GENERAL'LY SPEAKING
Week of April 1, 2019

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

House Appropriators Tour Memorial Construction Site

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Following his visit to the memorial's construction site, Representative Mike Simpson remarked:

"It was a pleasure to tour the Eisenhower Memorial and see the progress on the project. It is truly an honor to participate and pay tribute to President Eisenhower who is so deserving of a tangible place in American history. I look forward to the dedication in May of 2020 and I am thankful to the Commission and their staff for the tour."

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Fred Malek: A Valued

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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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Advisory Committee Member

Eisenhower Memorial Commissioners and members of the Advisory Committee send condolences to the family of our Advisory Committee member, Fred Malek.

Mr. Malek was a strong supporter of Ike's memorial. We thank him for his efforts in private fundraising and his generous financial support of the memorial. He was a truly valued member of the Advisory Committee and we were honored to have his participation in the memorial to Eisenhower.

Construction Team Celebrates Milestone

Last Thursday, two (of five) large stainless steel box beams arrived on site for installation. The beams, each ranging in length from 85' - 90', are fabricated in Pennsylvania and Tennessee and trucked to the site. Weighing approximately 50,000 pounds each, they are hoisted in place atop the Ambar stone-clad columns. Once fully installed, the beams will span the entire 435' of the colonnade and will support the cable net system from which the woven stainless steel tapestry will be suspended. You can watch last Thursday's installation via our live construction camera.
Ike's Timeless Legacy

Then & Now: Observations on Ike

Eisenhower scholar and professor of history, Michael Birkner, recently published an article in honor of the 50th anniversary of Eisenhower's passing. The article, *Ike was right for his time, and offers insight for ours*, was published last week by *LNP*, a newspaper headquartered in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Birkner, a member of the E-Memorial Content Committee and lead scholar for the 2018 *Eisenhower and the Art of Presidential Leadership* teacher seminar, is a valued friend of the Commission and supporter of Ike's memorial.

Ike was right for his time, and offers insight for ours

MICHAEL J. BIRKNER | Special to LNP
Mar 26, 2019

When Dwight Eisenhower died half a century ago this week, tributes flowed freely, highlighting his role in crushing Nazism during World War II. Meanwhile, Ike's steadiness as 34th president during the height of the Cold War and his pragmatic approach to domestic affairs received less credit.

Leading columnists, including the New York Times' Tom Wicker, called Ike a poster boy for the American dream — the Kansas farm boy made good. But few contemporary observers much appreciated the degree to which that “ordinary fellow” from the heart of America — as Ike liked to describe himself — was a sly and effective politician and a deft, behind-the-scenes puppet master.

Continue reading...
In an effort to increase and nurture cultural diplomacy, President Eisenhower signed the Cultural Exchange and Trade Fair Participation Act of 1956. In honor of April being Jazz Appreciation Month, we would like to point out one of the many acts that traveled abroad for the State Department. One of the United States' most renowned jazz musicians, Dizzy Gillespie, took his inter-racial big band on the first State Department-sponsored jazz tour. Following the 1956 tour in the Middle East, Yugoslavia, and Greece, Gillespie wired Ike informing him of the tour's success and importance:

"Jazz is our own American folk music that communicates with all peoples regardless of language or social barriers."

Test Your Ike'spertise

As we celebrate the long awaited opening of baseball season, let's reflect on Eisenhower and his love for America's pastime. As a young man, Ike had aspirations of becoming a professional baseball player:

"When I was a small boy in Kansas, a friend of mine and I went fishing and as we sat there in the warmth of the summer afternoon on a river bank, we talked about what we wanted to do when we grew up. I told him that I wanted to be a real major league baseball player, a genuine professional like Honus Wagner. My friend said that he'd like to be President of the United States. Neither of us got our wish."
Dwight Eisenhower, second from right in top row, and his Abilene High School baseball teammates, Kansas, 1908
Image courtesy of the Eisenhower Presidential Library

Trivia Question:
While Eisenhower attended the West Point military academy, he

(A) played on the baseball team
(B) played on the football team
(C) both A and B
(D) none of the above

(see answer below)

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  - Michael Birkner
  - George Colburn
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  - *Waging Peace*: Jack Foust
  - *Matlock, Jr.*
  - *Little Rock*: David Nichols
  - *Space Race*: Roger Launius
Trivia Answer: (B) While at West Point, Eisenhower played football and suffered a bad knee injury that prevented him from making the baseball team. He would later remark, "Not making the baseball team at West Point was one of the greatest disappointments of my life, maybe my greatest."

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