Salute to Ike's Supporters

The Commission is delighted to announce a gift from the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) at the Founders giving level. KEPCo is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Topeka, Kansas. It is KEPCo's responsibility to procure an adequate and reliable power supply for its 19 distribution rural electric cooperative members at a reasonable cost. It is an honor to have such strong supporters from Ike's home state.

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
Ike's Timeless Legacy

Memorial Day Special

Monday, May 28 is Memorial Day. We honor and remember all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in our nation’s armed forces. On Memorial Day 1958, President Eisenhower presided over the interment of the Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Eisenhower had previously signed the legislation to select and pay tribute to the Unknown Soldiers representing these wars. In Eisenhower’s words:

"Let us make [Memorial Day] one of twofold dedication. Let us reverently honor those who have fallen in war, and rededicate ourselves through prayer to the cause of peace, to the end that the day may come when we shall never have another war—never another Unknown Soldier."

-Proclamation 3016 by President Eisenhower—Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, May 21, 1953
President Dwight David Eisenhower laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as the remains of the World War II and Korean conflict unknowns were laid to rest, Arlington Cemetery, VA, 1958, Image courtesy of the Old Guard Museum.

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In Remembrance of EMC
Vice Chairman Senator Inouye

In honor of Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, we recognize the life and leadership of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. Senator Inouye, alongside his fellow World War II combat-decorated veteran, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, was a cosponsor of the founding legislation of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and served as the Vice Chairman until his passing in 2012.
A first-generation Japanese American, Senator Inouye volunteered to fight with the all-Japanese American (Nisei) 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II, and was struck in the chest directly above his heart by a bullet, stopped only by two silver dollars he happened to have stacked in his shirt pocket. Later in the war, he would suffer major wounds, including losing his right arm. For his uncommon valor, Senator Inouye was awarded the Bronze Star medal, the Purple Heart, the Congressional Medal of Honor, and posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Senator Inouye was one of the most influential and beloved political leaders of the past half century. The first Japanese American to serve in the Congress, he compiled an almost fifty year career in the U.S. Senate, having previously served as Hawaii's first member of the House of Representatives following Hawaii's admission to the Union during the Eisenhower administration in 1959. He served as President pro tempore of the Senate from 2010 to 2012, making him the highest-ranking Asian American politician in U.S. history.

Besides his recognition as an influential member of the Watergate and Iran-Contra Committees and Chairing the Senate Appropriations, Intelligence, Commerce, and Indian Affairs Committees, Senator Inouye gained a reputation as a memorial builder, proving instrumental in the creation of, to name a few, the FDR Memorial, the National Museum of the American Indian, the USS Arizona Memorial, and of course the Eisenhower Memorial.

We miss his leadership greatly, but continue to work to fulfill his dream of dedicating a national memorial in Washington, DC, to one of his heroes, General and President Dwight Eisenhower.

Memorial designer Frank Gehry presents a tapestry sample to Senator Inouye at the Commission Meeting, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, July 2011

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May 14 - 20, 2018, is National Salvation Army Week, first proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1954:

“Among Americans, The Salvation Army has long been a symbol of wholehearted dedication to the cause of human brotherhood. In time of war, the men and women of this organization have brought to those serving their country far from home, friendliness and warm concern. In the quieter days of peace, their work has been a constant reminder to us all that each of us is neighbor and kin to all Americans. Giving freely of themselves, the men and women of The Salvation Army have won the respect of us all.”

- President Eisenhower, November 18, 1954

Test Your Ike'spertise

Trivia Question: It is Infrastructure Week. Along with Eisenhower’s participation in the U.S. Army’s first transcontinental motor convoy from Washington, DC, to San Francisco in 1919, Ike’s knowledge of what foreign highway system convinced him of the need and viability of an interstate highway system in the U.S.?

(see answer below)
"Hoping It Will Hold"
Transcontinental Army convoy mission to test vehicles and dramatize the need for improved roads in the nation, 1919
Image courtesy of the Eisenhower Presidential Library

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Trivia Answer: Explore the Space Race Pivotal Moment to find the answer!

Hint: Land, Air, and Sea

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