Eisenhower Memorial Commission Approves Modifications to Design

On December 1, the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) held a Commission meeting in the Dirksen Senate Office Building to review recent memorial design modifications. Upon receiving a presentation by Gehry Partners, the Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Commission to submit the revised design to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

In a statement, EMC Chairman Senator Pat Roberts noted, “We are pleased with the design modifications recently made by Frank Gehry. We feel they further capture Dwight D. Eisenhower’s broad range of contributions to our nation and the world, in times of both war and peace.”
Craig Webb of Gehry Partners presents the modified design to Commissioners, December 1, 2016

From left: Rep. Sanford Bishop, Sen. Joe Manchin, Rep. Mac Thornberry, Rep. Mike Thompson (Vice Chair), Sen. Pat Roberts (Chair), Andy Demetriou (Special Counsel), Carl Reddel (Executive Director), Susan Banes Harris, Al Geduldig, Craig Webb (Gehry Partners)

Salute to Ike's Supporters!

The Commission is pleased to acknowledge Ambassador C. Boyden Gray and Mr. Fred Malek for hosting a luncheon on November 18 to honor Ike's Memorial. The event took place at the Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C., and included special guests Senator Pat Roberts (Commission Chairman), Senator Bob Dole (Finance Campaign Chairman) and Mr. Frank Fahrenkopf (Advisory Committee Co-Chairman).

Support from our national leadership and donors make it possible for us to move ever closer to groundbreaking on the National Eisenhower Memorial in the heart of our nation’s capital.

Donate now at Pay.Gov to make an online contribution and join the many patriotic Americans, multi-national corporations, foreign nations and elementary school students in honoring this great American, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

All donors are prominently recognized on our Virtual Donor Wall.

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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Presidential Medal of Freedom

Our congratulations to 2016 recipients of the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Eisenhower Memorial designer Frank Gehry and Eisenhower Memorial Advisory Committee member Tom Hanks!

From the presentation ceremony by President Obama:

“Frank’s work teaches us that while buildings may be sturdy and fixed to the ground, like all great art they can lift our spirits, they can soar and broaden our horizons.”

"From a Philadelphia courtroom to Normandy’s beachheads to the dark side of the moon, [Tom Hanks] has introduced us to America’s unassuming heroes. He has allowed us to see ourselves not only as we are, but as we aspire to be. On screen and off, Tom Hanks has honored the sacrifices of those who have served our nation, called on us all to think big and to believe, and inspired a new generation of young people 'to reach for the sky.'"

[VIDEO] President Obama Awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom, courtesy of The White House

Ike's Timeless Legacy

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Eisenhower's Eleven-Nation Goodwill Tour

President Eisenhower visits Turkey as part of his Eleven-Nation Goodwill Tour, December 1959, image courtesy of Magnum Photos

President Eisenhower set a precedent for international personal presidential diplomacy. In December 1959, he traveled 22,000 miles visiting eleven countries, and the Holy See, on three continents as part of his "Mission of Peace and Good Will."

In each nation, Eisenhower was greeted by immense crowds numbering in the millions, illustrating the hope that he symbolized for many in the postwar world. In his travels, Eisenhower hoped to assure people around the world that the United States was sincere in its search for peace and to "enhance confidence in the value of friendship with the United States," especially among the "struggling" and "underprivileged."

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In every country I hope to make widely known America's deepest desire -- a world in which all nations may prosper in freedom, justice, and peace, unmolested and unafraid.

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Address to the American People Before Leaving on Good Will Trip, December 3, 1959

Test Your Ike'spertise

Trivia Question: Name three of the eleven countries Ike visited during his Goodwill Tour in 1959. (See answer below)
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Creative Team
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Sergey Eylanbekov, Sculptor
Tomas Osinski, Tapestry Designer
Gehry Partners - AECOM, Joint Venture
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Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, Teacher Resources Developer

Trivia Answer: Italy, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan,
India, Iran, Greece, Tunisia, France, Spain, Morocco and Holy See (Vatican City)

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