
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER M E M O R I A L C O M M I S S I O N

GROUND IS BROKEN ON **DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL** *Construction Will Begin Immediately on Presidential Memorial*

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WASHINGTON, November 2, 2017: Today in Washington, Members of Congress and the Administration; members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission; the Eisenhower Family; and friends of the Eisenhower Memorial gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Eisenhower Memorial.

The event, emceed by Greta Van Susteren, featured the President's Own U.S. Marine Band Brass Quintet; a Presentation of Colors by the Color Guard Unit from the USS Eisenhower; an Invocation by Father Leo Blasi, Priest at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays, Kansas, and vocals by teenagers Emma and Annie Bathurst of Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower's home town.

Speaking at today's ceremony were: Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Mike Thompson, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial, respectively; Susan Eisenhower; and First Captain of the West Point Corps of Cadets, Simone Askew. In his remarks, Senator Roberts, observed:

"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," Roberts said. "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."

Groundbreaking participants included members of three generations of the Eisenhower family, ten members of the bipartisan Eisenhower Memorial Commission; and memorial designer, Frank Gehry.

Following today's ceremony, memorial designer Mr. Gehry, commented,

This project has been an enormous honor for me both professionally and personally. I was sixteen years old when Eisenhower defeated the Nazis and led America to victory in WWII. I had lost thirty-three members of my family in the camps, so his victory was all the more meaningful to me. His leadership in peacetime was as inspiring. He led the country with strength, but also with great humanity and humility. I hope that these



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values are captured in the memorial, and that it will be a place to honor and to learn from one of the greatest heroes that the world has ever known.

During today's ceremony, Senator Roberts announced that the Construction Permit to begin building the memorial has been granted by the National Park Service and that construction will commence immediately.

Dedication of the memorial is envisioned for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, May 8, 2020.

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EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION: Created by Congress, the bipartisan commission includes eight members of Congress and four Presidential appointees. <http://www.eisenhowermemorial.org/#/commission/mission>

