Thanks For The Memories

It is with mixed emotions that we bring you the final edition of General ly Speaking. With the Memorial dedicated and transferred to the National Park Service for stewardship, the Commission is sunsetting. As
a special "thank you" to our friends and followers, we offer you a look back through the twenty years of hard work it took to bring this Memorial to fruition. For the Commission staff this was a nostalgic journey through our archives and we hope you will enjoy the trip down memory lane as much as we did...

1999


Senator Daniel Inouye, Mr. Rocco Siciliano, and Senator Ted Stevens – three combat-decorated veterans of World War II and passionate admirers of General and President Eisenhower – initiated a national presidential memorial in honor of Dwight D. Eisenhower's legacy.

2000
First official meeting of the bi-partisan Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission:

Rocco Siciliano, Chairman
Senator Daniel Inouye, Vice Chairman
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Jack Reed
Representative Jerry Moran
Representative Mac Thornberry
Representative Denis Moore
Representative Leonard Boswell
David Eisenhower
Alfred Geduldig
Susan Banes Harris

2002 - 2003

The Legacy Committee – established to assess and understand the outstanding elements of Eisenhower's legacy – presents their report to the Commission.

Louis Galambos, Chairman
Michael Beschloss
Michael J. Birkner
Robert R. Bowie
Carlo D'Este
General Andrew Goodpaster
John H. Morrow, Jr.
Kiron K. Skinner
Richard Norton Smith
Daun van Ee
2005

2006

- Site Selection: Following a review of 26 potential sites throughout Washington, the Commission, review agencies, Congress, and President approved [540 Independence Avenue SW](https://www.independentavenue.org) as the future site of the Memorial.
2008

- Designer Selection: Four finalists were selected from 44 proposals solicited via the General Service Administration's Design Excellence Program.

  Frank Gehry | Gehry Partners, LLP | Los Angeles, CA
  Ron Krueck | Krueck Sexton Partners | Chicago, IL
  R. Rogers and J. Marvel | Rogers Marvel Architects | New York, NY
  Peter Walker | PWP Landscape Architecture | Berkeley, CA

2009
Per the recommendations of an independent review board, the Commission approves Frank Gehry as the lead designer for the Memorial.
Gilbane Building Company contracted as the design and construction management team.

Gehry Partners, LLP forms a joint venture with AECOM to establish the project's design team.

The Commission unanimously selects the preferred concept from three proposals presented by Gehry Partners, LLP.
Preferred design concept of the Memorial as approved by the Commission, March 2010

- The award-winning media design firm *Local Projects*, lead by Principal Jake Barton, is selected to design the E-Memorial – the first fully-integrated digital design experience to complement a presidential memorial.
Early concept for the digital experience as presented by Local Projects, 2010

2011


- Initial prototypes of the tapestry are displayed at the Memorial's site.
2012

- EMC staff receives a tour of the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* from then-commander Captain Paul Spedero, USN.

*EMC staff pose for a photo with Captain Spedero in the hangar bay of the USS Eisenhower, Naval Station Norfolk, VA, April 2012*

*From left: Shannon Honl, Laura Mackiewicz, Annemarie Spadafore, Charlie Range, Captain Spedero, Carl Reddel, Victoria Tigwell, Asia Edwards, Brett Stole*

- The Commission's booth debuts at the Kansas State Fair and wins the "Outside Exhibitor-Single Space Booth Grand Champion Award."

https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories
The E-Memorial Content Committee – a group of five of the world's leading Eisenhower historians, scholars, and education specialists – convenes for the first time to select seven Pivotal Moments to chronicle Eisenhower's life.

Kim Barbieri
Michael Birkner
George Colburn
Louis Galambos
Daun van Ee

2013

- Eisenhower Memorial Exhibit opens at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC
The E-Memorial launches beginning with the first of seven Pivotal Moment experiences:

**D-Day: The Decision That Changed The World**

*D-Day, 1944 - The Decision That Changed the World*

As the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the course of history by launching the D-Day invasion of France.

In conjunction with the 69th anniversary of the eve of D-Day, the Commission hosts a panel of Eisenhower experts for a discussion of the proposed quotations for the Memorial – *Eisenhower in His Own Words*.

**Quotations Committee:**
Commission Executive Director Carl Reddel welcomes attendees to the quotations discussion, The National Press Club, Washington, DC, June 2013

Panelists from left: Louis Galambos, James Thurber (moderator), Stephen Randolph, Michael Birkner

2014

- Second Pivotal Moment experience launches:

  [NATO: A Coalition United For Peace](https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories)

  featuring an interview with former NATO SACEUR Admiral James Stavridis.
As the first Supreme Allied Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Eisenhower accepted the challenge to preserve peace at home and abroad in the Cold War era.

- Opening of the Eisenhower Memorial exhibition at The Pentagon.

Review agencies grant preliminary approval for the Memorial's design:


*Image courtesy of OSD Historical Exhibits Curator Albert Jones*
Early iteration of the design as preliminarily approval by the Commission and review agencies, 2014

- Third and fourth Pivotal Moment experiences launch:

  [West Point: A life In Service To His Country](#)

  features interviews with then-superintendent of West Point Lt. General Robert Caslen, Jr. and EMC Chairman Senator Pat Roberts.

  [Little Rock: The Civil Rights Battleground](#)

https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories
features an interview with President Bill Clinton.

West Point, 1911 – A Life in Service to His Country
At age 20, Eisenhower left his hometown of Abilene, Kansas for the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first step in what was to be a long and distinguished military career.

September 4th, 1957

Little Rock, 1957 – The Civil Rights Battleground
Eisenhower acts to enforce the rule of law by sending Federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, where a violent mob has prevented the integration of Central High School.
2015

- Final design approvals granted by the [U.S. Commission of Fine Arts](https://www.commissionoffinearts.gov/) and the [National Capital Planning Commission](https://www.ncpc.gov/).
Final design as approved by the Commission and review agencies, 2015

- Senator Bob Dole is appointed to serve as Finance Chairman of the Campaign for the Eisenhower Memorial.

Senator Dole at an event in honor of the Memorial, Washington, DC, September 2016

From left: EMC Chairman Senator Pat Roberts, Finance Chair Senator Bob Dole, Susan Eisenhower, Franki Roberts, Anne Eisenhower, Governor Dirk Kempthorne

2016

- Final Pivotal Moment experiences launch:

  Winning the Presidency: Daring All For Our Country
  features an interview with David Eisenhower.

  Waging Peace: Fighting To End All War
  features an interview with former Secretary of State General Colin Powell.
Space Race: Launching America's Era Of Space Exploration features interviews with astronauts Senator John Glenn and Colonel Eileen Collins (USAF, Ret.).

Winning the Presidency, 1952 - Daring All For Our Country
Eisenhower’s landslide victory in securing the presidency placed him at the forefront of one of the most challenging eras of US history, guiding the nation and the world through dangerous and unsettling times.

"Atoms For Peace" Address
United Nations General Assembly
December 8th, 1953

Waging Peace, 1953 - Fighting To End All War
In the first year of his presidency Eisenhower delivered his renowned cry for the end to war: his "A Chance for Peace" speech would be a pledge for a brighter future.
Space Race. 1958 - Launching America's Era of Space Exploration

Only months after the news of the Soviet Union’s first satellite launch, Eisenhower put the first US satellite into orbit, setting in motion the unprecedented feats NASA continues to achieve today.

- As part of the effort to bring the Eisenhower legacy to teachers and students in classrooms around the world, the Commission – in partnership with George Mason University’s highly respected Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media – launches the Lesson Plan Archive as a complement to the E-Memorial Pivotal Moments.
Lesson Plan Archive

Middle and high school curriculum units are based on the seven Pivotal Moments — each curriculum unit features two or three lesson plans. Teachers can download the freely available units and related materials for classroom use.

- The Interactive Timeline, designed by Local Projects with milestone content provided by GMU’s Center for History and New Media, launches as part of the E-Memorial experience — a fitting resource for a tech-savvy generation of students and teachers.
**Interactive E-Memorial Timeline**
An interactive timeline connects viewers with key events in both Eisenhower’s life and in world history during his lifetime. His life spanned an era of great change from the closing of the American frontier in 1890 — the year of his birth — to the first landing on the moon in 1969 — the year Eisenhower died.

- Former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III negotiates a new tapestry image with the Eisenhower family — Normandy during peacetime.

Progression of tapestry artwork from photographic montages of the Kansas Landscape (bottom) and the Normandy coastline (middle) to the final approved hand-drawn depiction of Normandy’s Pointe du Hoc in peacetime (top).

- The Eisenhower legacy organizations’ stories launch as part of the E-Memorial:
**Legacy Organization Stories**

Each organization was either directly created or inspired by Eisenhower during his lifetime and is dedicated to perpetuating his legacy — combined, they serve as the "living memorial" to the champion of peace.

### 2017

- The President enacts [H.R. 244](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/hr-244) (P.L. 115-31) providing $45 million of appropriated funds for construction of the Memorial.

- The [Altria Group](https://www.altria.com) and EMC, with special guest Bret Baier, host an event in commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of D-Day and celebration of the Eisenhower Memorial.
The General Services Administration awards the construction contract for the Memorial to Clark Construction.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission grant revised final design approvals in lead up to the groundbreaking.
Final design of the Memorial as approved by the Commission and review agencies, 2017

- November 2: Eisenhower Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony
The Eisenhower Memorial Commission, the Eisenhower Family, and the design team break ground together on the Eisenhower Memorial, Washington, DC, November 2017


“We build this memorial today not only to honor a single person, but as a symbol for all generations of the greatness of America and what our values have made possible at home and abroad. Lest anyone forget what can be achieved in the land of the free and the home of the brave, let them come here and understand what Eisenhower, and America, have done. And what they, in turn, will do for themselves and for our nation’s future.”

- Senator Pat Roberts, Chairman
Eisenhower Memorial Commission

• The President enacts H.R. 1625 (P.L. 115-141) providing $45 million of appropriated funds for construction of the Memorial.

• The Commission partners with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to host a summer seminar for educators — Eisenhower and the Art of Presidential Leadership.

Summer seminar attendees and staff receive a hard-hat tour of the Memorial's construction site, Washington, DC, July 2018

• SHAEF veterans, accompanied by their families, pay a visit to the Commission's office.
2019

- Film premiere:

  [Architect Frank Gehry on designing the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Memorial](https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories)
Watch architect Frank Gehry describe his process and design for the Eisenhower Presidential Memorial in this short film by award-winning director Adam Kosberg.

- Commission Chairman, Senator Pat Roberts, visits the Eisenhower Memorial construction site.
Members of the construction team and Commission staff pose with Chairman Senator Roberts in front of the future core of the Memorial, Washington, DC, May 2019

From left: David Schnorf, Hallie Futterman, Tara Early, Sen. Pat Roberts, Victoria Tigwell, Thomas Wong, Carl Reddel, Dan Feil, Xavier Marti

- Senator Roberts joins the celebration in Normandy commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.
EMC Chairman Senator Roberts in Normandy for D-Day 75th

- The city of Pietrasanta, Italy, hosts an unveiling ceremony for the first-completed group of sculptures commemorating Eisenhower.
In keeping with the tradition to showcase artists’ works throughout the city, Eisenhower Memorial sculptor Sergey Eylanbekov displays his work honoring General Eisenhower, Pietrasanta, Italy, August 2019

- Film premiere:

  Eisenhower Memorial Tapestry Design and Fabrication
Watch artist and architect Tomas Osinski describe the process for the design and fabrication of the Eisenhower Memorial tapestry in this short film by award-winning director Adam Kosberg.

- Construction crew hangs the first tapestry panels.
• Film premiere:

**Eisenhower Memorial Sculptures**

Watch Sculptor Sergey Eylanbekov describe the process for the design and creation of the Eisenhower Memorial sculptures in this short film by award-winning director Adam Kosberg.

• Architectural critic and biographer Paul Goldberger interviews architect Frank Gehry about the Eisenhower Memorial for inclusion in the audio tour.
Architect Frank Gehry, Sound Designer Andy Green, and Architectural Critic Paul Goldberger, DuoTone Audio, New York, NY, November 2019
2020

- The originally scheduled dedication of May 8th is postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In partnership with the creative team at Bluecadet, the Commission launches an immersive podcast-style audio tour designed to enrich the Memorial experience.

  The tour is available via:

  ![Apple Podcasts](https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories)
  ![Google Podcasts](https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories)
  ![Spotify Podcasts](https://mailchi.mp/eisenhowermemorial/generally-speaking-thanks-for-the-memories)

- September 17, 2020: Eisenhower Memorial Dedication Ceremony
Members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and Eisenhower family cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony, Washington, DC, September 2020


- Memorial turns over to the National Park Service becoming the seventh national presidential memorial in the suite of sites that make up the National Mall and Memorial Parks.
2021

- Eisenhower Memorial receives [LEED Gold certification](https://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/leed).

- The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission sunsets.
The Commission's staff celebrate the success of the project and the fruits of their labor, Washington, DC

From left: Ed Pérez, Pamela Pearson, Shannon Honl, Carl Reddel, Victoria Tigwell, Joyce Jacobson, Trace Livengood

In Memoriam

The Commission had assistance from many people to bring the Memorial to fruition. Unfortunately some of our Commissioners and committee members passed away before they were able to see the completion of the project. We honor them here for their support and contribution.

**Advisory Committee Members**
President George H. W. Bush  
First Lady Nancy Reagan  
David Abshire  
Harold Burson  
Frank Carlucci  
William Coleman  
Larry Field  
Paul Laxalt  
Fred Malek  
Ralph Mecham

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Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)  
Representative Leonard Boswell (D-IA)  
Rocco C. Siciliano, *Chairman Emeritus*  
Bruce Cole

**Legacy Committee Members**
Robert R. Bowie
Salute to Ike's Supporters

We extend our deepest appreciation to the many patriotic Americans, multi-national corporations, foreign nations, and elementary school students in honoring this great American, Dwight D. Eisenhower. We would especially like to thank our major donors who made contributions at the Commander in Chief, Supreme Commander, and Chief of Staff giving levels.

All donors are prominently recognized on our Virtual Donor Wall.

Special Thank Yous

Before we say farewell, the Commission staff would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to a few special individuals and organizations whose commitment and enthusiasm helped bring about the success of this Memorial:

The entire team at Gehry Partners, but particularly Meaghan Lloyd, Craig Webb, John Bowers, and Kristin Ragins for their extraordinary work on this project.

Senator Roberts for EVERYTHING, but especially for his perseverance and support.

Rocco Siciliano for his steady hand.

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access digital assets in support of making the E-Memorial experience richer.

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Kim Barbieri for advising on the development of the teacher resources.

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John Foley with the 101st Airborne Division Pratt Museum for advice on the representation and loan of the World War II 101st paratrooper uniform.

Jennifer Rosenfeld and Kelly Schrum at the Center for History and New Media for the thoughtful development of lesson plans and teacher resource assets.

Lilly Preston, Madeleine Osborn, and Katie Lannigan at Bluecadet for an immersive audio tour experience worthy of a 21st-century presidential memorial.

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Staff at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, DC.

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Team Linder for their resilience in dealing with Mother Nature and pandemics.

Colette Reddel for reminding us that champagne helps solve all problems.

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In the coming weeks we will share with you links to Memorial and Eisenhower legacy resources generated by the Commission in support of this project. Please stay tuned for this forthcoming supplement to our final edition of *General'ly Speaking*. Thank you all for your generous readership.

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