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Veterans Day Tribute at Truman Library to Feature Keynote Address by General Casey, Book Signing by Ike Skelton

*Free Veterans Day events include outdoor patriotic concert, military
equipment display, veterans' reception and more*

OCTOBER 17, 2013 (Independence, MO) - The Truman Library Institute will present The Second Annual Honorable Ike Skelton Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11 at 3 p.m. at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. The program, which is offered free of charge, will feature remarks by former U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton and a keynote address by General (Ret.) George W. Casey, Jr.

General George W. Casey, Jr. is one of the most accomplished soldiers in U.S. history and an authority on strategic leadership. As the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army from April 2007 to 2011, General Casey led what is arguably the world's largest and most complex organization – 1.1 million people strong, with a \$200 billion annual budget – during one of the most extraordinary periods in military and global political history. He is widely credited with restoring balance to the war-weary U.S. Army, modernizing and leading the transformation necessary to defend our nation in the 21st century, and ensuring the current force deployed in the war on terror was the best this country has ever fielded.

Prior to this post, General Casey commanded the Multi-National Force – Iraq, a coalition of more than 30 countries, where he guided the Iraq mission through its toughest days. He led cultural change in the U.S. Armed Forces and built the Iraqi security institutions to set the conditions for our long-term success. On the homefront, General Casey has been a stalwart advocate for military families, expanding programs for the wounded, addressing the tough issues of substance abuse and suicide, reducing the stigma of combat stress and trauma, and providing long term support for survivors of the fallen. Known for his vision, candor, integrity and humor, General Casey's story is one of personal courage and commitment to excellence.

The program will be preceded by a 1:30 p.m. outdoor performance by the 46-piece Spirit of Independence Concert Band (weather permitting) and will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the grave site of President Truman.

The annual salute will conclude with a Veterans' Reception and book signing with former U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton. Released this month, *Achieve the Honorable: A Missouri Congressman's Journey from Warm Springs to Washington* is the deeply personal tale of Ike Skelton's determined journey from the small town of Lexington, Missouri, to Capitol Hill. During his years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Skelton became known as a bipartisan negotiator and a champion of the Armed Services. Throughout the decades, he helped steer the nation through its most dangerous challenges, from Communism to terrorism; took a leading role in the reform of the Department of Defense; dedicated himself to fulfilling the interests of his constituents; and eventually rose to become chair of the House Armed Services Committee during such pivotal events as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to detailing Skelton's political career and its accompanying challenges and triumphs, *Achieve the Honorable* provides inside glimpses into the lives of political titans like Harry Truman, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. Along the way, we are treated to Skelton's engaging humor and shrewd insight into 20th- and 21st-century U.S. politics.

The Honorable Ike Skelton Veterans Day Ceremony is made possible by generous support from Marny and John Sherman; The Dunn Family Foundation; Mary Ellen and James Ascher; and Marie and Brig. General (Ret.) Jack Capps. Veterans Day partners include the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum; The City of Independence, Missouri; Wentworth Military Academy; and the Independence Pioneers Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Truman Library Institute is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit partner of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, one of 13 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. Hailed as home to America's "best presidential museum," the Truman Library seeks to promote, through educational and community programs, a greater appreciation and understanding of American politics, history and culture, the process of governance, and the importance of public service, as exemplified by Harry S. Truman. To learn more about the Truman Library and the Truman Library Institute, visit TrumanLibrary.org.

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