



Susan Eisenhower

Ms. Eisenhower is well-known for her work as a policy analyst, much of which has been focused on national security, and related strategic issues. She has brought this work to light in her writing as an essayist, op-ed writer, biographer, and editor. She has authored hundreds of op-eds for newspapers such as The Washington Post, The New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times. Her articles have also appeared in the National Academy of Sciences' Issues in Science and Technology and the Naval Institute's Proceedings. Early in her career, she wrote humor for The Saturday Evening Post. Eisenhower has provided analysis for CNN International, MSNBC, The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer, FOX News, CBS Sunday Morning in an interview with Rita Braver, the BBC, and all three major network morning programs. On the lighter side, she has appeared on the Colbert Report and Real Time with Bill Maher, in addition to many other well-remembered programs such as the PBS Newshour with Jim Lehrer, Hardball with Chris Mathews, Nightline with Ted Koppel, World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, This Week with David Brinkley, and CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt.

Beyond the well-known range of current affairs and news programs, Eisenhower has been seen as a "talking head" on documentaries, such as Oliver North's War Stories, Sony Pictures Why We Fight and David Hoffman's Sputnik Mania. Most recently she has been interviewed for several documentaries on D-Day.

In 1986, Susan Eisenhower founded The Eisenhower Group, Inc., a Washington, DC, based consulting company. For more than thirty years, the company has provided strategic counsel on business development, public affairs, and communications projects. Through the Eisenhower Group, Inc., Ms. Eisenhower does extensive work in executive training on strategic leadership, a lecture topic she presents to many corporate and organizational venues.

In addition to her work through EGI, Susan Eisenhower has also had a distinguished career as a policy analyst. She is Chairman Emeritus at the Eisenhower Institute where she served as president twice. Currently she holds a year-long seminar on strategy for competitively selected students through the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College. She has also been a Fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics as well as a Distinguished Fellow at the Nixon Center, now called the Center for National Interest.

During different administrations, she served as a member of three blue ribbon commissions for the Department of Energy: The Baker-Cutler Commission on U.S. Funded Non-Proliferation Programs in Russia; The Sununu-Meserve Commission on Nuclear Energy; and the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which released its findings on a comprehensive program for the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. She is currently a member of MIT's Energy Initiative Advisory Board and former co-chairman of NEAC, the Secretary of Energy's Nuclear Energy Advisory Board.

In 1998 Susan Eisenhower was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Standing Committee on International Security and Arms Control, where she served for eight years. After as many years on the NASA Advisory Council, she became a member of the International Space Station Management and Cost Evaluation Task Force.

Today, Ms. Eisenhower serves on a number of charitable and corporate advisory boards.



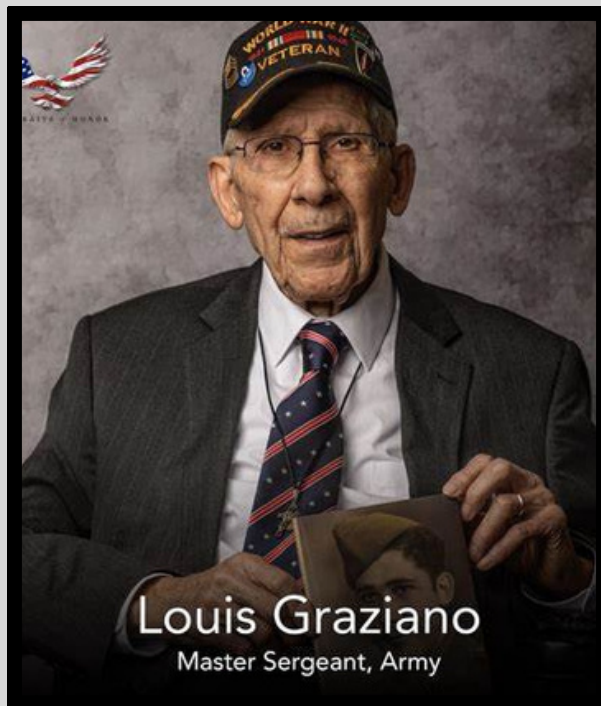
Mary Jean Eisenhower

Mary Jean Eisenhower was born in Washington, D.C. during her grandfather, Dwight D. Eisenhower's, first term in office as President of the United States. She was christened in the Blue Room of the White House and grew up in nearby Gettysburg, PA, in a home with property abutting the Eisenhower Farm, where President Eisenhower eventually retired.

She attended several schools in Pennsylvania until her father, John, was named as US Ambassador to Belgium. She lived in Brussels with her family from shortly after her grandfather's death in 1969 through 1972.

Mary Jean Eisenhower is President and Chairman Emeritus of People to People International, which was founded September 11, 1956 by her grandfather, then US President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Mary says that she joined PTPI hoping to carry on her grandfather's dream, but that now it has become a dream of her own. In 1961, President Eisenhower brought PTPI into the private sector, with the financial backing of his friend Joyce Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards.

Following September 11, 2001, Mary's focus intensified toward getting young people from around the world together to learn about each other and conflict management. Her vision resulted in "Peace Camp 2003: An Evolution of Thought and Action" and "The Global Peace Initiative." Both efforts have brought people from diverse areas, more than 30 nationalities, together in Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, to discuss issues, how each is affected and reach a better understanding of their unique and individual cultures. The program remains active today. In total, Mary Jean has visited or established programming in over 80 countries, many multiple times.



Master Sergeant Louis C. Graziano

Personal History: Louis was born on the 6th of February 1923 in East Aurora New York.

History: Master Sergeant Louis C. Graziano earned his 2 Campaign Battle Stars leading a platoon of communications specialists tasked to assure reliable means of command and control for the highest of command personal.

Overseeing 35 men, Louis supervised their work in plumbing, carpentry, electrical, masonry, road building, and basic construction work. However, on June 6th, 1944, D-Day, survival was the order of the day as Louis, aboard an LST with his men, landed upon the sands of Omaha Beach near the St. Laurent-Vierville exit, Normandy France. Once beached, Louis drove a truck full of gasoline onto the sand. With no place to go, he abandoned the vehicle and gathered his weapons to get into the fight. With another man he took up a position at the base of a cliff and fired a burst from a flame thrower to take out a German machinegun nest. Further up the cliff yet out of range were even more enemy machinegun nests. In quick thinking, Louis took a flare gun and fired a flare into those positions hoping to direct the fire of allied ships cruising just off the beach.

The gun crews on the ships responded as hoped, unleashing their fire from larger caliber guns destroying those positions beyond. Advancing beyond the shores of Normandy, the French City of St Lo was then liberated and then, in time, the City of Reims. It was here in Reims that Louis's skill in his craft would come into play and eventually afford him a seat to history itself.

Upon establishment of a command post within the heavily mined city, Louis was ordered by General Thrasher to install General Eisenhower's phone line. This particular phone line was vital, not only for the General's real time communication, but installing it, helped speed a timelier allied victory. As winter approached the Germans had mounted a last-ditch counteroffensive which developed into what has become known as the "Battle of the Bulge". In response, all troops were being mustered to come to the rescue of encircled troops near the Belgian town of Bastogne. In a very dangerous mission along with his Captain, Louis set off in a Jeep to find an element of the 3rd Armored Division to aid in the effort to relieve the surrounded soldiers.

After suffering frostbite during the successful effort to search and find the lost armored element, Louis returned to Reims to recover. Among the buildings in Reims there was a “Little Red Schoolhouse” where General Eisenhower had his headquarters. It was here that the unconditional surrender of Germany was signed in the early morning hours of Monday, May 7, 1945. Louis was there, in the room, as General Yodl of the German Army signed the articles of surrender. U.S. General Walter Bedell Smith signed on behalf of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, General Eisenhower, and General Ivan Susloparov on behalf of the Soviet High Command. French Major-General François Sevez signed as the official witness.

It is most likely that Louis is the last surviving witness to this historic event... 75 years later, Louis applied for the French Legion d'honneur; the highest honor that the French Government can bestow upon someone who has done great deeds for France. On the 6th of April 2021, Master Sergeant Graziano's application for the French Legion d'honneur was approved by French President Emmanuel Macron. Presentation of his decree and medal as a Chevalier in the 'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur' took place on September 17th, 2021.

Consul General Vincent Hommeril, Consul General of France in Atlanta presented Chevalier Graziano in front of hundreds of family, friends, and representatives of France, Germany, Holland and the United States as well as liberty loving citizens of several countries at the First United Methodist Church in Thomson Georgia. His story and this distinction deserves the attention and admiration of liberty loving people everywhere.

After the war was over, Louis married his wartime sweetheart, a U.S. Army Sergeant, his beloved Bobbie Shaneyfelt, who he met in Reims. In 62 years of marriage to Bobbie, the Graziano's raised 5 children; Louis, Moira, Marsha, David, and Kim. In 2018 Louis wrote “A Patriot's Memoirs of World War II” chronicling his life's story and service. In February of 2023, family and friends as well as the whole town of Thomson celebrated Mr. Graziano's 100th birthday, where he continues to practice that art of hair styling at his shop in Thomson.



Admiral Michelle Howard (Retired)

Michelle Howard, in full Michelle Janine Howard, also called Michelle J. Howard, (born April 30, 1960, March Air Force Base, near Riverside, California, U.S.), U.S. military officer who was the first woman to become a four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy. She also made history as the first African American woman to captain a U.S. naval ship (1999).

Howard was born on March Air Force Base (now March Air Reserve Base), California, where her father served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. By the time she was 12 years old, she had started thinking about embarking on a career in the military. Howard discovered, however, that opportunities for women in U.S. military academies during the early 1970s were nonexistent. That circumstance changed when U.S. Pres. Gerald Ford signed (1975) the Military Procurement Bill, which provided for the admission (starting in 1976) of women into the military academies.

During high school Howard applied to the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and, upon entering the academy in 1978, she became one of only seven Black women in the school's class of 1,363 students. She graduated in 1982 and later earned (1998) a master's degree in military arts and sciences from the U.S. Army's Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

During Howard's sophomore year at the academy, she piloted her first ship, the destroyer USS Spruance, during a summer training cruise. She served aboard the submarine tender USS Hunley (1982–85) and the training aircraft carrier USS Lexington (1985–87) before being named (1990) the chief engineer aboard the USS Mount Hood. She assumed the duties of first lieutenant (1992) aboard the USS Flint and was the executive officer (1996) on the USS Tortuga. By taking command of the USS Rushmore, Howard became the first African American woman to captain a U.S. naval ship.

She served (May 2004–September 2005) as the commander of Amphibious Squadron 7, which aided in relief in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. She became the first African American woman to lead a U.S. Navy battle group when in 2009 she took command of Expeditionary Strike Group Two. This flotilla guarded (April 2009–July 2010) the Persian Gulf as part of the U.S. war on terrorism and performed anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean.

Sailors under her leadership rescued Richard Phillips, the captain of the container ship MV Maersk Alabama, who was held hostage (April 8–12, 2009) by Somali pirates. Howard also served in a number of onshore positions, notably as deputy director of the Expeditionary Warfare Division under the chief of naval operations, senior military assistant to the secretary of the navy, chief of staff to the director for strategic plans and policy, and deputy chief of naval operations for operations, plans, and strategy (N3/N5).

On July 1, 2014, Howard became the first woman promoted to the rank of four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy. That day she was also appointed the 38th vice chief of naval operations (VCNO), making her the second highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Navy. In 2016 she became commander of naval forces in Europe and Africa. The following year she retired from the navy.

In 2021 Howard became chair of the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense That Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America (commonly called the Naming Commission).