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GENERAL 'LY SPEAKING

Week of January 9, 2017

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Ike's Timeless Legacy

Farewell Addresses: A Look Back

On Tuesday evening President Obama delivered his Farewell Address to the Nation. Let's take look back at President Eisenhower's Farewell Address, arguably one of the most well-known speeches of the twentieth century.

No other modern President entered the Oval Office with more military prestige than Eisenhower, yet none did more to preserve the peace. On January 17, 1961, after a half century of service to the country, Eisenhower used the occasion of his departure from the public spotlight to warn Americans of the unchecked growth and influence of the "military-industrial complex" at the height of the Cold War.

Excerpts from the famous speech will be inscribed on the Eisenhower National Memorial, where visitors will read and reflect on Ike's timeless message much in the way we do now at the other iconic presidential memorials in the nation's capital.

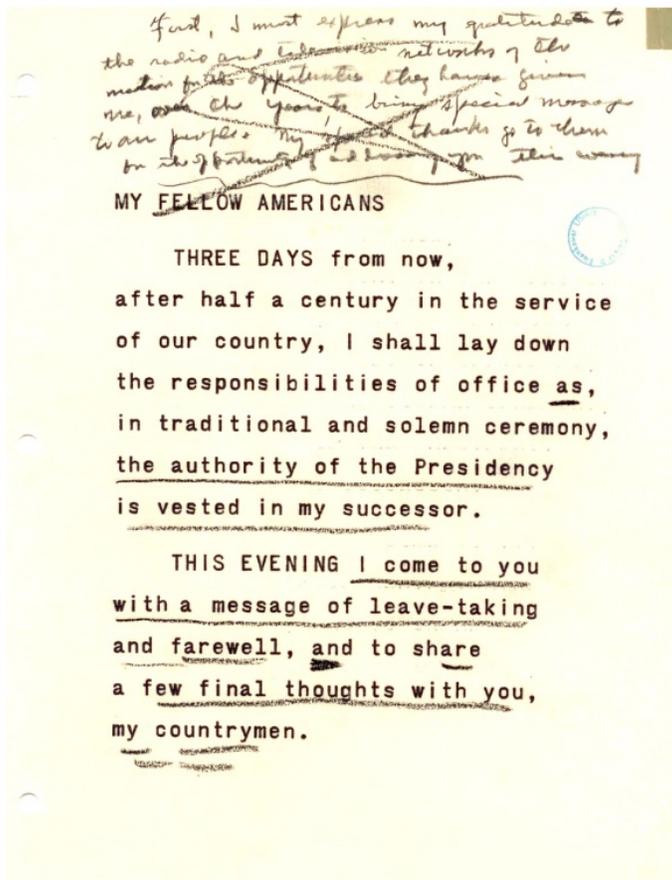


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TIMELINE MILESTONE:
["Farewell Address" to the Nation](#)

Page 2 from Eisenhower's marked up reading copy of his "Farewell Address," document courtesy of the [Eisenhower Presidential Library](#)

To explore other milestones in Eisenhower's legacy, visit the E-Memorial's [Interactive Timeline](#).

56 Years Later: Certain Themes Continue to Resonate

President Obama spoke about American leadership and exceptionalism, threats to our democracy, and urged us to be an engaged citizenry. Eisenhower spoke about similar themes.

Take a look:

In the councils of government, we must guard against

Make a Contribution

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

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the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

We want democracy to survive for all generations to come...

America's leadership and prestige depend, not merely upon our unmatched material progress, riches and military strength, but on how we use our power in the interests of world peace and human betterment.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his Farewell Address from the White House, January 17, 1961, image courtesy of [Bill Allen/AP](#)

Classroom Exercise: For Young Civic Minds

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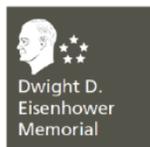
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Teachers, are you looking for a timely lesson for your students?

The E-Memorial's [Educational Resources](#) includes a lesson comparing Eisenhower's address to another famous farewell by General and President George Washington.

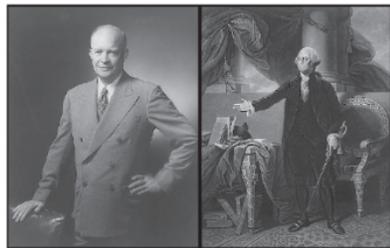
Not only will students examine excerpts from each of the addresses, they will write an opinion piece explaining what each president would think of the country today.



NATIONAL EISENHOWER MEMORIAL
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

LESSON

Two Farewells: Comparing the Farewell Addresses of Washington and Eisenhower



Duration

One 45-minute period

Grades

7-12

Cross-curriculum Application

U.S. History, English

Click the image above to download the PDF or browse the entire lesson archive [here](#).

Test Your Ike'xpertise

Trivia Question: How many U.S. presidents have presented or published formal farewell addresses? (See answer below)

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Trivia Answer: 10.

George Washington and Andrew Jackson both published farewell addresses. The following presidents presented formal farewell addresses: Andrew Johnson, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. The number is disputed among historians, with some crediting George H.W. Bush's speech at West Point on January 5, 1993, and others including either Richard Nixon's resignation announcement on August 8, 1974, or his broadcasted farewell remarks to White House staff the following day, as a farewell address. Although the practice has become more common in recent history, the vast majority of U.S. presidents have bid farewell during their Annual Messages to Congress or State of the Union addresses.

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