Eisenhower Memorial Commission Congratulates Senator Bob Dole on Congressional Gold Medal

Senator Bob Dole receives the Congressional Gold Medal;
Eisenhower Memorial Finance Co-Chair Bob Dole was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony held in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol on January 17, 2018. The prestigious award, given by the United States Congress, is authorized by an Act of Congress and began in 1776 when the Second Continental Congress created it to honor General George Washington.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the United States’ two highest civilian awards. The other, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, was presented to Senator Dole by President Bill Clinton in January 1997. In the more than two centuries that the medal has been awarded, it has honored both individual citizens and organizations “who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major achievement in the recipient’s field long after the achievement.”

In July of 2017, the Kansas Congressional delegation introduced the “Bob Dole Congressional Gold Medal Act,” bipartisan legislation in both the House and Senate calling for the medal to be awarded to Dole, who represented Kansas in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate for a period of 36 years. The legislation recognizes Dole “for his service to the nation as a soldier, legislator and statesman” and was co-sponsored by Kansas’ senior Senator and Chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, Senator Pat Roberts.

Senator Roberts commended Senator Dole: “I can think of few people more deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal than Bob Dole. Bob is not only one of the country’s finest statesmen and Kansas’ favorite son, he is a friend, mentor and brother to me. He has served our country in countless ways, and has spent his whole life serving Kansas and our nation. From his days in Russell, Kansas, to his service in World War II, and his dedication to spending his life as a public servant, Bob Dole embodies the American spirit.”

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This week the Commission is delighted to announce receipt of a gift from Hubbard Broadcasting Inc at the Legacy giving level.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all of our donors for their generous contributions in support of Ike's memorial. Donations from our...
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City of Denison Honors Howard Day

Howard Day, right, poses for a photo with Denison Mayor Jared Johnson after receiving the "Moving Forward, Giving Back" award

Image courtesy of Michael Hutchins / Herald Democrat

The City Council of the City of Denison, Texas, has awarded Howard Day, EMC Ambassador for the State of Texas, its "Moving Forward, Giving Back" award for his contributions on promoting the Eisenhower National Memorial. Denison Mayor Jared Johnson noted, "This is a special award the council has no timetable for when they are given. It is for people who do special things." Through his initiative and persistence, Howard has cultivated a strong relationship with Denison, the birthplace of Dwight Eisenhower, preserved as the Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site. Thanks to Howard's outreach, Denisonians are proud stakeholders in the national memorialization of Eisenhower. The City Council passed a resolution of support for the project in February 2015. The State of Texas House of Representatives also passed a resolution of support in May 2015 thanks to Howard's efforts. With the dedication of the Eisenhower Memorial, millions of visitors from around the country and world will learn about Denison as the place where Eisenhower

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Honoring Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, we honor the accomplishments of E. Frederic Morrow. On July 9, 1955, Morrow became the first African American to serve in an executive position in the White House, when President Eisenhower named him Administrative Officer for Special Projects. Following service in the Army during World War II, Morrow worked on Eisenhower’s 1952 campaign, eventually securing an appointment in the White House following a stint at the Commerce Department. Morrow would go on to become the first African American vice-president at Bank of America. Morrow played an important role in arranging a 1958 meeting among Ike and Civil Rights leaders including Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, and Lester Granger.
Eisenhower receives a group of prominent civil rights leaders at the White House, June 23, 1958. From left: Lester Granger, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., E. Frederic Morrow, Eisenhower, A. Philip Randolph, William Rogers, Rocco Siciliano, and Roy Wilkins.

Image courtesy of the Eisenhower Presidential Library

Happy Presidents' Day!

My first day at the President's Desk. Plenty of worries and difficult problems. But such has been my portion for a long time -- the result is that this just seems (today) like a continuation of all I've been doing since July '41 -- even before that!

- President Eisenhower, Diary Entry, January 21, 1953

Test Your Ike'spertise

Special Valentine's Day Edition: Dwight proposed to Mamie on Valentine's Day in 1916. How long prior to their engagement had they known each other? (See answer below)

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Trivia Answer: Around one year. The future couple met in Fort Sam Houston in 1915, when Dwight was a second lieutenant on his first tour of duty. Ike noted that Mamie was a “vivacious and attractive girl, smaller than average, saucy in the look about her face and in her whole attitude.”

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