradition to showcase artists' works throughout the city, Pietrasanta has generously allowed Eisenhower Memorial sculptor [Sergey Eylanbekov](#) to display his work honoring General Eisenhower.

Currently, Eylanbekov is finishing up the work on the sculptural grouping commemorating President Eisenhower. Those pieces are slated for completion later this year and will arrive on site in early 2020.

For more information on Eylanbekov and the process for making the sculptures, you can revisit our special newsletter editions:

- [Part I: Working in Clay](#)
- [Part II: Making the Bronze](#)



*Bronze sculptures commemorating General Eisenhower  
All images courtesy of [Wolfgang Schauf](#)*

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DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER  
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Appointment Pending



NBC4 Washington, DC, reporter [Aimee Cho](#) joined EMC Deputy Executive Director Victoria Tigwell at the memorial's site for an update on the construction progress. If you missed the TV airing, you can watch it online: [New Eisenhower Memorial is Under Construction](#).

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## Happy 103rd Birthday, NPS!



August 25 marks the 103rd anniversary of the creation of the [National Park Service](#) (NPS). To all our colleagues at NPS, we wish you a happy birthday!

Following dedication on May 8, 2020, the [National Eisenhower Memorial](#) will become one of the newest additions to the National Park System, joining the iconic sites of the [National Mall and Memorial Parks](#) in the nation's capital. A fitting tribute to the General and President who deserves his place of reverence among the likes of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Kennedy, and both Roosevelts.

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# A Step Toward Victory



On August 17, 1943, the Allied Invasion of Sicily ([Operation Husky](#)) officially came to an end. The operation was determined a success by none other than the General himself—Dwight D. Eisenhower. Husky commenced around midnight on July 9-10, 1943. That evening, airborne forces began to head for Sicily and by the early morning of the 10th, the amphibious assault hammered the beaches. The fighting would move further inland after the successful creation of Allied beachheads. The effective evacuation of the Axis would not completely occur until mid-August, which eventually brought the operation to an end.

After the successful invasion and capture of Sicily, the results brought about the end of Benito Mussolini's reign over the Italian Government via a vote of no confidence and his subsequent arrest. And it also allowed for the Allied forces to plan an operation to capture the Italian mainland. Husky permitted Ike yet one more opportunity to test his abilities in planning and strategy, thus preparing him for another amphibious invasion that would take place in France the following June—D-Day's Operation Overlord.

We ask that you take a moment of reflection for those who served in Operation Husky and all subsequent invasions that brought Fascism to its rightful end. Thank you, World War II Vets and thank you, Ike!

Anne Eisenhower

Susan Eisenhower

Mary Jean Eisenhower

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On August 23, 1958, President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aviation Act. This act established the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which regulates and manages the skies of the United States. Thanks, Ike and the FAA for keeping the skies safe for current and future travelers!

***"... a Federal Aviation Agency, to provide for the regulation and promotion of civil aviation in such a manner as to best foster its development and safety, and to provide for the safe and efficient use of the airspace by both civil and military aircraft, and for other purposes."***

– Public Law 85-726, August 23, 1958

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## Test Your Ike'spertise

### Question:

On August 21, we celebrate the anniversary of Hawaii joining the Union. In what year did Hawaii achieve statehood?

- A) 1937
- B) 1952
- C) 1959
- D) 1960

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People to People International

**Trivia Answer: C) 1959**

In 1937, a congressional committee found that Hawaii met the qualifications of statehood and held a vote that favored statehood. However, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor put the proposal on standstill. In the 1950s, Congress combined Hawaii's statehood bid with Alaska's. Congress then decided to grant Alaska, a democratic leaning state, statehood first. To create political balance, Congress then accepted Hawaii, a Republican leaning state. On March 18, 1959, a Hawaii statehood resolution passed and President Eisenhower signed it into law. Hawaii citizens voted on a referendum of the statehood bill, and on August 21, 1959, President Eisenhower signed the official proclamation admitting Hawaii as the 50th state of the Union.



*Eisenhower signs the Hawaii Statehood Bill, March 18, 1959  
Image courtesy of the Eisenhower Presidential Library*

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