American Legion Veterans
Like Ike

Last week on September 16th -- American Legion Day -- the American Legion celebrated a 99th anniversary milestone. The Legion, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1919, is a wartime veterans' organization "committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans."

In honor of American Legion Day, EMC is delighted to announce the American Legion's reaffirmation of support for the National Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. Earlier this year, the National Executive Committee of the American Legion issued Resolution No. 2, a renewal of the original 2015 resolution, declaring their endorsement and support for "the completion of the National Eisenhower Memorial as a lasting tribute to not only General and President Eisenhower, but also to the bravery and sacrifices of the troops who
fought under him, and recommends that Congress continue to appropriate necessary funding for construction so as to expedite the memorial's completion...."

GOP Presidential Candidate Eisenhower sports his American Legion cap during a Legion march on 5th Avenue, New York, NY, September 1952
Image courtesy of Getty Images

American Statesman Paul Laxalt: A Supporter of Ike's Memorial

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of our Advisory Committee member, Paul Laxalt. As a U.S. Senator, Nevada Governor, and "First Friend" to President Reagan, Laxalt served his country for decades. Earlier this month, EMC Advisory Committee Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf eulogized the late Senator at his Requiem Mass held on September 6 in Washington, DC. And in remembrance of Laxalt's service, fellow EMC Advisory Committee member Tom Lorentzen made a donation to the memorial in his honor. We were honored to have Laxalt's participation in the memorialization of General and President Eisenhower.
Ike's Timeless Legacy

This month marks the 61st anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Following the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, which found segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional, many school districts refused to integrate their all-white schools. Three years later, in September 1957, nine African-American students enrolled at Central High School. A violent mob ensued and on orders from Governor Faubus the Arkansas National Guard barred the students from entering the school.

This monumental event marked the first major resistance test since the *Brown v. Board* ruling. And on September 25, 1957, President Eisenhower upheld the Supreme Court's ruling by federalizing the Arkansas National Guard and sending the troops of the 101st Airborne Division to de-escalate the situation and escort the Little Rock Nine into school. Following their matriculation from Central High School, nearly all of the Little Rock Nine students went on to pursue further education, earning Bachelors and Masters degrees, including two who earned doctoral degrees.

*[VIDEO] Little Rock, 1957*

Watch the E-Memorial Pivotal Moment film, "Little Rock," to see how President Dwight D. Eisenhower's decision changed the course of American Civil Rights history.

"He [Eisenhower] used his federal power to advance the cause of equal opportunity. And even though we've had lots of ups and downs, and the issue continues to roil the country, we were clearly started on a path of equality before the law and increased contact with one another."
Test Your Ike'spertise

Trivia Question: Many of President Eisenhower's nominations to the Supreme Court would go on to become highly influential in supporting Civil Rights. Do you know how many justices Eisenhower nominated during his administration?

(see answer below)
Senior Presidential Officials
- David Abshire (1926 - 2014)
- Erskine Bowles
- Nicholas F. Brady
- William Coleman (1920 - 2017)
- C. Boyden Gray
- Alan Greenspan
- Ed Meese
- William Webster

Military Leaders
- Lt. Gen. Tom McInerney, USAF (Ret.)
- Gen. Richard Myers, USAF (Ret.)
- VAdm. Ann E. Rondeau, USN (Ret.)
- Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, USAF (Ret.)
- Lt. Gen. Richard Trefry, USA (Ret.)

Leaders of Industry
- Hank Greenberg
- Fred Malek
- T. Boone Pickens, Jr.
- Frederick W. Smith
- John Whitehead (1922 - 2015)

Leaders of Arts & Culture
- Tom Brokaw
- Harold Burson
- Barbara Lee Diamonstein-Spielvogel
- Tom Hanks
- Norman Lear

Distinguished Americans
- John Duke Anthony
- Merrill Eisenhower Atwater
- Judy Burgess
Trivia Answer: Five.

Over the course of his two terms as president, Eisenhower nominated five justices to the U.S. Supreme Court, including one chief justice.

Chief Justice Earl Warren (January 1954)
Left: Justice John Marshall Harlan (November 1954)
Right: Justice William Brennan (January 1957)

Left: Charles Evans Whittaker (March 1957)
Right: Potter Stewart (January 1959)

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