September 8, 2016

The Hon. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Room 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Tom Udall (D-NM), Ranking Senator
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Room 125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Senator Udall,

Dwight D. Eisenhower deserves—indeed our nation and world deserve—a physical memorial in Washington to honor his accomplishments as a military leader and President of the United States of America.

We believe the current memorial effort is flawed because it does not meet Ike’s own high standard of full disclosure and standard public process. Instead of the normal fair and open competition of designs, the appointed commission delivered a design that, after many years and much public money spent, still does not have public or Congressional support. As a result, progress toward the memorial is at a standstill.

Ike’s legacy demands—and our country requires—a memorial that unites rather than divides us. Amid the heaves and rolls of changes that are rocking our nation, the right memorial to Eisenhower can remind us of enduring traditions of decorum and sacrifice and point to a future of the same. This right memorial can only emerge from the right public process, through the normal fair and open competition General Eisenhower would demand.

As flag officers who have been honored to serve our country in war and peace, just as Eisenhower was, we call on our elected political leaders to honor him properly by mandating a new, fair, and public competition to design his memorial. And, once designed, we urge an immediate construction, before the last of the WW2 vets who served under him have passed.

Very respectfully,

Thomas F. Hall
RADM, USN (ret)
Former Undersecretary of Defense

Dick Macke
ADM, USN (ret)
Former Commander, United States Pacific Command
Michael D. Barbero  
LTG, USA (ret)  
Virginia

Edward W. Clextion, Jr.  
VADM, USN (ret)  
Virginia

John J. Cusick  
LTG, USA (ret)  
Florida

Jack W. Klimp  
LtGen, USMC (ret)  
South Carolina

John W. Miller  
VADM, USN (ret)  
Virginia

George W. Ballance  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Texas

Joseph G. Balskus  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Florida

John Borling  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Illinois

James J. Carey  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Virginia

Drennan A. Clark  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Nevada

Dan Cloyd  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Virginia

Casey W. Coane  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Georgia

David L. Commons  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Texas

Andrew B. Davis  
MajGen, USMC (ret)  
Maryland

Joseph P. Franklin  
MG, USA (ret)  
Maryland

Alan Mark Gemmill  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Virginia

Daniel J. Gibson  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
California

Garry E. Hall  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Washington DC

James W. Hyatt  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
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Jim H. Keffer  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
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Terry B. Kraft  
RADM, USN (ret)  
California

Dennis G. Lucas  
Maj Gen, Air Nat'l Guard  
California

Michael K. Lynch  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Kansas

Thomas C. Lynch  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Pennsylvania

James A. “Spider” Marks  
MG, USA (ret)  
Virginia

Albert P. Richards, Jr.  
Maj Gen, USAF (ret)  
Hawaii

Gordon D. Russell  
RADM, USN (ret)  
Colorado

Duncan C. Smith III  
RADM, USCG (ret)  
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William D. Razz Waff  
MG, USA (ret)  
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Joel R. Whitehead  
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Bobby J. Wilkes  
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Robert O. Wray, Jr.  
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David N. Blackorby
BG, USA (ret)
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RDML, USN (ret)
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Michael Browne
RDML, USN (ret)
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C. Kenneth Caro Ydine
RDML, USN (ret)
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Michael A. Cushman
Brig Gen, USAF (ret)
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James H. Doty
BG, USA (ret)
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Cynthia Dulles, RN
RDML, USN (ret)
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Douglas B. Earhart
BG, USA (ret)
Virginia

Robert J. Felderman
BG, USA (ret)
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W. Bryan Gamble
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