GENERAL'LY SPEAKING
Week of July 23, 2018

Dispatches From
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission

Summer Seminar:
Eisenhower and the Art of Presidential Leadership

Seminar participants pose on the memorial construction site wearing "I Still Like Ike" hard hats and safety vests, July 2018

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This month the Commission, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI), hosted a week-long summer seminar entitled Eisenhower and the Art of Presidential Leadership. The seminar took place at American University in Washington, D.C., and was attended by thirty-five hand selected middle and high school educators from across the country - representing a wide variety of backgrounds, experience levels, and school districts. The week was a wonderful success and provided a great opportunity to bring the E-Memorial, its educational resources, and Eisenhower’s legacy to the attention of a highly talented and engaged group of educators.

Lead scholar and professor of history at Gettysburg College, Michael Birkner, guided teachers on an exploration of Eisenhower’s presidential leadership style. GLI 2008 National History Teacher of the Year, David Mitchell, served as the master teacher for the seminar engaging educators in pedagogy sessions. Guest lecturers included: Dr. David Nichols, author of A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution; Professor Lou Galambos, author of Eisenhower: Becoming the Leader of the Free World and co-editor of The Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower; and Lee Ann Potter, Director of Educational Outreach for the Library of Congress. (Recorded lectures are available here.)

A field trip to Gettysburg gave participants the opportunity to tour the Eisenhower Farm, Gettysburg College, and the Eisenhower Institute. And the Commission’s Executive Architect, Dan Feil, presented the design for the National Eisenhower Memorial and hosted a hard-hat tour of the construction site.

The Commission extends a warm Thank You to the Teacher Seminars Program team at GLI, the guest services staff at American University, and the scholars and teachers who made the week an enriching experience.

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We extend our deepest appreciation to all of our donors for their generous contributions in support of Ike's memorial. Donations from our supporters make it possible for us to move ever closer to completing construction on the National Eisenhower Memorial in the heart of our nation's capital. All donors are prominently recognized on our Virtual Donor Wall.

Happy Birthday to Senator Dole

The Commission sends its best wishes to our Finance Campaign Chairman, Senator Bob Dole, who celebrated his 95th birthday on July 22nd. Thank you Senator for your service to our country and devotion to Ike's memorial.
On July 27, 1953, U.S. Army Lieutenant General William Harrison, Jr., representing the United Nations, signed the Korean War Armistice in Panmunjom. Though not a formal peace treaty, the armistice would create the Korean Demilitarized Zone and lead to a “complete cessation of hostilities” that continues today. The
Armistice ended three years of fighting on the Korean Peninsula. During the 1952 presidential campaign, General Eisenhower promised to visit Korea, which he did shortly after his election on November 29, 1952.

The first task of a new Administration will be to review and re-examine every course of action open to us with one goal in view: To bring the Korean war to an early and honorable end. This is my pledge to the American people.... It will begin with its President taking a simple, firm resolution. The resolution will be: To forego the diversions of politics and to concentrate on the job of ending the Korean war—until that job is honorably done. That job requires a personal trip to Korea. I shall make that trip. Only in that way could I learn how best to serve the American people in the cause of peace. I shall go to Korea. That is my second pledge to the American people.

- Presidential Candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower, "I Shall Go To Korea" Campaign speech, October 24, 1952

Test Your Ike'spertise

Trivia Question: Which 1955 Disneyland attraction imagined the future of a major forthcoming Eisenhower administration initiative?

(see answer below)
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Trivia Answer: Autopia, an attraction that let young drivers take their first spin behind the wheel of a car, also let riders of all ages imagine what a cross-country highway system might look like — only at a slightly smaller scale. Opening with Disneyland on July 17, 1955, Autopia was an attraction in the forward-looking Tomorrowland section of the park that imagined the highways of the future. President Eisenhower would sign the Federal Aid Highway Act on June 29, 1956, paving the way to make the Autopia vision a reality.

Ike and Mamie visit Disneyland, Anaheim, California, 1961
Image courtesy of Disney Parks

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Legacy Organizations

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