



Celebrating the Inaugural Year of
**THE DWIGHT D.
EISENHOWER MEMORIAL**



A YEAR OF STORIES



The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C. opened to the public on September 17, 2020. In its first year, the Memorial has hosted countless unique interactions between a dedicated team of volunteers and visitors from all over the world. The Memorial shares the life and legacy of President and General Eisenhower, but importantly is a living stage where people gather to share stories and learn from one another. The Trust for the National Mall is proud of its work with the National Park Service to provide award-winning volunteer-experts at the Memorial to create a moving and meaningful experience for visitors. The Trust is honored to share a selection of stories to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Memorial's opening.

Join the team at: nationalmall.org/become-a-volunteer





STORIES OF SERVICE



A teacher and a group of students visiting from Pennsylvania visited the Memorial. The teacher's grandfather lost his life as a member of the 101st Airborne Division during the early stages of the D-Day invasion. *The teacher was so appreciative of the memorial and the 101st's inclusion in the site.*

A bus driver was wearing a 101st Airborne hat when visiting the Memorial. He had served as a part of that unit in the Vietnam War, and his father served in World War II.

A visitor's father was an amphibious landing craft pilot during World War II, who picked up wounded soldiers from the battlefield on D-Day. It was his job to transport these soldiers back to medical ships in the Atlantic. The visitor's father made the journey an incredible 12 times that day!

Another visitor's father was part of the D-Day invasion, and shared his story: *"My father always said that he was proud to have served under Ike's command twice: on D-Day in Normandy and as a doctoral student at Columbia, when Eisenhower was the university's President. My father would recount how General Eisenhower would return his salute when he saw him on campus."*



The visitor later visited Normandy with his students, and he was reminded of the visit when at the Memorial. He said, "I was particularly moved when I saw the metal tapestry above the memorial, as a volunteer explained that it was the artist's rendering of the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc at the hinge of Utah and Omaha Beaches. I took the students to Pointe du Hoc, stood atop the battlements, and told the students the story - forged by the leadership of Dwight D. Eisenhower. They actually listened!"

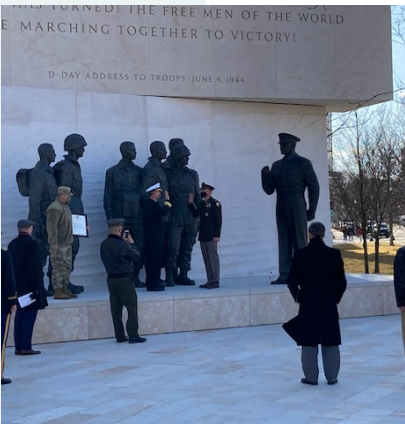
"It was an honor to visit his long overdue Memorial. We all need to learn of his time when Americans were united in national service and purpose."

TIMELESS CONNECTIONS



1 Family

A grandfather, father, and son were visiting the Memorial together. A volunteer spoke with the grandfather and father, while the son went over to look at the WWII statues. The father took a picture of the son looking up in awe at the soldiers and General Eisenhower. He was so moved by his son's rapt attention to the historical statues that he teared up. The trio travelled from Kentucky, and the only thing that the father wanted to take away from the trip, other than memories, was the picture of his son looking at the statues.



2 Service

A ceremony promoting a Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel occurred at the base of the 101st Airborne statue grouping at the Eisenhower Memorial. After the ceremony, a participant shared that he was born in Kansas, and when he decided to join the military at a young age, his parents took him to the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas. The soldier was currently a General, and shared that he was proud to have been born and raised in Kansas, just like Ike.



3 Surprises

A man named Dwight David was driving his tow truck down Independence Avenue, when he saw his name from the street. He parked in front of the Eisenhower Memorial and came to visit. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm for the opportunity to see his namesake. Born in Jamaica, Dwight David's mother had admired Eisenhower, especially his name. Without realizing the memorial existed, Dwight David just happened to be in the neighborhood. His conversation with a volunteer included the impressive achievements of Ike, and made his smile grow even bigger.

PERSONAL MEMORIES

A visitor shared that during Eisenhower's presidency, her family was in Cyprus, where her father was stationed with British forces. There, she joined the British Brownies (Girl Scouts in the UK). The British Brownies told her that she had to pledge allegiance to the Queen, to which she refused, and said she'd pledge to someone equivalent, President Eisenhower. This story worked its way up the ranks, and she received a letter from President Eisenhower on White House letterhead, saying it warmed his heart that she would pledge to him!



One visitor, while on active duty in 1956–1957, had been stationed at the Marine Barracks in Washington where one of the duties is the protection of nearby Camp David. He remembered seeing Eisenhower, accompanied by others, including Chief of Staff, Llewelyn Sherman Adams, often walking in the morning wearing a hat with his head down. However, Eisenhower made it a point to greet the Marines on duty, always asking the same questions: "Where are you from? Are you writing home? How's the food?" Of course, he always said the food was fine, and it was, being prepared by the Navy cooks.

A visitor said he was Eisenhower's caddy at the Gettysburg golf course. When asked about how he played, the visitor humorously said, "He could hit the ball straight, but sometimes it would go straight into sand trap."



VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

The volunteers who serve at the Eisenhower Memorial are the dedicated individuals who share and collect stories of Dwight D. Eisenhower and his legacy all year long.



Lynn Addington

"My mom was so excited about my decision to volunteer at the Eisenhower Memorial that she gave me the "IKE" pin she received as part of her school's student presidential campaign program."



Morgan Anderson

"When I first started working for Senator Pat Roberts, one of the first projects I worked on was for the groundbreaking of the Eisenhower Memorial in the Fall of 2017. I remember the excitement of having a small part in honoring Kansas' favorite son and my favorite president. Growing up in Kansas, we were taught about President Eisenhower's legacy in school and took trips to visit and learn about his childhood home in Abilene. In a lot of ways, volunteering at the Memorial feels like a full-circle moment of my own, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help tell the story of an incredible Kansan."



Sam Curio

Sam Curio's lifelong interest in American history and World War II has been enhanced by the experience of volunteering at the Eisenhower Memorial. He loves interacting with visitors and sharing his knowledge of the life of Eisenhower and the Memorial while learning from them as well. Sam hopes that his experience of visiting the D-Day sites in France adds to visitors' understanding. Two of his favorite visitors were a gentleman who was a member of the Eisenhower Memorial design commission, and a woman whose father was a member of the 101st and participated in the D-Day invasion.



Kevin Fanning

Kevin Fanning volunteered at the Eisenhower Memorial throughout his senior year of college. The memorial was such a large part of his college experience, he used it as a backdrop for his graduation photos.



Guyer Kopplin

Guyer Kopplin first learned about President Eisenhower in the 3rd grade, when he was assigned the 34th president as the topic for a report; he was inspired by Eisenhower's many leadership roles, his service, and his rise to such prominent positions from humble beginnings. Guyer has continued exploring his interest in Eisenhower and World War II throughout school, and he was excited at the opportunity to share his knowledge with others as a volunteer at the Eisenhower Memorial.



Mary Beth Moore

"I had childhood memories of President Eisenhower, but my awareness of his accomplishments was limited. The new Memorial being built in my neighborhood piqued my interest. The opportunity to be trained and contribute to the opening of this new site was exciting, and the more I learned, the more I admired Dwight D. Eisenhower's life-long achievements. I felt the same rise in appreciation that is reflected in his rise in Presidential ranking. I was especially impressed with how this war hero was even better as a peacemaker. I feel very special when I contribute information that increases our visitors' appreciation of this remarkable man."



Michael Zucker

Michael Zucker's love of history was born when he learned about World War II at age 15. Eisenhower was his favorite figure of the war and quickly became Michael's hero. He has read dozens of books on President Eisenhower in the years since and established "The Eisenhower Encyclopedia," a website dedicated to Ike, in 2018. He wrote a composite novel about Eisenhower while in law school that he is currently editing. His passion for Ike motivated his decision to volunteer at the Memorial

ABOUT US



ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

For more information, please visit www.nps.gov.



ABOUT THE TRUST FOR THE NATIONAL MALL

The Trust for the National Mall is the leading nonprofit, nonpartisan philanthropic partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring, preserving and enriching the National Mall. We bring expertise, private funding and in-kind support to time-sensitive restoration and sustainability projects, mobilize volunteers and provide enriched educational experiences to ensure that the National Mall endures and evolves as a vibrant civic stage for all.

For more information, please visit www.nationalmall.org.