

Force in Europe during World War II, Dwight David Eisenhower.

Without Ike, it is not a stretch to imagine that the trajectory of American history might have been significantly altered. It was General Eisenhower who commanded a successful D-Day invasion, which became a pivotal turning point in the Second World War. It was President Eisenhower who waged peace, regulated atomic power, and protected the world against the growing spread of communism. Through it all, it was not selfish ambition or prestige that guided him, but rather his character and sense of duty.

He was born in Denison, TX, on October 14, 1890, as the third of seven sons. At the age of 2, Ike's family moved to Abilene, KS, a lively community with a famous frontier past where he developed his interest in exploring the outdoors. Throughout his lifetime of leadership, Ike never lost touch with his western origins. As Kansas' favorite son, Ike nurtured the values he learned as a young boy, some of which guided his decision-making as a leader. He placed the job and the mission—not himself—at the center. With this heartfelt ethic, he set the example for those around him.

From Abilene to West Point and from Normandy to Washington, Eisenhower embodied the humility, honesty, sincerity, optimism, and fortitude that he would call upon the country to emulate in his first inaugural address on January 20, 1953: "The productivity of our heads, our hands, and our hearts is the source of all the strength we can command, for both the enrichment of our lives and the winning of peace," he declared. "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America."

As Americans, we owe a great deal to the man who led the U.S. and Allied Forces in the liberation of Europe and expelled the evil of Hitler's Nazism. On the domestic front, we are transformed by the fruit of his legacy as President, including: the Interstate Highway System, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—now known as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education—and the Federal Aviation Administration. Ike also brought Alaska and Hawaii into the Union; eradicated segregation in our Armed Forces; and deployed the Army's 101st Airborne to Central High School in Little Rock, AR, ensuring that the law of educational integration was followed by all States.

As chairman of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, I am proud to report that construction on the national memorial of President and General Eisenhower, located on Independence Avenue, SW, between 4th and 6th Streets, is complete, and the memorial is open to the public.

The commission hosted a dedication ceremony at the site the evening of September 17, 2020. Participants in the

ceremony included my fellow commissioners, including vice chairman Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California, Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia, Senator GARY PETERS of Michigan, Senator DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska, Representative SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., OF GEORGIA, REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL K. SIMPSON of Idaho, Representative WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY of Texas, former Senator Robert J. "Bob" Dole of Kansas, Alfred Geduldig, Susan Banes Harris, and Catherine Ann Stevens.

Again, with General Eisenhower as they were on the eve of the D-Day invasion, soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division presented the colors. Speakers included me, Bret Bair, Senate Chaplain Barry Black, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, Architect Frank Gehry, Ms. Rachel Mast of Kansas who recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Astronaut Chris Cassidy from the International Space Station, Secretary Condoleezza Rice, Greta Van Susteren who introduced Senator Bob Dole, David Eisenhower, Susan Eisenhower, and Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. Other Eisenhower family members present at the ceremony included Julie Nixon Eisenhower, their son Alex and his children, Mary Jean Eisenhower's son Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, and several members of the Gill family, relatives of Mamie Doud Eisenhower.

Enjoyed by all were musical performances by the "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, and Voices of Service performers Master Sgt. Caleb Green, Staff Sgt. Ron Henry (Ret.), Sgt. Maj. Christal Rheams, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hanna. Guests at the ceremony and others joining via livestream and CSPAN were thrilled to experience a flyover of F-16s piloted by soldiers of the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard. The flyover occurred precisely at the end of the National Anthem performed by Voices of Service. Additionally, 26 members of the West Point Alumni Glee Club delighted guests with superb renditions of several songs, including "Grand Old Flag," "World War II Medley," and "God Bless the USA."

September's dedication ceremony was a fitting tribute to one of our country's finest leaders. The memorial is now one of the 420 National Memorials and Parks under the stewardship of the National Park Service. I invite all to visit the new Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial.

I ask my fellow Senators and all citizens to join me in celebrating America's 34th President and Supreme Commander during World War II by wishing Ike a happy 130th birthday.

OPENING OF THE CHEYENNE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the opening of the Cheyenne National Cemetery and the hard work that has been put in to this project over the past few years.

This is a historic accomplishment for Wyoming. The Cheyenne National Cemetery is the first veterans cemetery in Wyoming that is run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Before I became a Senator, Wyoming was campaigning for a national cemetery within the State. Once I was in the Senate, I had the opportunity to help advance this project with the help of veterans, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and the patriotic people of Wyoming. They are all to be congratulated, and I know all are thankful this day is finally here.

The opening of this national cemetery will allow veterans in rural areas to be buried in their home State. Before it was constructed, veterans had to go to neighboring States in order to be laid to rest. Now, the Cheyenne National Cemetery will be used to serve approximately 22,000 veterans and their families. Wyoming has worked for a long time, in conjunction with the VA, to give our State veterans what they deserve: a place to rest in peace alongside their fellow servicemembers. Burial services have also been expanded to veterans' spouses and other eligible family members, for they too have sacrificed so much for their country.

National cemeteries are a way to honor our service men and women and serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free. It comes to us at great cost and tremendous personal sacrifice. Each name that has been enshrined has a story to tell about someone who left family and friends, safety and security behind to be part of a cause much greater than themselves. In the end, many of them gave up all of their tomorrows so that today's world might be a better place for us all to live.

I am extremely proud of the steps that the VA and the great State of Wyoming have taken in order to honor our veterans. We must never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the proud Michigan residents who have served in our Nation's military and their families.

When our country was at risk of fracturing in a brutal Civil War, the people of Michigan volunteered. When fascism threatened freedom around the world, the people of Michigan fought back. And when faced with new dangers—from terrorism to pandemic diseases—the people of Michigan remain willing to put our lives on the line on behalf of the American people.

Whenever and wherever our Nation needs us, the people of Michigan always respond. In some families, this spirit of service stretches back generations.

The Armsteads are one such Michigan family. Peter Armstead was originally from England, but when his new Nation needed him, he answered the call. He fought during the Civil War

and barely survived his time in a Confederate prisoner of war camp in Mississippi.

Earl Armstead, Peter's grandson, served in France during World War I, where he was put in charge of destroying enemy bridges. He came home suffering from post-traumatic stress and, like so many of our veterans, struggled to talk about what he had seen.

And Robert Armstead, Earl's nephew, also fought in Europe during World War II. He served in the Tank Destroyer Battalion and took part in the Po Valley campaign in Italy. His unit was being readied for the Pacific Campaign when the war ended.

All three of these veterans were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our Nation. This past August, a grateful nation honored them with side-by-side burials at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Dr. Robert Armstead II, Robert's son, worked to make this historic interment happen. He believes veterans deserve to be remembered and honored for their service. I couldn't agree more.

My own father, who served during World War II, always told me that veterans should not stand at the back of any line. Our Nation must keep its promises to our heroes who have served, whether it is healthcare, education, a chance at a good job, the military recognitions they earned in service, or a place of honor in our national cemeteries, places that Robert Armstead II calls "sacred holy ground."

On this Veterans Day and every day, I salute all of Michigan's veterans past and present. I salute their families, who sacrifice alongside them and help ensure that their stories are never forgotten.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO MEL THOMPSON, GILDA LINTZ, KAY SHARP, AND CHAD TENPENNY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President; I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980 and then the Senate in 1996. I have enjoyed the privilege of becoming the longest serving member of Congress in the history of the Sunflower State and representing Kansans in Washington, DC, for 40 years.

It has been an amazing ride, a great partnership in government and many people have been a tremendous help to Franki and me. We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the friends we have made along the way.

My first boss in public service was a true gentleman from Concordia named Frank Carlson. Senator Carlson was the first person to hit the political trifecta and serve our State as Senator, Congressman, and Governor. The always modest Senator Carlson routinely said, "There are no self-made men or women in public service; it is your friends, family and staff who make you what you are."

Through the years I have repeated Senator Carlson's words on many occa-

sions, and I truly believe that Members of Congress are only as good as their staff. Well, I have been blessed because, for four decades, I believe that I have had the best staff both in Kansas and on Capitol Hill.

While I could offer a long list of current and former aides who have truly made a difference for Kansas and America, there are three unique, humble, and accomplished individuals who deserve special recognition. Mel Thompson, Gilda Lintz, and Kay Sharp have all served quietly and effectively behind the scenes on my Kansas staff for nearly a quarter century.

First, there is Mel Thompson who serves as my State agriculture representative. Actually, Mel and I first worked together on the Washington staff of First District Congressman Keith Sebelius in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Mel has taught me a lot about agriculture and even more about people. Nobody is better at listening to frustrated farmers and ranchers and few know more about the complex and often burdensome regulations offered by USDA and EPA. This incredible knowledge and Mel's neighborly presence led to well-deserved recognition by the Kansas Farm Bureau who honored Mel with a Distinguished Service to Agriculture award. Mel has been a strong advocate for me and, in fact, a brother.

Next, there is Gilda Lintz who serves as the district director in my Topeka office. Gilda is what we call a casework specialist, serving as the court of last resort when communication has broken down between a Kansan and a government agency. Gilda has invested her heart and soul into assisting veterans to obtain service awards or unrealized benefits. Additionally, Gilda has led my service academy nomination board that meets each October to identify the best and brightest Kansans capable of graduating from our Nation's military academies and defending our Nation. I call her "golden." Thank you, Gilda, for nurturing America's heroes. You are a true "Kansas treasure."

I also want to recognize Kay Sharp who serves as my State casework and outreach director. Kay joined my staff after a stint with Senator Nancy Kassebaum and has been a steady and dependable rock in the Overland Park office since 1997. Like Mel and Gilda, Kay is the foundation of Team Roberts. Kay leads my state casework effort and has helped countless Kansans obtain last minute passports, crucial IRS refund checks, and meaningful social security disability payments. More recently, like she did after 9-11, Kay worked after hours and late into the morning on weekends to ensure Americans were able to re-enter the country during COVID-related travel interruptions. Most of all, Kay is someone who I could count on for frank advice and counsel. She always gives you the unvarnished truth, and for that, I am grateful.

Finally, I want to say a word about my longtime State director and now

chief of staff, Chad Tenpenny. Chad has been out there riding shotgun, covering all 105 counties, with me since my early days in the Senate. We have covered almost every inch of the State, from the Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County to the eastern border in Wyandotte County. The people of Kansas know and respect Chad and depend on him as a direct link to the Federal Government. His steady dependable leadership in the State has been a gift to me and to all Kansans over the years.

As a proud U.S. Marine, where I learned that I could achieve more than I ever thought I really could, I am constantly urging my staff to "sprint to the finish line" and "take the Hill." Mel, Gilda, and Kay have done a lot of sprinting and climbing through the years. Together, we have made Kansas a better place, and for that, I am proud.

Semper Fi.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the University of Akron's sesquicentennial and congratulate them on 150 years of extraordinary research, education, and contributions to northeast Ohio.

In 1870, Buchtel College was founded in Akron, OH. It was the predecessor to today's University of Akron. The opening enrollment at Buchtel College was 46 collegiate students with an additional 171 students in the preparatory program. Today, the University of Akron has an enrollment of more than 19,000 students between the main campus in Akron and four regional locations, and the school has more than 175,000 alumni living in 138 countries around the globe.

The University of Akron is home to a beautiful 218-acre campus and top programs in psychology, business administration and accounting, secondary education, the world's largest polymer academic program, and more. UA has a \$2.7 billion economic impact in its primary service area, which includes the Ohio counties of Summit, Cuyahoga, Stark, Medina, Portage, and Wayne.

On October 10, 2020, UA will be celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary with 150 independent celebrations around the world, concluding with a live message and toast from current University of Akron President, Gary Miller. The evening will honor UA's past 150 years of education and research and recognize the impactful, imaginative, and innovative work faculty, researchers, and staff at UA have done over the years and continue to do today.

UA is a prominent institution of higher education with a long history of playing an active role in serving the community in Akron and beyond. Congratulations to the University of