



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

MEMORIAL COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ARCHITECT FRANK GEHRY BY COMMISSIONERS OF THE EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

"To perpetuate his memory and his
contributions to the United States."
-U.S. Public Law 106-79

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 27, 2012

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The Eisenhower Memorial Commission today issued the following statement of support for world renowned architect, Frank Gehry, whom the commission selected in 2010 to design the Eisenhower Memorial to be built in Washington, DC:

The members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission are unanimous in their total and unqualified support for Frank Gehry and his vision for the memorial that will commemorate Dwight David Eisenhower in his roles as both a Supreme Allied Commander during World War II and 34th President of the United States of America.

Frank Gehry has followed the direction provided to him by this commission. He has also consulted with the Eisenhower Family. His design for the Memorial is exciting, creative and inspiring. It captures the life and the spirit – and commemorates the historic achievements – of Dwight Eisenhower as one of the greatest generals in human history and one of our finest presidents.

We are fortunate that the most celebrated architect in the world competed for this project. Frank Gehry has been a loyal soldier in our effort. We confirm our selection of him, confirm our enthusiastic endorsement of his design concept, and express our regret and sadness at the tone and nature of the selected comments that have been made on Mr. Gehry's design for the memorial. Mr. Gehry has consistently expressed his openness to working with the family. We are open and supportive of this effort and look forward to building consensus and moving forward with the memorial. We have great respect for the views of the family in this process and the Commission will work to address the outstanding issues that remain.

As Eisenhower himself said, "For our republic to stay free those among us with the rare gift of artistry must be able to freely use their talent."