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1 National Highlights
Four unexpected places where the Berlin Wall still stands

By Ruby Mellen Assistant Editor, Foreign desk, November 8, 2019

When the border between East and West Germany opened on the night of Nov. 9, 1989, revelers hacked and chiseled at the Berlin Wall, which had divided the city for decades. They were trying to make way for people to cross over, but also revolting against a structure that had been a symbol of oppression and division for decades.

The wall was erected in 1961 to prevent residents of Soviet-dominated East Germany from defecting to the West — as they had been in droves. Once the concrete barrier was in place, getting caught trying to cross without authorization had life-or-death implications. Between 1961 and 1989, at least 140 people were killed by the East German police for trying to escape.

It took more than a year for the wall, which stretched for about 114 miles, to be completely demolished. Some of the matter was recycled to build roads, but capitalism also caught on quickly, and the German government began to look for buyers from all over the world to purchase and display the parts of the wall.

Thirty years later, pieces of the Berlin Wall have journeyed far outside of Germany’s borders to six continents and dozens of countries, where they now serve as memorials to a disturbing past and joyous liberation. But regardless of how far from Germany the wall segments travel, the message, said curators and historians, always hits close to home.

Ein Hod, Israel

For Raya Zommer-Tal, bringing part of the Berlin Wall to Israel wasn’t an obvious choice. The director of the Janco Dada museum outside of Tel Aviv, Zommer-Tal was in Berlin in 1991 when the director of the Checkpoint Charlie museum, which commemorates the famous checkpoint into East Berlin, asked her a question: Would she host an exhibition in Israel on the history of life in East Berlin? He said they would send her a piece of the wall to display if she agreed.

Zommer-Tal hesitated. This was not really the kind of exhibition for her museum, which primarily focused on the Dada art movement — an absurdist form of expressionism that rose in reaction to the horrors of World War I. But, as she proposed to her colleagues back in Israel, the subject matter had a connection with the antiwar ideals of the Dada movement.

The exhibition, which opened in early 1992, took up the entire museum space, displaying the work of German artists’ representations of the wall, as well as objects and contraptions people living in East Berlin used to escape. Zommer-Tal remembers wheeling in a car that had a special compartment used to smuggle people into West Berlin. The show drew so many people that they had to extend its run, she said. The piece of the wall, meanwhile, was too big to fit inside the museum, so they placed it outside, where it still stands today. (Zommer-Tal jokes it was cheaper for the Germans to leave it in Israel than pay to transport the slab back to Europe.)

“It’s very special that we did it and that we have this piece, because it’s very symbolic,” she said.

Not everyone was pleased with an exhibition about the plight of Germans.

“It wasn’t so easy to do this kind of exhibition almost 30 years ago,” Zommer-Tal notes. “There were a lot of Holocaust survivors who didn’t like it.”
That was why it was important, she said.

“It was the Germans themselves who were responsible, but they also suffered because of what happened in East Berlin at that time. It’s not just a decoration or a historical piece; it has some meaning here in Israel,” she said.

The wall segment was later dedicated to those killed during the Holocaust.

**Washington, D.C.**

Walk into the spacious entry hall of D.C.’s Newseum, a museum dedicated to free expression and free press, and you’ll be directed to begin your tour in the basement. There, standing at 2.5 tons each, are eight 12-foot-high segments of the Berlin Wall, whitewashed and blank on what was once the side that faced East Germany, colorful and graffiti-scarred on side that faced west. Looming over the wall segments is an authentic three-story East German guard tower.

Chris Wells, as a senior vice president at the Freedom Forum, the Newseum’s parent organization, traveled to Berlin in 1993 and purchased the eight segments for about $5,000 each (plus shipping). The tower, she said, was a gift to the Newseum, which in return donated $15,000 to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum.

“The wall is the most iconic and biggest symbol of what a lack of a free press is and why it’s so critical to democracy,” Wells said, in a 2014 podcast, noting that what was separating the free media from East Berlin was the wall.

The Newseum’s current space on Pennsylvania Avenue was essentially built around the wall and the tower, said Sonya Gavankar, Freedom Forum’s director of public relations.

“Half of our visitors are school kids,” Gavankar said. “So, the Berlin Wall and the Cold War are ancient history to them. What it was like in the Cold War to be completely blocked from free speech — nothing says it better than those 12-foot concrete pieces.”

When the Newseum closes its doors at the end of 2019, Gavankar says the pieces will go into an archive facility until they can find a new home for them.

**Cape Town, South Africa**

In 1996, a piece of the Berlin Wall journeyed to South Africa as a gift for then-President Nelson Mandela. Today, it stands in Cape Town, outside the Mandela Rhodes Foundation, which primarily serves as a scholarship organization for African students.

The gift came at an important time for both Germany and South Africa.

“In the early 1990s, both Germany and South Africa began to disassemble the divides created during the Cold War and apartheid, respectively,” said Judy Sikuza, CEO of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation. “The Berlin Wall physically represented those barriers and divides. It was a symbol of a lack of freedom and embracing of our common humanity.”

In Cape Town, she said the wall serves as an inspiring, though ominous, reminder:

“Having a piece of the Berlin Wall outside our offices,” Sikuza said, “is a symbol both of how far we have come — of the political and social freedoms we have achieved in South Africa — and the ways in which we continue to be divided.”

**Fulton, Missouri**

The story of how the Berlin Wall came to Fulton (population: 13,000) dates to March 5, 1946, when then-British Prime Minister Winston Churchill traveled to Fulton’s Westminster College to give an address. He’d been convinced to do so by a good friend and Missouri native, former president Harry S. Truman.

There, Churchill delivered what became known as his famed “iron curtain” speech, which warned of the looming threat of Soviet aggression.

“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent,” Churchill said.

The Berlin Wall came to physically embody Churchill’s metaphor, sealing East Germany off from the West with its steely gray.

When the wall fell in 1989, Churchill’s granddaughter Edwina Sandys, an artist, had the idea to build an installation in Fulton, which, she said, “seemed to be the perfect place.”
She traveled to Berlin in early 1990 and procured eight sections, which the Germans gave her, she suspects, when they realized who her grandfather was. The pieces traveled by ship to Long Island, where Sandys carved two openings in the wall in the shape of human figures. She titled the work “Breakthrough.”

“If you’re there, you have to walk through it,” Sandys said, adding she encourages people to think of their personal meditations, resolves or prisons beforehand and then “break through.”

The wall in Fulton has brought with it many illustrious guests. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and former president Ronald Reagan have all given addresses there.

“In a place like Fulton, history doesn’t seem old. History is alive,” said Tim Riley, the director and chief curator at the Churchill Museum in Fulton, where “Breakthrough” stands. “As we commemorate and celebrate the demise of the barrier, we also have to remember and educate. Walls don’t always work. And this is a prime example.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This excellent article also was distributed via the Washington Post Writers Group, and published by the following: San Francisco Chronicle, Stars and Stripes, San Antonio Express-News, Laredo Morning Times, The Telegraph and SFGate)
FULTON, Mo. — Walking around the campus of Westminster College with Tim Riley is like going back in time.

He can point out the exact spot where Winston Churchill got out of his car when he visited in 1946. In the college's gymnasium, he points out the metal pole still strung to the building's rafters, where a special backdrop was hung for the occasion. Standing outside the old university president's house he recounts, as the story goes, how Churchill commented during their lunch: “Madam, I believe the pig has reached its highest state of evolution in the form of this ham.”

Mr. Riley is the director and chief curator of America's National Churchill Museum at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. As such, he leads the efforts to preserve the legacy of Churchill’s visit to the town, about 90 minutes west of St. Louis.

“The 50-minute speech that Churchill gave that day on March 5 changed the course of 20th-century history,” Mr. Riley said almost as nonchalantly as he recalled Churchill’s praise of Callaway County ham. It was here on March 5, 1946, that Churchill gave a speech titled “The Sinews of Peace” where he warned of the Cold War’s earliest chill, coining the term “the Iron Curtain.”

“That speech could have been given anywhere,” Mr. Riley said. “It could've been in Washington, it could've been in New York. But Churchill gave it in the middle of America, in the president's home state, in an academic setting. He says the great threats to our civilization are war and tyranny, and, as he says, the average apartment and cottage home is threatened by these two marauders. And he makes that message here, not at a joint session of Congress, not at a large metropolitan area or in Washington. He makes it in a place where there are apartments and cottage homes. And I think that resonates.”

After World War II, Churchill received invitations to speak all over the world. The president of Westminster College — with an enrollment of only a few hundred students at the time — sent one as well. It probably would have been overlooked had it not been personally inscribed by President Truman, a Missouri native whose aide was a Westminster alumnus.
In the early 1960s, Westminster College’s leadership began pushing for a way to permanently commemorate Churchill’s visit and legacy. With President Kennedy’s help, arrangements were made for the ruins of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury — a 17th-century London church designed by Christopher Wren that had been bombed during World War II — to be moved to Fulton and reassembled, brick by brick. The memorial and museum were dedicated in 1969 and declared by Congress as the National Churchill Museum in 2009.

“They could have just had a statue. Everybody does that,” said Edwina Sandys, a British artist who is Churchill’s granddaughter. “I think, in a way, it was quite brilliant not just to take any old thing from London, but to take something special and rebuild it over here. I think that was a stroke of genius.”

The museum’s permanent exhibition was renovated in 2006, drawing on an ever-growing collection of pieces that tell the story of Churchill’s life — his paintings, first-edition copies of his books, ammunition from the beach at Dunkirk, and even a top hat that was signed by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at the Yalta Conference in 1945.

The exhibition focuses on Churchill’s journey, but it builds context through immersive galleries of World War I trenches, the rise of fascism in Europe, and the London Blitz.

Renewed interest in Churchill’s life, driven by films like “Darkest Hour” (2017) and “Dunkirk” (2017), and the drama “The Crown” on Netflix, has driven more visitors to the museum. Attendance is up more than 25 percent in the last two years.

The museum’s exhibition draws visitors’ focus to Churchill’s accomplishments and resolve, giving less attention to the atrocities the British Empire inflicted upon its colonies during his time in government. “It’s a part of the story. We can’t deny it; we can’t ignore it,” Mr. Riley said.

The museum also displays a piece of the Berlin Wall that overlooks the campus. In 1990, Ms. Sandys acquired a piece of the wall and turned it into a sculpture, “Breakthrough,” to be displayed at the museum.

“Every so often it seems to be relevant again,” said Ms. Sandys, who visits the museum at least once a year. She alluded to the ongoing debate about a wall on the United States border with Mexico: “And now, in a different way, it is relevant again.”

“I’ve seen the wall up close and personal when it was the Berlin Wall,” said Fletcher Lamkin, Westminster’s president who, near the end of the Cold War, was in the military and commanded a battalion in West Germany. Westminster’s students “need to realize that freedom is worth the sacrifice,” he said. “That a lot of people sacrificed here for generations, in this country, and throughout the world, to have freedom. And it doesn’t come cheap. And it doesn’t come easily.”

Though the museum largely commemorates a specific event in 1946, its programing, temporary
and traveling exhibitions, and outreach efforts work to make Churchill’s speech relevant to visitors today. Recently, Mr. Riley drew on the “special relationship” between the United States and United Kingdom, a phrase popularized by Churchill. To commemorate its 50th anniversary this year, the museum asked students in Callaway County, Mo., to paint a six-by-six-inch canvas illustrating what “special relationship” means to them. They now hang in the museum.

“I think, locally here in mid-Missouri, there’s great pride,” Mr. Riley said. “And the legacy of Churchill’s speech continues to this day. We’ve had other presidents and prime ministers, ambassadors, make the trip — President Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher. Last year we had the Israeli ambassador speak here, and Fulton is probably not normally on his travel schedule. But because Churchill came here, and these other world leaders recognize and acknowledge the importance of history, these leaders keep coming back.”

“I think my grandfather’s life and memory will stand the test of time,” Ms. Sandys said. “Because it’s so varied, and so interesting.”
A statue of Winston Churchill, Britain’s WWII-era leader, stands in front of a church that’s part of the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Mo.

(Elizabeth Conley)

Why Winston Churchill has been revered in this small Missouri town for 50 years

By Jay Jones, April 5, 2019

Winston Churchill’s legacy will be remembered during three days of celebrations in May at the Midwestern museum that bears his name. The 50th anniversary of America’s National Churchill Museum will bring several of the former British prime minister’s descendants to Fulton, Mo., a small town 100 miles northwest of St. Louis.

The museum, located on the campus of Westminster College, was created to memorialize a speech Churchill gave at the school in 1946. At a podium in the school’s gymnasium, with President Harry Truman seated a few feet away, Churchill warned of the new-found power of the Soviet Union and coined the phrase “iron curtain.” “From [the port of] Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent,” he prophetically warned his audience.

If not for a nudge from Truman, it is doubtful that Churchill would have ever seen the college’s invitation to speak, let alone accepted it. “There was a postscript at the bottom of that letter that said, ‘This is a wonderful school in my home state. I hope you can do it. I’ll introduce you. Harry Truman,’” said Timothy Riley, the museum’s director and chief curator.
“When Churchill saw the president of the United States signed the letter, he knew he was back in the game,” Riley said. “The world would once again would listen to what he had to say.”

Westminster College hosts a museum with exhibitions about Churchill’s life and legacy as well as an adjoining church. The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury was built in 17th century London and designed by Christopher Wren, also the architect of St. Paul’s Cathedral in the English capital.

“[College administrators] had a bold idea to relocate from central London to mid-Missouri a Christopher Wren church which had been bombed in the Blitz, under Churchill’s watch, and left in ruins into the 1960s,” Riley said.

Stone by stone — there were 7,000 in all — the church was disassembled and shipped to the U.S. to be rebuilt. “Churchill himself knew of this,” Riley said. “He was 88 years old at the time. He called it ‘an imaginative concept.’” The museum and church opened in May 1969.

Exhibits inside the National Churchill Museum share the life and the legacy of the prime minister who led Great Britain through the dark years of World War II.

A related site on the campus also has a Churchill connection.

“Breakthrough” is a sculpture incorporating eight large sections of the Berlin Wall. It was created in 1990 by Edwina Sandys, a sculptor who is Churchill’s granddaughter. Sandys will be among the family members returning to Fulton for the May 3-5 celebration.
Breakthrough,” lower left, is a sculpture made of Berlin Wall panels by Churchill’s granddaughter, Edwina Sandys. At right is a church that was shipped from London and rebuilt, stone by stone. (Rebecca Barr / Westminster College)

Highlights of the weekend include museum tours, during which new exhibits will be unveiled; an organ recital and commemorative worship service in the restored church; and a parade along the route taken by Churchill and Truman in 1946.

The weekend’s schedule indicates which activities are free and which require tickets.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Adult admission ticket costs $8.50, including a visit to the historic church. Info: National Churchill Museum
FULTON, Mo. (AP) — Madeleine Albright says during a Missouri speech that democracy worldwide “appears to be in retreat.”

The 82-year-old former secretary of state who served during President Bill Clinton’s administration spoke Thursday at Westminster College in Fulton, the site of Winston Churchill’s famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Albright said the U.S. should engage with the world, not isolate itself. She says President Donald Trump is helping to dismantle a world order embraced by presidents of both political parties since the end of World War II.

Albright said current U.S. foreign policy echoes its post-World War I attitude, when many “embraced protectionism, downplayed the rise of fascism, opposed help to the victims of oppression and ultimately endangered our world’s security.”

The AP news story alone was published, broadcasted, or posted online to roughly 720 news outlets throughout North America (as of 9:30 a.m. 9/20/19, including the following (in no specific order of importance):

The Washington Post
ABC News
US News & World Report
Miami Herald
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Chicago Tribune
San Francisco Chronicle
Minneapolis Star Tribune
The Seattle Times
Connecticut Post
The Houston (TX) Chronicle
Southeast Missourian
WTOP Radio, Washington DC
WTHR-TV, NBC affiliate, Indianapolis
WRAL-TV, Raleigh, NC
Rapid City (SD) Journal
Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI
The Daily Journal, Franklin, IN
Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, AZ
WGEM TV and Radio, Quincy, IL
KWWL-TV, NBC affiliate, Waterloo, Iowa
The Republic, Columbia, IN
The Record Eagle, Traverse City, MI
WAND-TV, Decatur, IL
WREX-TV, Rockford, IL
Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff, AZ
The Journal, Winston-Salem, NC
Tribune-Star, Terra Haute, IN
KHQ-TV, NBC affiliate, Spokane, WA
KOMU-TV, Columbia, MO
Waco Tribune, Waco, TX
Gazette Xtra, Janesville, WI
The Independent, Grand Island, NE
The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City Capital Newspapers Inc., Madison, WI
The Cleveland Banner
KTIV-TV, Sioux City, IO
The News Press, St. Joseph, MO
KOMU-TV, Columbia, MO
KSL-TV and KSL Radio, Salt Lake City
Billings Gazette, Billings, Montana
Midwest Traveler: Missouri town celebrates 50 years of a Winston Churchill memorial

The National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Mo., rose from the ashes of a ruined London church.

By Diana Lambdin Meyer Special to the Star Tribune, April 4, 2019

Fifty years ago, much of London still lay in rubble from the Blitz of World War II. However, one of the city’s many historic churches, gutted by a bomb in December 1940, had recently been rebuilt, beginning its new life thousands of miles away in Fulton, Mo.

The journey of that church, or more accurately the crumbled remains of that church, to this small Midwestern town is a journey that has since been
repeated by some of the world’s most powerful leaders.

This May marks the 50th anniversary of that church opening as the Winston Churchill Memorial in Fulton — now known as the National Churchill Museum. On the weekend of May 3-5, descendants of many of those world leaders will follow their ancestors’ footsteps back to Fulton to commemorate the significance of this little town and its role in world history.

An iron curtain

It’s OK if you scratch your head and wonder why there is a National Churchill Museum in Missouri. That’s a long way from 10 Downing Street.

The prime minister, whose indomitable spirit and eloquent words kept Great Britain strong during its darkest days, became friends with another spirited guy named Harry Truman. Not quite a year after the war ended in Europe, at the behest of his good friend from Missouri, Churchill accepted an invitation to speak at Westminster College in Fulton.

One of two highly rated private colleges in this community of 13,000 residents, Westminster College holds an endowment that regularly brings speakers of “international significance” to campus.

And that’s why on March 5, 1946, not a year after the end of the war in Europe, Winston Churchill came to central Missouri, delivering a speech formally called the “Sinews of Peace.” Today, it is simply known the Iron Curtain Speech.

At the 20th anniversary of that speech, the Westminster faculty, inspired by a magazine article that showed the devastation of historic churches in London, decided to honor the memory of that famous speech by purchasing one of those churches that government leaders determined would not be rebuilt in London.
AMERICA'S NATIONAL CHURCHILL MUSEUM

Designed by Christopher Wren in the 1600s, the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, was where John Milton married at least one of his three wives. It is believed that William Shakespeare worshiped here. And in May 1969, it was dedicated as the Winston Churchill Memorial in Fulton.

**Finest hour**

Located below the church, the National Churchill Museum first details the lonely, often awkward childhood of young Winston and his failures as a commander in World War I. The museum then delves deep into the issues that would eventually explode into World War II and the unlikely circumstances that brought Churchill to power.

Perhaps the most dramatic arena is the room called “Churchill's Finest Hour.” Here visitors feel life during the Blitz, the series of bombings throughout England orchestrated by Germany to bring the nation to its knees. The riveting images of fire and devastation and wall-pounding audio, accompanied by the messages of consolation, strength and determination delivered by Churchill via radio to the people of England, transports us to WWII London.

“Finest Hour” includes a film of the same name narrated by Missouri native and renowned journalist Walter Cronkite. In Cronkite’s calm and authoritative manner, we come to further appreciate Churchill’s strengths and the respect given him by the people of England during the war. We are left to ponder why Churchill was defeated in the next election, making him available for a road trip to Missouri.

Over the years, Ronald Reagan stood on these grounds alongside Mikhail Gorbachev. Margaret Thatcher followed Churchill’s footsteps to Fulton, as did Poland’s Lech Walesa. Remember him? John F. Kennedy, George H.W. Bush and, more recently, Bernie Sanders have all spoken in Fulton.

**Anniversary weekend**

On the weekend of May 3-5, Churchill’s granddaughters Edwina Sandys and Emma Soames and great-grandsons Jack Churchill and Duncan Sandys will join Truman's grandson Clifton Truman Daniel in Fulton in ceremonies that salute the friendship between the leaders.

It will be a three-day affair with parades, international symposiums, exhibits of World War II-era military equipment and other events that celebrate the unique circumstances that have brought world leaders to this little town in America's heartland.

And then there will be an art show. Churchill found relaxation in his later years, often painting in the garden of his home in Blenheim, England. About 10 of those paintings will be on display, along with work by Eisenhower, Kennedy and George W. Bush.

Tickets and reservations are required for some events. For more information, go to nationalchurchillmuseum.org or call 1-573-592-5369.

**‘Breakthrough’ in the Berlin Wall**

At first, the jagged edges of graffiti-plagued concrete seem somewhat out of place in the otherwise pristine surroundings of Westminster College in Fulton. The college’s dramatic architecture, winding drive and well-manicured grounds set a stage for something more dignified than pockmarked slabs of concrete.

But upon closer inspection, it works.

The Iron Curtain that Churchill predicted eventually materialized into a 12-foot high, 7½-mile long concrete wall in Berlin in August 1961. When the Berlin Wall was finally destroyed on Nov. 9, 1989, literally torn apart by the hands of those who had been entrapped by their government, artist and sculptor Edwina Sandys quickly laid claim to numerous sections of the wall.

Sandys is the granddaughter of Winston Churchill, who first uttered the words “iron curtain,” a term that came to symbolize the Cold War era.

Her finished piece, titled “Breakthrough,” was dedicated on the Westminster College campus on Nov. 9, 1990, exactly one year after freedom came to the people of East Berlin. The eight sections measure 11 feet high and 4 feet wide and weigh more than two tons. It is the largest contiguous section of the wall outside of Berlin.
By **James E. Samels**, July 10, 2019

*I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be: for without victory there is no survival.*

–Winston Churchill, *First speech as Prime Minister, House of Commons, May 13, 1940.*

On a bright spring day, we visit the Churchill Museum in Fulton, Missouri, on the campus of Westminster College. In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, It feels like déjà vu all over again when reminded that 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy.

For serious scholars of Winston Churchill, there is Westminster College home of the National Churchill Museum recognized by U.S. Congress as America’s permanent tribute to this great man. Through innovative programming and advanced technology, the Museum brings to life the story of Winston Churchill and the world he knew.

Churchill’s granddaughter announced the dedication of her timeless [Breakthrough sculpture](#) on the Westminster campus with: “Fulton, Missouri was good enough for my grandfather and that's why it's very, very good for me to bring this sculpture here.”

This artistic collage of history made from eight sections of the Berlin Wall reminds the Westminster College Community that the spirit and inspiration of Winston Churchill still beats proudly in the heart of Westminster College and Churchill Museum.

Because of Winston Churchill's connection to Fulton and the Churchill Museum, historic leaders from all over the world have visited the Westminster Campus including Churchill himself, President Truman in 1946 and President Reagan in 1990. President John F. Kennedy was the first honorary chair of the National Churchill Museum.

Few have given more to contemporary democracies than Winston Churchill who stood steadfast in Britain’s darkest hours and whose voice inspired countless worldwide to hold on to hope and keep fighting.

Winston Churchill was typically the “man in the arena” on many fronts: war and peace, decolonization, and the welfare state. How he dealt with them remains a shining example to world leaders today.

The affinity between Churchill and Westminster is indeed historic. It was at Westminster College in 1946 that Winston Churchill gave his seminal speech heard round the world, “The Sinews of Peace” popularly known as the Iron Curtain Speech which warned of a new age of repression. Churchill’s prescient message predicted
the rise of the Iron Curtain and the restrictions on immigration from Germany. “A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory….. From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.”

How apropos that in a time in which some leaders want to erect new walls to constrain immigration, Churchill stood tall among world leaders in World War II.

**A world without walls**

In a further twist of irony, President Ronald Reagan stood alongside Churchill’s granddaughter, Edwina Sandys, when he spoke on the Westminster campus to dedicate the Breakthrough sculpture. Reagan spoke of the courage of the people who had lived behind the wall for so long and the challenge the world now faced in supporting the growth of democracy in the former Soviet bloc.

Reagan spoke of his dream of a world without walls: “Maybe, one day, boundaries all of over the earth will disappear, as people cross boundaries and find out find out that, yes, there is a brotherhood of man”.

Not surprisingly, Russian historians date the Cold War from Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech. What most people don’t know is that Churchill was introduced by President Harry S. Truman and opened this speech with: “I am glad to come to Westminster College this afternoon, and am complimented that you should give me a degree.”

All around him, Churchill witnessed the capitulation of Western and Eastern European countries – surrendering to the Nazism that fueled combat tanks and Luftwaffe, creating the conditions that led to the Holocaust and endangering the free world.

Beyond the Nazi conquest of Britain’s key allies, history tells us that Churchill faced the defection of the British cabinet – some desperately hoping Churchill would cave in. Instead, Churchill conveyed a clarion call to rally the troops: “Never give in, never, never, never.”

**The life of Winston Churchill serves as a critical example for our times, reminding us that vision and courage can triumph over seemingly impossible odds.**

Virtually everyone agrees that Churchill first faced a perfect storm from combined threats of the Nazis, lack of political valor within the British cabinet; and the successive fall of one after another of its allies – a deadly combination with catastrophic outcomes.

Yet today, Churchill’s wisdom offers American Higher Education the values of resilience, persistence, and devotion to victory. Small, tuition dependent, and private liberal arts colleges can no longer take institutional perpetuity for granted given the daunting clouds of increased competition, decline in traditional age undergraduate students, and the spiraling costs of providing quality instruction.

**Core values**

In 1909, Westminster faced destruction by fire of Westminster Hall. Yet through the Great Depression, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and 9/11, Westminster has endured, providing an intellectual, historical, and cultural venue for showcasing the good works and teachings of Winston Churchill.

At Westminster, the remaining columns from Westminster Hall still provide a gateway for entering freshman and an exit path for graduating seniors. This ceremony symbolizes Westminster’s dedication to tradition, history, scholarship, loyalty and friendship, citizenship, service and honor — the core values that Churchill cherished and that Westminster College still celebrates today through its “seven skulls”.

The life of Winston Churchill serves as a critical example for our times, reminding us that vision and courage can triumph over seemingly impossible odds. Westminster President Fletch Lamkin has spoken eloquently about the College’s continuing commitment to the Museum’s outreach efforts ensuring that Churchill’s vital legacy will live on. In a speech given fifteen years ago, President Lamkin put it nicely this way:

Westminster College will forever be identified with one of the greatest statesmen of all time, Sir Winston Churchill. Today Churchill’s legacy is very much alive at Westminster College. His words of wisdom, his character, his leadership, the values that he fought for on a global level are as relevant today as they were in 1946 when in this very gymnasium he delivered his famous Iron Curtain address. This speech he believed was the most significant address he ever gave.

James E. Samels is president and CEO of The Education Alliance and Senior Partner in the law firm of Samels Associates, Attorneys at Law.
The 15 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2019

From Neil Armstrong’s hometown to the heart of Oklahoma’s Osage County, these towns are ripe for exploring this year

By Smithsonian Magazine, June 6, 2019

Flags waving curbside as the local high-school marching band strides down Main Street; a mom-and-pop bakery that’s been serving up pastries and coffee for 40-plus years; and a new microbrewery that’s revived a former grain mill, revamping a small neighborhood section that’s sat empty for decades.

These are just a few of the things we love about small town America. Coast-to-coast, the U.S. is filled with such locales that sing to our imaginations and offer a distinct sense of place … Our 15 2019 Best Small Towns include….

Fulton, Missouri (pop. 12,809)

When British Prime Minister Winston Churchill came to Fulton in 1946 to receive an honorary degree from Westminster College, he gave an oration that changed the world. Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech helped launch the Cold War.

This history and thousands of Churchill-related artifacts (the largest collection in North America), such as his paintings and personal correspondence letters, live on in Fulton’s National Churchill Museum, housed in a former London church that was relocated and rebuilt on the Westminster campus, with its official opening in 1969.

It’s also where you’ll find Breakthrough, an 11-foot-high and 32-foot-long sculpture incorporating eight sections of the original Berlin Wall, which fell 30 years ago this November. Churchill’s granddaughter, Edwina Sandys, is the sculptor.

Fulton is also a hub of creativity and revitalization—a central Missouri town of brick-lined streets and boutique shops that are largely female-driven. There’s the women-owned Re-Made for a Purpose, an upcycle shop selling unique, handcrafted items made by adults with disabilities; and 1canoe2 Paperie, featuring hand-painted stationery and artisan workshops in pursuits like letter embroidery. Fulton is home to historic Saults Pharmacy, where a 1940s-era soda fountain still serves up milkshakes and phosphate sodas, and eateries dishing out authentic Louisiana po’ boy sandwiches and New York-style pizza.

See nearly 80 classic cars from the private collection of Fulton potato chip magnate Bill Backer—including a 1931 Rolls Royce Phantom II and a 1903 Humbrette—at Fulton’s Auto World Museum.
Winston Churchill’s Thoughts on Evolution

By Mario Livio, September 16, 2019

In 2016 I had the privilege of being handed a previously unpublished essay by Winston Churchill, entitled Are We Alone in the Universe? That unexpected honor occurred during a visit I made to the U.S. National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Mo. The museum’s director, Timothy Riley, asked me to examine the essay and to provide comments. The experience resulted in an article published in Nature on February 15, 2017.

At the time, Riley did inform me that the museum’s archive was also in possession of a second essay, which to the best of his knowledge had not been previously published. Out of sheer curiosity, I inquired in 2019 whether that second essay had been scrutinized in the meantime, and upon discovering that it had not, I asked whether I would be allowed to examine it too. Riley graciously agreed.

The 14-page typewritten manuscript was entitled The River of Life, and was devoted to the evolution of life on Earth. Like the first essay, this one was written originally in 1939 and then slightly revised by Churchill in the 1950s. Given the fact that the topic of evolution still provokes controversy in certain circles even today, needless to say I was extremely curious to read Churchill’s opinions on this scientific subject.

As with his essay on alien life, however, I quickly discovered that while some of the details were wrong or inaccurate (in particular those related to the timescales involved—not surprising, as the article was written at a time when some of the relevant information was still not known), Churchill had a superb grasp of the big picture, and his views were not colored at all by any nonscientific arguments or sentiments.

We may wonder today what it was that made Churchill such a unique statesperson (for example, no other prime minister did more for science, technology and innovation). In my humble opinion, it might have been the fact that in science and indeed also in his art, he was able to find a life outside the daily fray.

Early Life Forms

Churchill starts his brief description of life’s history with an account of how the Earth itself formed, cooled down, and settled into the relatively quiescent state which allowed life to take root. As in his essay on alien life, he mentions an old theory for the formation of planets, according to which planets form from gas torn off the edges of their host star by the tidal forces...
exerted by a passing errant star. He also thought that the oceans condensed out of the steamy atmosphere that surrounded the primeval Earth.

Today the prevailing theory is that rocky planets such as the Earth form via the coalescence of dust particles in the disk that surrounded the young star (the sun in the Earth's case), followed by the formation of planetesimals, which then further merge together. There is strong observational evidence suggesting that most of the Earth's surface water was delivered to Earth via asteroid (and perhaps also comet) impacts.

Next, Churchill demonstrates a familiarity with the idea that plate tectonics (continental drift) was responsible for the generation of mountain chains. I found this to be quite remarkable in itself, since even the geophysics community accepted the theory of plate tectonics (continental drift was originally suggested in 1912) only in the late 1950s.

After these preliminaries, Churchill arrives at the main topic of life on Earth. Here he starts with the correct and important observation, “how life came into being is still a complete mystery.” That is, indeed even today there is no generally accepted theory for the origin of life, in spite of impressive advances in prebiotic chemical synthesis (for a recent update, see Jack Szostak’s talk from the More to Explore). Churchill mentions the possibility of panspermia—the idea that life on Earth originated from some precursors of life that were present in outer space.

This theory was, in fact, favored by the astrophysicists Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe (summarized, for instance, in Wickramasinghe’s article in More to Explore, below). Churchill does acknowledge, however, that this “merely pushes the problem one stage further back.” He then follows this remark with the insight that “whatever the process, clearly the earliest form must have been of the type capable of drawing its sustenance out of non-living matter.” Because, he explains, “with all our knowledge of chemistry we could not produce a meal from a few cupfuls of chalk and salt.”

All of this, he realizes, could not work without a reliable energy source. So to the very basic ingredients, he is quick to add “the most important of the lot—sunshine.” After a brief description of photosynthesis, emphasizing the importance of chlorophyll in this process, Churchill therefore concludes in his wonderfully colorful language that, “the struggle for life in the case of plants is reduced to a struggle for light, and in any forest we can see them jostling one another in their endeavors to get the best positions.”

In the next stage, Churchill starts to discuss evolution proper, and it is there in particular where he shows a modern understanding of all the concepts involved.

Churchill the Darwinist

Darwinian evolution is based on and characterized by four pillars, and those are supported by one grand mechanism (in the More to Explore for example, see the annotated Darwin book and also Jerry Coyne’s book for clear explanations). Those four pillars are: evolution, gradualism, common descent and speciation. Evolution encapsulates the idea that species are not immutable. The species we see today didn’t always exist. In fact, most species that existed in the
past have become extinct. Today we see only the species that have evolved from those.

Gradualism expresses a concept that Darwin adopted from his geologist friends. In the same way that the sun, the wind, the rain, and geological processes slowly shape the surface of the Earth, evolution works slowly. It can take many thousands of generations for one species to evolve into another. Common descent means that even the enormous diversity of species we see today (on the order of ten million) all started from one life form. Finally, speciation refers to branching, when one species bifurcates into two different species. Since at every such branching node the number of species is doubled, this accounts for the rich variety we see today. The one fundamental mechanism on which all of this picture relies is natural selection.

Churchill demonstrates a remarkable comprehension of all of these concepts. In fact, we know that already at age 22, while stationed with the British army in India, he read Darwin’s masterpiece *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*.

Churchill writes, “very early, no doubt, modifications of the simplest bacteria appeared, from which rudimentary microbial organisms developed, able to feed upon the plants or their decaying remnants,” to which he immediately adds, “this was probably the earliest bifurcation in the great tree of life, separating the plants from animals.” He then goes on to describe in some detail the operation of natural selection.

For instance, he notes perceptively that “the problem of how life evolved from what we in our arrogance call ‘lower’ to higher forms is very much simpler than the question of how it first formed.” He explains that in every generation there are some members that have somewhat different characteristics than the ordinary. He then elucidates that if a certain characteristic confers on its bearers an advantage in terms of, say, coping with the environment and in terms of producing offspring, then after many generations the entire population would shift toward that characteristic.

Churchill recognized that it is difficult to prove that the early stages of evolution indeed took place: “Direct evidence, of course, we have none. For it is only creatures with hard, bony shells or skeletons whose traces in fossil form remain.” He did point out, however, that indirect evidence could be traced to creatures such as sponges (that survive even if cut into pieces), which were later followed by marine creatures similar perhaps to sea anemones.

After a brief discussion of how locomotion may have produced a difference between fore and aft in animals (but not mentioning the fact that the Earth’s gravity probably produced the difference between up and down), Churchill discusses a few possible branching events, an important one being between snail-like creatures with external shells, and those species which developed backbones.

Just like a veteran scientist, throughout this description Churchill repeatedly emphasizes the crucial importance of observational and experimental evidence, noting that “though, of course, we cannot trace every step in the record of the rocks … many of these stages of development can be followed in amazing detail.” He also recognizes that natural selection is the key driver for change, noting that as life started to adapt to land, “amid all the minor mutations and varieties in every fresh generation, those best able to cope with the increasing aridity gradually replaced the older species.”

**We Humans Are Nothing Special**

Perhaps the most fascinating part in Churchill’s essay is his treatment of the appearance of humans. The key point is that he fully accepts the fact that like every other life form, humans are simply a natural product of Darwinian evolution. Already early on in his essay he remarks that “even you and I descend from the somewhat clumsy-looking inhabitants of the sea.”

In his step-by-step exposition of the history of life on Earth, Churchill goes through a vivid description of the biologically cold-blooded dinosaurs—”great grisly monsters of fantastic shapes and nightmare appearance”—and suggests that their demise was brought about by the extreme temperature changes that resulted from geological events. Today we have convincing evidence that the extinction of the dinosaurs was the result of an asteroid impact near the Yucatan peninsula, which generated a nuclear-winter-like darkening of the Earth’s skies.

Irrespective of the precise cause, Churchill correctly deduces that warm-blooded mammals, from rabbits
and rats to elephants and lions started thriving. From one branch of monkeylike creatures, he concludes, “flow the various streams which lead some to the modern monkeys, some to the great apes, and one, at least, to man.”

In this essay, Churchill decided not to discuss in any detail later stages of human evolution. He does mention, however, “misfits, which have died out, Neanderthal Man, for instance.” More important, he notes in admiration that the 15,000-year-old drawings of animals on the walls of caves in southeastern France and northern Spain, created by “fine upstanding men and women,” do not fall in quality from “the art of today.”

In his inimitable style, Churchill finishes the essay with a few sentences that are as relevant for today as they were just before World War 2. He points out that the evolution of life on Earth demonstrates that: “In storm and stress new types, more highly organized, have ever emerged able to survive the buffets of Fate,” and therefore, “in days of doubt and depression comfort may be found in this thought and in the study of our story written in the rocks on a time-scale which counts a million years but as a watch in the night.”

Great thoughts. But if we want to follow Churchill’s example, this optimism should also be accompanied by the right actions!

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of Scientific American.
Peter Robinson had just turned 30 years old when, as Ronald Reagan's speechwriter in 1987, he was tasked with crafting what would become one of the world's most famous presidential speeches.

“I spent six years in the Reagan White House and I wrote tens of thousands of words, and nobody remembers anything except six of them — and one of them is 'mister,'” said Robinson, referring to the memorable “tear down this wall” line that Reagan directed at Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev before a crowd of thousands at the Berlin Wall.

Robinson told St. Louis on the Air host Sarah Fenske on Tuesday's program that the idea for “tear down this wall” came from a German woman at a dinner party. He had flown to Berlin a few months before the speech to gather material.

“It was up to [speechwriters] to know the president so well that we were writing for him and thinking through what he would have wanted to say had he had the time to do the research,” Robinson said.

There was plenty of material for Robinson, as the Cold War had moved into its fourth decade. Not only did the Berlin Wall serve as a physical barrier between East and West Berlin, it concreted an ideological barrier between democracy and communism.

Robinson said it was a challenge to write a speech that equaled the setting. Visible from the Brandenburg Gate were stark contrasts. Color, activity and prosperity were visible in West Berlin, Robinson said, while it looked as if the color had been drained from a photograph in East Berlin.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Robinson will be at the National Churchill Museum at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, this Thursday to deliver a lecture about the 1987 speech. The largest section of the Berlin Wall outside of Germany is in Fulton as a sculpture titled “Breakthrough,” by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's granddaughter, artist Edwina Sandys.

Ronald Reagan vs. Donald Trump

Robinson, a policy fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, has plenty of thoughts on the current president of the United States.

“It’s a vexed question,” he said, concerning the Republican Party under Donald Trump.
“With Ronald Reagan, even his enemies liked the guy,” Robinson said. “[Former Democratic House Speaker] Tip O’Neill was a bitter political enemy of Ronald Reagan’s, but Tip O’Neill visited him in the hospital. They couldn’t resist liking each other.

“Donald Trump, heaven help us, is the other way around. You sometimes get the feeling that even his best friends, whoever they may be, find him hard to take.”

Regarding presidential speeches, Robinson said that Trump has talented speechwriters, but the speeches of Reagan and Trump are vastly different.

“[Trump’s speeches] don’t bear the same relationship to the person of Donald Trump that Reagan’s speeches bore to him,” Robinson said. “The real Donald Trump is what he tweets, not his speeches.”

In 2018, Josh Hawley defeated incumbent U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill.

Asked whether anybody today has some of Reagan’s gifts, Robinson mentioned Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

“Your own Josh Hawley,” Robinson added.

“What strikes me about Josh Hawley is that same kind of moral imagination,” he said, adding that he became familiar with Missouri’s junior senator when he was an undergraduate at Stanford University.

“He’s been on my radar for a long time, and I have to say I’m very fond of him,” Robinson said. “That young senator has been immensely imaginative in policy terms, carving out a place for himself in the Senate and also advancing the policy agenda of privacy. He’s standing up to big tech in ways that, as far as I can tell, nobody else in the Senate is doing.

“He’s really adding something. He’s a distinctive voice. He’s working out a program, policy or approach of his own, which is what Ronald Reagan did when he was governor of California,” Robinson said. “Josh Hawley reminds me of those early years of Ronald Reagan.”

Event Information:

What: Ronald Reagan speechwriter Peter Robinson lecture and commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

When: 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

Where: Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, on the Westminster College campus (West 7th Street, Fulton, MO 65251)
2

Berlin Wall Anniversary
By Jennifer Moore, November 6, 2019

Thirty years ago, on Thursday, the Berlin Wall – an iconic symbol of the Cold War – began to crumble, symbolizing the end of the Soviet Union and its communist grip on Eastern Europe.

Two years earlier, a young speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan had been sent to Berlin to conduct research and write a foreign policy speech Reagan would deliver at the Brandenberg Gate separating East and West Berlin.

The speech would go down in history as Reagan’s famous “Tear Down This Wall” speech. The writer who came up with those words, Peter Robinson, is in Missouri this week to speak at the Westminster College in Fulton, where Winston Churchill made his Iron Curtain speech in 1946. KSMU’s Jennifer Moore spoke with Robinson by phone to learn how the speech came about. You can hear an excerpt from the interview below:

Listen to an excerpt from the interview with speechwriter Peter Robinson here.

According to Westminster College, Robinson will speak at 4:30 PM Thursday, November 7, in the

Former president Ronald Reagan delivered a famous speech at the Brandenberg Gate in Berlin in 1987, commanding then-Soviet leader Gorbachev to “Tear down this wall.”

Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, on the Westminster College campus in Fulton.

Robinson’s talk is free and open to the public, and it will be preceded by a solemn outdoor wreath-laying ceremony and tolling of the church bells at 4:15 p.m., according to university officials.

America’s National Churchill Museum is located on Westminster’s campus.
By Fulton Sun staff

FULTON, MO, Nov. 4, 2019 -- Peter M. Robinson, the speechwriter whose words were used by President Ronald Reagan to order Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall,” will help celebrate and commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on Thursday.

The ceremony — which is free and open to the public — will begin at 4:15 p.m. with a wreath-laying ceremony and tolling of the bells from the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury on Westminster’s campus. The solemn outdoor portion of the ceremony will be followed by a speech by Robinson in the historic Church, which is part of America’s National Churchill Museum.

The wreath-laying ceremony will take place in front of artist Edwina Sandys’ Breakthrough sculpture next to the museum to commemorate those who died near the Berlin Wall trying to flee from East Berlin to freedom in West Berlin between 1961 and 1989. During that time, nearly 80 people were shot by East German guards as they tried to climb over the wall, while at least 125 others died in falls and various accidents or died by suicide after failing to escape from East Berlin.

The ceremony will be followed by the tolling of the church’s bells, which will ring 30 times to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the wall Nov. 9, 1989.

Robinson’s speech will begin at 4:30 p.m. inside the church.

Of the 300 speeches Robinson wrote during his tenure at the White House, he is most known for Reagan’s “Tear Down This Wall” address, which he delivered before a large crowd Friday, June 12, 1987, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin.

Robinson served the White House as special assistant and speechwriter to Reagan from 1983-88. He previously worked as chief speechwriter to former Vice President George H.W. Bush from 1982-83. His speech was given by Reagan about two years before the Berlin Wall was finally ordered to be opened by the Soviet government.

He will discuss the origins of his speech, its contributions for bringing an end to the Cold War and the ultimate opening of the Berlin Wall, which enabled Berliners for the first time in nearly 30 years to cross freely between Communist East Berlin and Democratic West Berlin.

The Berlin Wall was a stark symbol of the Cold War, a time marked by great geopolitical tension between...

Following Robinson’s speech, all are invited to watch a video of Reagan’s Nov. 9, 1990, address, which he delivered when he visited Westminster College and dedicated Sandys’ Breakthrough sculpture. The dedication coincided with the first anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Reagan’s speech will be projected onto the Breakthrough sculpture.

Breakthrough is comprised of a 32-foot-long section of the original Berlin Wall obtained by Sandys, granddaughter of former British Prime Minister Winston S. and Clementine Churchill.

Sandys was inspired to create the sculpture on the Westminster campus to commemorate her grandfather’s prophetic “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster on March 5, 1946. In his speech, Churchill warned of the Soviet’s Communist expansion, which led to the Cold War.

Today, Robinson is the Murdoch Distinguished Policy Fellow at the Hoover Institution, where he writes about business and politics, edits the quarterly Hoover Digest and hosts the video series program, Uncommon Knowledge. A published author, Robinson wrote “How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life,” “It’s My Party: A Republican’s Messy Love Affair with the GOP” and “Snapshots from Hell: The Making of an MBA.” He also has written for the New York Times, Red Herring, Forbes ASAP, the Wall Street Journal and the National Review Online, among others.

Robinson earned an MBA in 1990 from Stanford University in Stanford, California. He previously earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, politics and economics in 1982 from Oxford University in Oxford, England. Robinson also received a bachelor’s degree in English from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1979.

Other events on tap

On Friday, Westminster will host two panel discussions related to the Cold War. Each will be held in the Hermann Lounge, located upstairs in the Hermann Activity Center, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

The first, a panel of Cold War veterans, is 10-11:30 a.m. It features Westminster president Fletcher Lamkin, Brock Ayers, Steven Hardin and Jan Herring. It will be followed at 1-2:30 p.m. by “The Cold War and American Life,” a panel featuring Angela Frye Keaton, Ann Collins and Eric Kaspar.
Westminster College to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall

By: John Pottebaum, KOMU 8 News, November 07, 2019

FULTON - Westminster College is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, which is on November 9th.

Peter M. Robinson, the writer of Ronald Reagan’s “Tear Down This Wall” address, will be giving a talk on how that speech contributed to the end of the Cold War.

“It’s a great chance to meet a person who was on the front lines of history,” Timothy Riley, the director of The National Churchill Museum, said.

The ceremony will begin with a wreath-laying ceremony to honor over 200 individuals who died trying to flee from East Berlin to West Berlin over the course of 28 years.

This ceremony will take place in front of the “Breakthrough” sculpture, which is constructed from actual pieces of the Berlin Wall.

This will be followed by a tolling of the bells and Robinson’s speech.

The event will conclude with a video of Reagan’s address that he delivered at Westminster College on the first anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

“In many ways, the Cold War is woven into the tapestry of Westminster College,” Riley said.

Riley added, he sees this as an opportunity to learn lessons about today’s political climate.

“Nationalism is on the rise,” Riley said. “We are not in a Cold War, but sometimes it is feeling a bit chilly. And I think we can learn from the lessons of the past so we don’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”

The event is scheduled to begin at 4:15 p.m. and is open to the public.
By Quinn Wilson November 7, 2019

The man behind former President Ronald Reagan’s famous “tear down this wall” line faced many barriers trying to bring the speech to life.

Former White House presidential speechwriter Peter Robinson lectured Thursday evening at Westminster College to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the Berlin Wall’s fall. Robinson visited the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, to recount the history of how the speech came to fruition and how it almost didn’t happen.

“We want to remember those who lost their lives trying to escape from the oppression of East Germany to the west who were not able to break through this formidable barrier as we can so freely today,” said Tim Riley, Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout director and chief curator at the National Churchill Museum.

Robinson explained at 30 years old, the speechwriting job he landed at the White House was the first full-time job he had ever worked. He began as then-Vice President George H.W. Bush’s speechwriter and was soon reassigned to Reagan.

In April 1987, Berlin was celebrating its 750th anniversary, and President Reagan was invited by West Germany to offset the presence of Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Robinson was assigned a vague task to write a speech for the president while he visited Berlin.

A commemorative wreath was laid Thursday at the remains of the Berlin Wall on Westminster College’s campus to honor the 30th anniversary of the wall coming down. Pictured, from left, are Peter Robinson, Ronald Reagan’s former speechwriter; Brock Ayers, Westminster Board of Trustees member; Westminster President Fletcher Lamkin; and Tim Riley, the Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout director and chief curator of the National Churchill Museum.

“Here’s what I was told by the (White House) senior staff: ‘Here’s where the president is going to stand, he’ll have an audience of 10,000-40,000 in front of him, he will speak for 30 minutes and he ought to talk about foreign policy,’ that was it,” Robinson said.

Robinson elected to go to Berlin in advance to get an idea of how he should tailor the speech. During his stay, he said four distinct events shaped the way he wrote the speech.

The first event was seeing the Berlin Wall with his own eyes and witnessing the vast contrast between...
East and West Berlin. Second, he was influenced by John Kornblum, the United States minister and deputy commandant in Berlin, who outlined to Robinson the things Reagan should not address in his speech.

“He told me, 'Don't have him sound like an anti-communist cowboy, no Soviet bashing and don’t make a big deal about the wall — they’ve gotten used to it now,'” Robinson said.

Next, he got an even clearer perspective of the contrast between East and West Berlin when he took a helicopter ride over the separation wall. He said the West Berlin side was a “modern, bustling city” while he only saw barbed wire and guard towers on the other side.

The fourth event that heavily influenced the direction of the president’s speech happened while at dinner with notable West Germans. When he asked them to confirm if West Germans have “gotten used to” the wall, he said he was met with silence.

“One man raised his arm and pointed and said, ‘My sister lives just a few kilometers in that direction, but I haven't seen her in more than 20 years. How do you think we feel about this wall?’” Robinson recounted.

Deeply moved by this fourth event, Robinson returned to Washington, D.C., and developed his first draft of the speech. The focal point was, “Tear down this wall.” Knowing how the revision process worked, he said he and other speechwriters elected to not pass the speech through the chain of command, fearing it would be edited heavily or flat-out rejected.

Before Reagan departed for Europe, Robinson was able to get the unedited speech to the president. He said once White House officials got their eyes on the speech, his work was met with heavy reluctance and many objections.

“The (U.S. State Department) and the National Security Council fought it. They said it would raise false expectations, it sounded un-presidential and it would put Gorbachev in a difficult position. They submitted seven alternative drafts,” Robinson said.

He said the opposition became so fierce he found himself in a shouting match with National Security Advisor Colin Powell after refusing to redraft the speech. Ultimately, the decision was left up to Reagan, who was in favor of Robinson’s draft. He quipped to those opposed, “I’m the president, aren’t I?”

Ultimately, the parties compromised, making tweaks for diplomacy's sake. Robinson refers to them as the “boring parts” of the speech.

“A memorandum from the National Security Council to Colin Powell read, ‘The Brandenburg Gate speech is better than before, but the staff is still unanimous that it’s a mediocre speech and a missed opportunity,’” Robinson quoted.

“I don't want to suggest that I’m the type of person that holds grudges for 30 years, but there are words that come to mind that I should not use in a church.”
FULTON - Westminster College held an anniversary event on Wednesday to mark 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Westminster and officials from the National Churchill Museum on Westminster’s campus laid a wreath at the base of the Berlin Wall section displayed on campus.

Peter Robinson, former speech writer for President Ronald Reagan, gave a guest lecture for the event.

Robinson wrote the infamous speech given by President Reagan; “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

He says that remembering events like this is important as it showed the power of the United States.

“The Cold War was a struggle that lasted 45 years, The United States was the one indispensable nation, we had allies, but the United States alone had military power that could offset those of the Soviets,” Robinson said.

Around 50 people came to see the wreath laying at the
base of the wall section, and to hear Robinson’s speech.

Madison Ingram is a student at Westminster. She says that the wall always attracts big names to campus.

“The wall is a very significant piece of our campus, it’s the largest piece in North America,” Ingram said. “Everybody who comes here is either coming for a tour of campus, maybe it’s an alumni, just someone who’s coming in to see the Winston Churchill museum, but it’s a very significant piece.”

Ingram also said that the wall even stands for Westminster.

“We’ve kind of coined it as a term for Westminster, breaking down these wall’s, which was mentioned in the speech today,” Ingram said. “Beforehand, you know, breaking through these walls and any wall that we have that we can break through them.”

Robinson also said that every American can take pride in knowing the determination of the country during the Cold War.

“Whatsoever happens to the United States, whatsoever ills may seem to befall us, every American should be aware of that struggle,” Robinson said. “Which was, we made mistakes, but we showed determination and consistency and nobility of purpose and we succeeded.”
Missourinet radio news transcript:

Thirty years ago, the Berlin Wall came down and the soviet union began to dissolve.

Ashley Byrd reports that a special ceremony will be held today at a thirty-two-foot-long section of the original Berlin Wall. It stands in Fulton at Westminster college at America’s National Churchill Museum.

Winston Churchill coined the name “iron curtain” for this soviet isolation, which resulted in the wall that divided east and west Berlin. Peter Robinson will speak.

He’s the man who wrote the words spoken by president Ronald Reagan” “Mister Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” Again, that ceremony will be held today at America’s National Churchill Museum in Fulton.
Radio Friends with Paul Pepper, Nov. 7, 2019

“…. The man who wrote Ronald Reagan’s famous Berlin Wall speech (“...tear down this wall”) will be in Fulton TONIGHT, and you’re invited!

National Churchill Museum curator TIM RILEY says it’s all in honor of the demise of the wall’s 30th anniversary. November 7, 2019
10-10:15 a.m. Friday, Nov. 8, 2019

America’s National Churchill Museum’s Timothy Riley was interviewed by KMOX Radio hosts John Hancock and Amy Marxkors regarding the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and related events at the Museum and Westminster College.

Listen here
By Jan Sjostrom, October 7, 2019

The Berlin Wall is more than a piece of history to Palm Beacher Edwina Sandys. It's part of her family’s story.

She's made three large-scale versions of sculptures using sections of the wall. The latest, titled "War & Peace," was unveiled on Wednesday at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach. The sculpture is one of 14 works by Sandys installed throughout the grounds.

Sandys’ grandfather, the late British prime minister, Winston Churchill, warned of the coming divide between East and West in his famous "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946 at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. His forecast took shape in concrete when the wall went up in 1961.

After it fell in 1989, Sandys traveled to Berlin to acquire a 32-by-12-foot section, which she has used to create sculptures that express humanity’s defiance of political repression.

Then-president Ronald Reagan presided over the dedication of her first wall sculpture, “Breakthrough,” in 1990 at Westminster College. It’s made of a section of the wall pierced by life-sized cut-outs of the figures of a man and a woman.


"War & Peace“ commemorates the 30th anniversary of the wall’s demise. The aluminum work is shaped like a fighter plane with the silhouette of a dove carved out of its center.

The seven-foot-tall sculpture stands on a nine-inch thick slab of the wall that's incised with related quotes by Churchill, Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, John F. Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt.

“I thought it would be good to do a new sculpture that speaks to what's happening today,” Sandys said.

The interplay between positive and negative space that runs throughout Sandys’ work reinforces the ideas...
behind the sculpture.

“It’s positive and negative,” she said. “It’s war and peace and how we don’t know what’s going to happen in the future.”

Boston filmmakers Susan and John Michalczyk attended the opening. They have made two documentaries featuring Sandys’ Berlin Wall sculptures.

The first was the 2009 “Writing on the Wall: Remembering the Berlin Wall.” The second, made in collaboration with their son, John, was the 2012 “Edwina Sandys: Breaking Through, Breaking Free and Reviving Humanity,” which visitors can watch on a monitor at the Ann Norton.

“She turns abstract history into a concrete work of art,” the elder John Michalczyk said.

Filmmakers from West Palm Beach-based Paine Productions were at the gardens on Wednesday to document Sandys’ remarks about “War & Peace.”

The footage probably will be used for educational programs, Ann Norton CEO Cynthia Kanai said. Sandys’ other sculptures are sprinkled throughout the gardens, popping up in brightly colored flashes within the greenery.

Two strike up a visual conversation with “War & Peace.” The nearby white “Angel of the Sea & Sky” echoes its hopeful aspect, while a few steps away the flaming red “Lucifer” glories in its darker half.

Three figures from Sandys’ “Flower Woman series,” colored white on one side and red on the other, dot one of the pathways. Her “Madame Butterfly,” made of cut-out slices of red wings emerging from a female body, rests outside the studio.

Sandys’ many female forms anticipate yet another important milestone, Kanai said — the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment granting American women the right to vote. “What better time to have these pieces in the garden?” she said.
September 12, 2019

It was Winston Churchill who, in a 1946 speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, coined the term “Iron Curtain” to characterize the growing divide between the capitalist and communist wings of the World War II Allies. Churchill’s granddaughter, the noted artist Edwina Sandys, MBE, has called the Berlin Wall “the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain.” After the Wall was dismantled in 1989, the reunited German government gave Sandys her pick of eight of its concrete panels to use as a medium for her art.

The result was a sculpture titled Breakthrough, which retains the Wall’s original graffiti but is penetrated by voids in the form of two human silhouettes, one male and one female. Breakthrough was installed on the Westminster College campus by then-president Ronald Reagan in 1990, and in 1992, Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader whose reforms enabled the reunification of Germany, visited the site and became one of many who have embraced the symbolism of walking right through the remains of the once-daunting Wall.

But what became of those two cutouts? Sandys preserved them, and in 1994 they were installed as a separate sculpture in an area called the Freedom Court on the grounds of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park. Now titled BreakFree, the 12-foot-tall concrete figures emerge from a tangle of oversized barbed wire. In 2007, Sandys also commissioned a bronze head of her grandfather by Oscar Nemon to join the bust of FDR in the Freedom Court.

On Saturday, September 21, looking forward to the 30th anniversary this November of the fall of the
Berlin Wall, Sandys returns to Hyde Park to give a talk on BreakFree and her historic family legacy. Attendees will gather at 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Henry A. Wallace Visitor Center and walk to the sculpture site. You can visit the FDR Library and Museum from 9 a.m. on, so you can make a day of it, learning about the important working relationship between Roosevelt and Churchill during World War II. Visit www.fdrlibrary.org to reserve your place for the Edwina Sandys lecture.

Lecture by sculptor Edwina Sandys, Saturday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m., Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum, 4079 Albany Post Rd. (Rt. 9), Hyde Park, www.fdrlibrary.org
3

ANCM &
St. Mary
The Virgin,
Aldermanury
“Churchill and Truman traveled to Fulton by train. During the 24-hour journey, they enjoyed whiskey, poker, and each other’s company – in equal measure.

At one point Winston put down his cards and remarked, ‘If I were to be born again, there is one country in which I would want to be a citizen. There is one country where a man knows he has an unbounded future: the USA, even though I deplore some of your customs.’ When asked which customs, Winston replied, ‘You stop drinking with your meals.’”

The above was written on the National Churchill Museum’s website about the very memorable March 5, 1946, “Iron Curtain” speech, which was given in Fulton, Missouri.

The Wall Street Journal stated recently that Missouri, yes our Missouri, is one of the world’s most interesting destinations for 2019. And, there nestled in the state’s center, is the kindly hamlet of Fulton... There, the Journal heralded the Churchill Museum at the campus of Westminster College... And how right they were to point out this true gem. Gosh, is it worth the trip!

First of all, Fulton is most pleasant – the home to William Woods University and the Fulton Diner (good breakfast). But the heart of the journey is
the handsome and historic Westminster College. It remains the best of what a college used to look and feel like... Spring would be a wonderful time to visit.

And the soul of Westminster is the Churchill Museum – snuggled into the magnificent Christopher Wren-designed church, which was first recognized in the 12th century, then destroyed by fire in London in 1666, and after being rebuilt it was once again destroyed in the 1940 London Blitz.... It was brought to Fulton, stone by stone, and rebuilt on the Westminster College campus nearly 50 years ago.

I am certainly no judge of what churches may look like, but one would have to have their eyes closed to not think that this church, inside and out, was really extraordinary.

Anyway, back to Winston Churchill. I am sure that there are arguments about this, but one could easily believe that he was the key figure or certainly one of those who saved civilization.

And this museum is one of the best museums you will ever spend time at. It takes you from a young Winston (who was a poor student and rowdy) to this historic “Iron Curtain” speech and beyond. There is the chair and desk he had used as well as memorabilia of his exceptional life.

There is a film regarding World War II and it is terrific.

This is not a small display – it is masterfully done to help inform all of us about this man, and the overwhelming challenges that he faced and eventually we faced together.

It is a bit of a ride, two hours or so, to the middle of Missouri, but it is indeed worth it all for you, and your children. In its entirety, it is inspiring.

If you respect a man who almost single-handedly carried his nation in a time of utter despair, if you believe in one who against all possible odds and the direst of circumstances stood firm against all comers, and if one recognizes the human spirit at its most honorable, most determined and most courageous – then go to Fulton, step inside that beautiful church, and visit with one of the greatest of our time.
Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, is home to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury and the National Churchill Museum.

Dennis Lennox

How a church bombed by Nazis ended up in Missouri

By Dennis Lennox, CP Contributor, Sunday, April 28, 2019

The tower of this English Baroque church, which overshadows the campus of the small liberal arts college that surrounds it, is rather striking for a college chapel on these shores.

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built after the Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed the previous medieval edifice. It served the needs of the surrounding parish for three centuries until the Blitz of 1940, when Nazi bombs struck it.

While the walls, made from stately Portland stone, remained standing, the interior was mostly destroyed. As with many of London’s other Wren churches — over 50 churches are attributed to Wren or his workshop — it stood in a ruinous state as British authorities developed plans and came up with money for rebuilding the city. This was a herculean task given that 116,000 buildings were either destroyed or bombed beyond repair.
“What makes the National Churchill Museum most impressive is its location. You expect such a museum somewhere in England, not in Missouri. Westminster College has punched well above its weight.” – Dennis Lennox, The Christian Post

By the 1960s, some of the churches were reopened after they were authentically restored to their original designs. In other cases, they received Wren-esque designs in keeping with the style of the late 17th century. However, St. Mary the Virgin remained a bombed out ruin.

Around the same time, Westminster College, a historically Presbyterian college, was looking to honor Sir Winston Churchill’s 1946 speech on its campus in Fulton, Missouri.

It was remarkable that Churchill — despite being no stranger to the American speaking circuit — would visit a college in a small town in the middle of nowhere. Of course, it helped that Westminster College’s audacious invitation had the support of President Harry Truman, a native Missourian.

Churchill used his speech, officially titled “Sinews of Peace” but more commonly called the “Iron Curtain,” to warn of the Soviet Union’s postwar expansionism and what later became the Cold War. Adding to its significance was the very presence of Truman, who attended even though Churchill was no longer British prime minister.

Nearly 20 years later, Westminster College decided to purchase and rebuild St. Mary the Virgin. The invitation to Churchill was certainly audacious, but this project was on a completely different scale.

First, what remained of the church had to be meticulously chronicled stone-by-stone before deconstruction. It was then shipped across the Atlantic with the 7,000 stones used as ballast before traveling by rail to Fulton. Then it had to be reconstructed with an interior faithful to Wren’s original design.

Three years later, in 1969, it was reopened with considerable pageantry that somewhat ironically — Westminster College being Presbyterian in establishment — included rites by an Anglican bishop. Lord Mountbatten, the war hero and last viceroy of India, was even sent by Queen Elizabeth II as her representative.

Over the ensuing 50 years the church evolved from a memorial into the National Churchill Museum that exists today.

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Over the ensuing 50 years the church evolved from a memorial into the National Churchill Museum that exists today.

Located in the undercroft of St. Mary the Virgin, the museum tells the story of Churchill’s fascinating life as a historian, journalist, politician, soldier and statesman. Then there is the church, which rivals any of the famous Wren churches in London, most of which are also restored.

Somewhat thankfully, it is still used for religious worship. Outside on a plaza stands a sculpture by Edwina Sandys, a granddaughter of Churchill, made from eight sections of the Berlin Wall.
What makes the National Churchill Museum most impressive is its location. You expect such a museum somewhere in England, not in Missouri. Westminster College has punched well above its weight.

Even if you can't make next weekend's grand 50th anniversary celebration, which includes a keynote speech by the acclaimed historian and commentator Andrew Roberts, a visit to Fulton is a must for anyone wanting to better understand not only Churchill but also the Cold War.

**If you go:** The National Churchill Museum is open daily between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tickets range from $6.40 for teenagers and college students to $8.50 for adults.

Fulton is about 90 minutes by car from St. Louis and the closest major airport. I stayed at the Loganberry Inn, a bed-and-breakfast whose past guests include Margaret Thatcher.

Spires and Crosses, a travel column exclusive to The Christian Post, is published every week. Follow @dennislennox on Twitter and Instagram.
In 1946, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill spoke at tiny Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, for a simple reason: Because the college president — with a nudge from then-President Harry S. Truman — asked him to. Sometimes that’s all you must do: Ask. (And have powerful friends.)

Sometimes you get more than you asked for.

That was the case with Westminster College in south-central Missouri. A long-time statesman who governed Britain through World War II, Churchill gave one of the most significant speeches of his career on a cool, cloudy day in March at this small-town college. More than 25,000 came to the 8,000-person town to hear him.

Among many things, the “Sinews of Peace” speech introduced two significant political terms to the common lexicon: “the iron curtain” and “a special relationship.”

The first term, “iron curtain,” came as a warning about the spread of communism. Churchill said, “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.”

The second term, “a special relationship,” described a British-American alliance that runs broad and deep. And, in Churchill’s estimation, would “require not only the growing friendship and mutual understanding between our two vast but kindred Systems of society, but the continuance of the intimate relationship between our military advisers, leading to common study of potential dangers, the similarity of weapons and manuals of instructions, and to the interchange of
officers and cadets at technical colleges.”

Today, visitors to the National Churchill Museum learn about this speech in context of his life and times. The museum’s 13 exhibit rooms detail life with Churchill’s nanny, his education and journalism career. They include experiences in World War I and leadership during World War II.

The museum is housed in the bottom level of a centuries-old British church — St. Mary the Virgin of Aldermanbury. Originally built in 12th-century London, the church burned in 1666 during the city’s Great Fire. It was rebuilt by acclaimed English architect Christopher Wren. The interior was destroyed by German bombing in World War II. The remaining limestone façade was slated for destruction in the early 1960s.

Serendipitously, a committee at Westminster College was researching an appropriate memorial to honor the 20th anniversary of Churchill’s visit. During a break, a committee member flipped through Life magazine and saw news of the church’s destruction.

College President Robert Davidson asked London leaders if Westminster College could bring the building to Fulton. The answer, after approval by British church and state, was “yes.”

With much determination, 7,000 blocks then were disassembled, packed in shipping crates and sent to the United States. Shipping, fortuitously, was free, as the blocks were used for ballast. From October 1966 to May 1967, the blocks were reassembled. Missing or damaged blocks were replaced by others from the original British quarry.

The limestone columns in St. Mary the Virgin of Aldermanbury church are original. The rest of the interior is a reconstruction, as the original was devastated by German bombing in World War II.

Church visitors can touch the limestone blocks and Corinthian interior columns that may have been touched by notable figures such as William Shakespeare and Christopher Wren.

The influence of the “Sinews of Peace” speech doesn’t end with relocating the church. Over the decades, significant figures in American and international history, including former President Ronald Reagan and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, have given foreign policy speeches at the small college.

The small town of Fulton, Missouri, population 13,000, is an iconic location for delivering significant foreign policy speeches. U.S. President Ronald Reagon delivered a speech there.

In 1990, artist Edwina Sandys, Churchill’s granddaughter, installed “Breakthrough” just outside the church. Made from eight, concrete panels of the Berlin Wall, the work symbolizes the end of the Cold War. (In 1992, Gorbachev stepped through one of the human shapes in the wall and declared the Cold War officially over.)

Artist Edwina Sandys, Winston Churchill’s granddaughter, created her sculpture “Breakthrough” from eight sections of the Berlin Wall. Featuring two human forms cut into the concrete, it was unveiled at Westminster College one year after the wall fell.

A circle that started when Churchill told of an iron curtain, aka communism, falling across Eastern Europe ends with the falling of one of communism’s most visible symbols — the wall that separated East and West Berlin.

Who knew all this history lives in a small Midwestern town?
Central Missouri town boasts ties to Winston Churchill and the Berlin Wall

By CR Rae, July 28, 2019

The central Missouri town of Fulton is home to three unexpected historic gems: The Churchill National Museum, the historic Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, and the largest piece of the Berlin Wall located outside of Germany. The piece is displayed in a sculpture titled “Breakthrough”, created by artist Edwina Sandys, the statesman’s granddaughter. The sculpture stands tall in front of the museum and church located on the campus of Westminster College. London bridge

One would not expect to find a museum dedicated to a prime minister of the United Kingdom in a U.S. town described by Renee Graham, director of tourism for Callaway County, as “prairies, rolling hills and river valleys, where south meets north and east meets west.”

However, it came about when the agricultural town’s people approached Missouri native President Harry Truman, asking him to invite Winston Churchill to Westminster College in 1946. The location is where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech. In May, a celebration was hosted to honor the museum’s 50th anniversary.

Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is a special find. The 800-year-old English parish was redesigned by Christopher Wren in 1670 after the Great Fire of London. The church was partially destroyed during the bombing of London in 1940. In 1965 it was sailed to Virginia brick by brick — 7,000 stones to be exact — and found its home in Fulton. Reconstruction took place in the 1960s. It is the only building in the U.S. designed by Wren.

Before sailing the ocean blue and ending up in central Missouri, the church was known as the place where William Shakespeare prayed for good reviews.

A visit to the museum offers a deep look into the life of Churchill and the history of St. Mary’s. Visitors can enter the gymnasium where Churchill delivered the “Iron Curtain” speech. Museumgoers get a look at the beautiful interior of the church and the Mander Organ. Noel Mander, as a young soldier, remembers the sounds of the organs in the churches “s shrieking in agony” during the bombing of London Dec. 29, 1940.

He became involved with the restoration of St. Mary’s at the college and with building the organ. Many organists have called the St. Mary’s Mander organ the finest Baroque organ in America.

The museum offers visitors more than 10,000 objects in its collection and hosts traveling and temporary exhibits, has a center for learning for teachers and students, and holds free public conferences and lectures by prominent speakers. For more information visit nationalchurchillmuseum.org.

To continue to follow in the footsteps of history, book a room at the Loganberry Inn, where Margaret Thatcher once stayed while in Fulton. Daniel Boone also has been a guest in the home. Other things to see while in Fulton include a walk in the Brick District, where travelers will find more than 100 independent restaurants, stores and businesses, the playhouse and Art House. A must-see for car and history buffs is the Auto World Car Museum.

The variety of automobiles is amazing, and the displays are well documented with car descriptions and history. The museum takes visitors on a journey though the last 100 years of vehicles, and each is placed in areas created to take visitors back to the years and times of the automobiles. Visit autoworldmuseum.com for hours and more
information. Celebrating 200 years in 2020

Graham said that those in Fulton have always had a bold streak. “Each of these bold actions inspired visits by presidents, prime ministers, heads of state, business leaders and humanitarians. I don’t think any small community in ‘fly-over country’ comes close to hosting as many world leaders as Fulton,” she said. “We are a stouthearted, vibrant community. You see it in our independent businesses, our creative endeavors and our civic pride. As we prepare to celebrate our county’s bicentennial in 2020, we continue to do what it takes to remain relevant while preserving our sense of place.”
Appearances are often deceiving. Such is the case of Fulton, Missouri, located about 1.5 hours west of St. Louis in the heart of Callaway County. It’s a quaint college town surrounded mostly by farmland. Some would call it sleepy. It’s a little town with an intriguing past that catapulted it into world headlines the day Sir Winston Churchill came to town.

Churchill arrived in Fulton on March 5, 1946, a result of an invitation to speak at Westminster College. That invitation carried with it a personal note penned in the margins by President Harry Truman. It read, “This is a wonderful school in my home state. I hope you can do it. I’ll introduce you.”

The note cinched the speaking engagement, which yielded the delivery of one of the most important speeches from the 20th century: Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace,” better known as “The Iron Curtain Speech.” Churchill’s resonating line: “From [the port of] Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.”

“Churchill’s words proved prophetic, marking the beginning of the Cold War Era,” said Tim Riley, director and chief curator of America’s National Churchill Museum at Westminster College.

His words resonate even today. Because while the Cold War is over, the political landscape is still a bit chilly as Riley suggested. Another phrase Churchill used in his speech described the U.S. and Britain as having a “special relationship.” A descriptor still touted by both the U.S. and Great Britain today.

“The beginning of the story is the end of the speech,” Riley said, explaining how interest surfaced after Churchill’s visit around establishing a memorial marking the event. About 15 years after Churchill’s speech, efforts to create a memorial were launched. While exploring options, Churchill received a letter that suggested moving and rebuilding the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury to Fulton for the establishment of the National Churchill Museum.

Churchill felt the project of rebuilding the church at Westminster would be fitting – having been built by the British, bombed by the Germans and rebuilt by Americans.

It was a monstrous project, but an enticing one.

St Mary’s Aldermanbury was originally built in the 12th century, burned in the Great London Fire of 1666, then rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in 1670 before becoming a casualty of the German Blitzkrieg. Blasted
apart, with over 7,000 stones, the project posed a logistical and reconstruction nightmare. So why would the British consider losing such a relic?

“Britain's post-war economy couldn't afford to rebuild it or take it down,” Riley explained. “Its 7,000 stones presented a monumental task. It was considered the greatest jigsaw puzzle in the history of architecture.”

Efforts to transport and rebuild the church at Westminster College began in 1960. The task was completed in 1969, thanks to a legion of dedicated supporters including President John F. Kennedy.

It's been 50 years since St. Mary's and the Churchill museum opened. Over those years interest in the museum has not diminished, continuing to inspire Westminster’s core of volunteers, including more than 300 Churchill Fellows.

During the Churchill Museum’s 50th anniversary celebration last month, 12 new Churchill Fellows were named. The designation of “fellow” is an honor recognizing one’s dedication to commemorate the life and times of Sir Winston and support of the museum.

Counted among this year’s honorees are members of the Churchill family, and four Fellows who have West
St. Louis County roots: Brock Ayers, first vice president of investments with Wells Fargo Advisors; James F. Bennett, partner, Dowd Bennett Law Firm; Ken Murer, founder and CEO of APC Integrated Services Group; and, the late Benjamin David Stinson, former Westminster College vice president of development who was a Chesterfield resident.

“Becoming a Churchill Fellow is a tremendous honor,” said Bennett, a Class of ’92 Westminster alum, who worked with the college to plan the museum’s recent 50th anniversary weekend.

“The Churchill Museum is such a jewel for Missouri.”

With the 75th anniversary of D-Day and the recent film releases of “Dunkirk” and “The Darkest Hour” with actor Gary Oldman’s Oscar-winning portrayal of Churchill, museum attendance is up 25%. But Bennett said the museum is more than just a tourist destination.

“Our goals are to have the museum continue to serve as a platform for speeches related to public policy and world events in addition to preserving the Churchill legacy,” Bennett said. “This place, Westminster and the Churchill museum, is where we can continue to inspire future generations.”

When visiting, begin by taking in the largest artifact in the Churchill collection, the church. Look for its pre-Wren [architect Sir Christopher Wren], 12th-century stairs, which survived the 1666 Great Fire and the German shelling.

Explore its galleries, including the permanent exhibit on Churchill’s life. Displayed are rare artifacts, including World War II relics that military history buffs won’t want to miss, such as ammunition from the beach at Dunkirk and Churchill’s top hat, autographed by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin when the Allied leaders met in 1945 for the Yalta Conference. The conference cemented the agreement to demand Germany’s unconditional surrender and is where post-war strategies began.

Special exhibits give visitors reasons to return even after their first encounter with the museum. One
such exhibit, running through July 7, is “Painting as a Pastime: From Winston to the White House,” a unique collection of paintings by Churchill, and presidents Kennedy, Eisenhower and George W. Bush.

“Churchill inspired several presidents to pick up a paintbrush and explore their artistic side. Harry Truman, JFK, to most recently George W Bush,” Riley explained. He suggested that perhaps it’s no surprise that Churchill began painting. “Churchill painted with words all the time,” Riley said. “He knew how one brush stroke [word] could affect the world canvas.”

Churchill did not live to see the end of the Cold War, which began with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. However, his granddaughter, Edwina Sandys, did.

An artist and sculptor, Sandys took inspiration from the graffiti-covered concrete wall that had long stood as a symbol of the Cold War. Wanting to make a sculpture for her grandfather’s memorial at Westminster, she saw the fall of the wall as her opportunity.

To help accomplish her dream, Germany donated eight panels that once stood by the Brandenburg Gate. Sandys transformed them into a sculpture she dubbed “Breakthrough.” The piece illustrates a male and female figure breaking free from the concrete. “Breakthrough” was dedicated by President Ronald Reagan in 1990 and stands at the edge of Westminster’s quadrangle, adjacent to the church and the Churchill Museum.

Beyond Churchill

Westminster’s National Churchill Museum may be Fulton’s star attraction, but it’s not the only site to see. Fulton offers an eclectic mix of museums, historic sites, art galleries and entertainment.

History buffs will want to stop at The Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society to learn how Callaway County side-stepped the Civil War by proclaiming itself an independent kingdom. Car fanatics won’t want to miss the Backer Auto World Museum, a collection holding over 100 cars dating from an 1895 Ford Quadracycle to an Edsel to a 1963 Corvette Stingray and a DeLorean. There’s also a horse and buggy on display as a reminder of how far travel has come.

Fulton’s downtown Brick District features 57 historic buildings that house shops and eateries. It connects to the 7th Street and 5th Street Historic Districts. The district trio features galleries, theaters and brewpubs. Walk and shop the brick-lined streets, and when you need to rest, chill out at Sault’s Drug Store and Soda Fountain, an authentic 1930s soda fountain where phosphates and root beer floats are served.

Looking for something a little stronger? Some of Missouri’s award-winning wines can be sampled nearby at Serenity Valley Winery and Canterbury Hill Winery. Both wineries are minutes from downtown Fulton. The Hermann Wine Trail is just 45 minutes away from Fulton. Hermann, Missouri, sits squarely in one of the state’s oldest wine regions.

Visitors who choose to spend the night might consider the Loganberry Inn, a Victorian B&B where guests are pampered like a king or queen – or perhaps a prime minister. This is where Margaret Thatcher chose to stay during her Fulton visit.

To eat, sleep and tour like Churchill, contact visitfulton.com for a complete list of places to explore.
At the final event of a long celebratory weekend, Lord Alan Watson stood in a shaft of sunlight and talked about commonality.

“What really underpins our alliance is mutual trust,” he said, speaking not only about the “special relationship” between the United States and the United Kingdom, but among all societies. “It’s a belief you can trust your partner.”

Watson and others were in Fulton for a three-day 50th anniversary celebration of the National Churchill Museum and the re-consecration of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury a 1600s-era church designed by illustrious architect Christopher Wren. Wren also designed St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, England, after the Great Fire of London in September 1666. St. Paul’s has been the center of such ceremonies such as the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, and jubilee celebrations for Queens Victoria and Elizabeth II.

Rev. Canon Jonathan Brewster, also treasurer of St. Paul’s since July 2017, visited Fulton last weekend for the celebration. He also spoke at the Church of St. Mary during Sunday’s service.

“I feel like a fraud welcoming you to your church, but I feel a sense of belonging,” he said. “As I was approaching Fulton, I saw this church building and I felt like I was home.”

Brewster also spoke of special relationships, a term coined by Churchill when he spoke in Fulton in 1946.

“It’s not just about trust and relationship, but also about transformation,” he said.

People walking into historic churches such as St. Mary’s and St. Paul’s go in as one person and walk out as another.

“Churches like these turn tourists into pilgrims,” Brewster said. “We are here to honor a great man, Winston Churchill, but also a great building.”

Something about these old churches humbles a person, he added.

“When I walk into a cathedral, I feel so small. I hear the cathedral say, ‘I was here before you were here, and I will be here after your die.’ (This experience creates) a vision that’s beyond bricks and mortar.”

Brewster complimented the choir and pledged to return.

“I really look forward to returning to Fulton some day, hopefully with the (St. Paul’s) choir.”
From the air

On Saturday, a historic B-25 airplane visited Fulton and gave rides over the town, helping raise money for the National Churchill Museum. Watson said he climbed aboard the former bomber for a ride.

“I was struck by how small it was and how intimate it was,” he said. “I thought about how we share the full range of emotions. Fear, concern, certainty and sometimes uncertainty things real friendship is based on.”

While history has not always been kind to the special relationship between America and Britain, the special relationship shared between the two countries is unique.

“Deep down, we know — all of us in this church know — there is a level of trust between the USA and the UK,” Watson said.

When he was younger and working for the BBC, Watson stayed in East Berlin for a month. This was before the Berlin Wall, dividing East and West Germany starting in 1961, came down in 1989. East Berlin was under the control of Soviet USSR officials, and the wall well represented the Cold War.

“It was psychologically very powerful, as well as physical,” Watson added.

On the western side of the wall were British troops.

“I asked them, ‘What do you think you’re actually defending?’” Watson said. “They said, ‘Ourselves.’ Then there was a pause. ‘And what we stand for and believe.’”

On the eastern side of the wall, Watson had to agree not to leave until his time was up in a month.

“Of course, that was a condition laid down for all their people,” he said.

People in East Berlin still spoke the same German language as their cohorts on the other side of the barrier.

“But it was a fundamentally different society,” Watson said. “None of them trusted each other. It wasn’t what they said. It was the way they listened to each other, defensively, with an attitude of defiance.”

And of course, the goal was to pit people against one another so they would rat out their neighbors to the Communist Party officials.

Fundamentally, the UK and USA have different styles of government.

“What should we trust each other about? We start with the values we share,” he added. “Both countries are dependable democracies.”

And being together Sunday in the historic church in Fulton led Watson to say how extraordinary a symbol it really is.

“We’re here to share an experience,” he added. “Remember we can share experiences in the way we do is because we share a language. We don’t own the language. We share it. To be able to share language is to share experiences, sharing doubts and concerns, and we have to be trustful of each other.”

Watson visited Fulton in late 2016, 70 years after Churchill’s visit. He said he enjoys Westminster College and the feeling he gets at the National Churchill Museum.

“This is an extra sense of coming home,” he said of this weekend trip.

He also rode in Saturday’s parade, waving enthusiastically to the crowd and perhaps having the best time of everyone there.

“We were driving along and the car windows were open,” Watson said. “We passed by a group of children and they said, ‘You’re our favorite lord.’”
There is something about visiting an old church.

Of course, many churchgoing evangelicals will warn about getting too attached to a church, which after all is just a building or meeting house, as early Protestant churches were once called. Obviously, the real church is the congregation.

Setting aside denomination and even theological questions, there is something special about visiting an old church be it a chapel, church or cathedral. These edifices are where people have gathered in times good and bad to say prayers, celebrate and remember. Even houses of worship belonging to other faith traditions, say Christian Scientists, have something special about them...

The following five churches, listed in no particular order, are among my favorites. Best of all, none require a passport to visit...

**Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury**

This former London church was deconstructed and shipped stone-by-stone — all 7,000 stones — across the Atlantic to become part of the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Missouri.

Designed by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of 1666 devastated London the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is typical of Wren’s famous churches.

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is one of the old churches you can visit without leaving the United States.

Dennis Lennox

The church, reconstructed faithfully to Wren’s original Baroque design, serves as a campus chapel and event space for Westminster College, a historically Presbyterian liberal arts college. Meanwhile, the museum is housed underneath in the undercroft.

(Other churches mentioned are: St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York; Chapel at the Hawaiian Royal Mausoleum State Monument, Honolulu; Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore; and, Cathedral Church of St. John Divine, New York.)

Spires and Crosses, a weekly travel column exclusive to The Christian Post, covers old churches, history and heritage, architecture, culture and art. Follow @ dennislennox on Twitter and Instagram.
By Quinn Wilson, September 5th, 2019

The Church of St. Mary, the Virgin, Aldermanbury on Westminster College’s campus began its renovation project Tuesday.

As a part of the National Churchill Museum, the renovations are the next step in a multi-year plan that began in 2017 to preserve “the fabric” of the museum’s collection. Timothy Riley, the museum’s Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout director and chief curator, said this renovation process will last for 90 days.

“This part of the phase will include cleaning the stone to preserve it and remortoring the stonework on the westside of the church,” Riley said.

The museum raised $1 million in donations for the multi-year plan. Riley said, following this winter, they will aim to raise an additional $4 million.

“We are using some of the same material that was used in the 1670s. In doing so, we are looking ahead to the future while looking back at the past,” Riley said.

The museum commissioned a 2017 study of 17th-century stone in order to preserve the church’s history. Additionally, in the three month span, the museum aims to replace the church’s windows and doors with refurbished ones.

“As good stewards of this unique property, we're doing this work. It’s exciting to see this internationally known monument be cleaned and preserved,” Riley said.

The church will remain open and fully operational throughout the renovations. The multi-year plan started in the fall of 2018 when contractors installed new copper downspouts along the church.

“The public’s access should not be affected by this work; we’re open for business as usual,” Riley said.

According to the National Churchill Museum, the church was founded in the late 11th or early 12th century within what is now the historic city of London. The church was burned by the great fire of London in 1666 and was rebuilt in 1677 with as much of the original stone as possible. The process to have the church rebuilt in Fulton as a memorial to Winston Churchill began in 1965 and was completed in 1967.
July 5th, 2019

On Saturday, visitors and residents can catch a special presentation at the National Churchill Museum as a part of the exhibition “Painting as a Pastime: From Winston to the White House.”

The exhibition features paintings by Winston Churchill and the several presidents. It opened May 3 and will wrap up Sunday.

“Churchill’s passion for painting inspired Presidents (Dwight D.) Eisenhower, (John F.) Kennedy and (George W.) Bush to pursue this colorful pastime,” said Timothy Riley, the museum’s director and curator.

Riley presents at 11 a.m. The lecture is free with admission to the museum.

Riley said he plans to explore the relationship Churchill shared with Eisenhower and Kennedy, and later Bush. Churchill inspired all three to pick up a brush.

“Being a statesmen is full of stress at times, and they each used painting as a way to to relax and relieve stress,” Riley said.

The presidential painting exhibition features paintings by Winston Churchill and the presidents he inspired to do the same. Paintings by Churchill, John F. Kennedy, Dwight Eisenhower and George W. Bush will all be in the same room publicly for the first time.

Submitted by the National Churchill Museum

According to the museum director and curator, this will be the first time each of these paintings will be in the same room publicly. The presidential paintings on exhibit have been loaned to the National Churchill Museum by the Harlan Crow Library in Dallas, Texas.

“During his lifetime, Winston Churchill created more than 570 canvases and firmly believed the power of observation, concentration, and creativity afforded to him by painting helped him as a leader and a statesman,” Riley said.
Prince Charles Salutes Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, and Urges its Preservation

By Sarah Backer

Keynoter David M. Rubenstein Urges Attendees to Address America’s Social Challenges

The night started with a just-received letter and closed with a message from the past.

“I cannot tell you how delighted I am once again to help you celebrate the very special Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in the 17th Century, and relocated from London and rebuilt again in Fulton, Missouri, in the 20th Century to serve as the most remarkable and highly appropriate memorial to Sir Winston Churchill’s Sinews of Peace address.”

The letter ended with “I should like to thank you all most warmly for your continuing efforts to protect, preserve and cherish it.” It was simply signed “Charles.”

The letter from the Prince of Wales, heir to the British throne as the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth II, was read aloud by Her Majesty’s British Consul General John Saville during a gala Saturday night in the Historic Gymnasium on the campus of Westminster College, where in March 1946 Churchill gave his speech, which is often called the “Iron Curtain” speech.

The gala attended by more than 300 people included members of the Churchill and Harry S. Truman families as well as other VIPs from England and across the United States. The event honored the 50th anniversary of the re-hallowing of the historic and legendary Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, as well as the opening of America’s National Churchill Museum, or ANCM.

The gala also featured a keynote by David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-executive chairman of The Carlyle Group in Washington D.C. In his speech, Rubenstein summarized his thoughts on national issues and patriotic philanthropy. Rubenstein was inducted into the Association of Churchill Fellows following his address.

Rubenstein’s speech capped a weekend of new art exhibits, lectures about the humor of Churchill by noted biographer Andrew Roberts and a lively presentation by Churchill’s granddaughter, artist
Edwina Sandys, of New York City, who invited hundreds to walk through her Breakthrough sculpture. Breakthrough is made from a 32-foot-long stretch of the Berlin Wall, the embodiment of the Cold War initiated by her grandfather’s visionary speech at Westminster College in March 1946.

The afternoon also included a colorful parade through this small, college town that included several marching bands, vintage military vehicles, student artists, flyovers of a B-25 WWII airplane and a motorcade of Churchill family members that included Edwina Sandys; Churchill’s granddaughter Emma Soames of London; Churchill’s great-grandsons Jack Churchill, of Wiltshire, England, and Duncan Sandys, of Atlanta; and St. Louisans Baxter Watson, who, as a Westminster student, escorted Churchill and Truman into the Historic Gymnasium, and Earle Harbison Jr., who, as a Westminster student, watched and listened to Churchill as he delivered his speech 73 years ago.

Prince Charles’ letter focused on the London church built in 1181 A.D., which was gutted by the Great Fire of London in 1666. It was rebuilt in 1672 by Royal Architect Christopher Wren, who also reconstructed dozens of other churches damaged in the fire. St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, continued serving its London parish until Dec. 29, 1940, when it was bombed by the German Luftwaffe at the start of World War II.

The fire-gutted stone church, which like many London buildings, sat in ruins for nearly two decades after the war ended. It was acquired by the College’s Board of Trustees in the early 1960s, was carefully dismantled — all 7,000 stones — and they were shipped, railed and trucked to Fulton, where the church was rebuilt according to Wren’s original design atop the new Churchill museum.

“The Church, it seems to me, represents the essence of the human spirit and our unique ability to overcome tragedy,” he wrote. “It therefore gives me great joy that the Church stands proudly re-hallowed in Fulton, MO. As an extraordinary example of resilience and hope, it is my particular wish that the Church will continue to receive the support it needs to sustain its work for future generations,” he wrote.

In his keynote, Rubenstein — a collector of such documents as The Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation and other rare documents — said the federal government is dysfunctional because Congress cannot work together to solve the country’s internal problems.

“External matters such as Brexit, terrorism, trade with China and other issues are not our greatest challenges,” he said. “America’s greatest risks come from our own internal problems.”

Those problems, he said, are the nation’s debt; underfunded Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs; underfunded state pension plans; gun killings; Americans’ obesity; income inequality and the
lack of social mobility; functional illiteracy among 34 million Americas; the U.S. high school drop-out rate; opioid deaths and the nation’s growing homelessness problem.

He urged attendees, as individuals, to tackle at least one of those problems. In doing so, he echoed the words of President John F. Kennedy, the first honorary chair of the ANCM, to “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”

On Sunday morning, 12 new members were inducted into the Association of Churchill Fellows during solemn ceremonies inside the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. They are as follows:

From the St. Louis, MO area: Brock Ayers, first vice president-Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors; James F. Bennett, partner, the Dowd Bennett law firm; Ken Murer, founder and CEO, Automotive Product Consultants, Inc., and the late Dave Stinson, the former administrator at Westminster who raised funds to relocate the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, from Central London to Fulton and had oversight responsibilities in rebuilding the church and opening the museum.

Other inductees included Churchill’s granddaughter the Honorable Emma Soames of London; his great-grandson Jack Churchill, of Seend, Wiltshire, England; Clementina “Tina” Santi Flaherty of New York, NY; Erik de Bourbon of Palm Beach, FL; Deborah G. Lindsay of Marietta, GA; Don Fos, of Franklin, MI; Dr. William E. Parrish of Starkville, MS; and Rubenstein.

Founded in 1851, Westminster College is a private liberal arts college in Fulton, MO. Relocated from London to Fulton, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, is a memorial to Winston Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech and located above the ANCM. To learn more about Westminster College or the Museum, visit the College’s site here or go to the ANCM site here.
Celebrate 50th anniversary of Churchill museum with visit to Fulton, Mo.

By Linda F. Jarrett, Special to the Post-Dispatch

Fulton, Mo. • On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill gave his “Sinews of Peace” speech at Westminster College, where he famously declared “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an Iron Curtain has descended across the continent.” These words, condemning Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe, are sometimes pointed to as the beginnings of the Cold War.

The small town of Fulton in mid-Missouri has embraced its place in history, and 50 years ago established the National Churchill Museum, the only museum in North America dedicated to the life and times of the former British prime minister.

On May 3-5, the town, the college and the museum will commemorate those 50 years with a series of activities.

So, how did Churchill come to this tiny Midwestern town?

The president of Westminster College, Franc McCluer, was trying to come up with the perfect speaker for a foundation lecture to be held in 1946.

McCluer thought of Churchill, who at the time had recently lost election as prime minister (but was later elected again).

Sam Craghead, executive assistant for the 50th anniversary, said, “Dr. McCluer sent the invitation to Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn, a military adviser and Westminster graduate, who gave it to President Harry S. Truman.”

Truman wrote a letter to Churchill: “This is a wonderful school in my home state, and I will introduce you. Best regards, Harry Truman,” Craghead said. “So, Churchill accepted because he said he was going to be in the states anyway.”

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Today, the museum is made up of three parts: The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury; the museum; and the “Breakthrough” sculpture, which is made from eight sections of the Berlin Wall, a telltale sign of Communist aggression and its subsequent failure.

In 1960, Westminster President Robert L.D. Davidson decided there should be some kind of memorial to honor Churchill’s address. A committee saw a Life Magazine feature on war-ravaged Christopher Wren churches in London, and college officials selected the
Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury as the church to be saved.

A few years later it was carefully dismantled, and all 7,000 stones were shipped, railed and trucked from London to Fulton, where it was reconstructed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Churchill’s speech, Craghead said.

On April 19, 1964, Truman turned the first shovelful of dirt for the church, the cornerstone was laid in October 1966, the church was completed in April 1969, and dedicated on May 7, 1969.

Earl Mountbatten, representing Queen Elizabeth, gave the dedication speech. Other dignitaries were Mary Soames, Churchill’s youngest daughter; British Ambassador Averell Harriman; former Missouri Gov. John M. Dalton; and Gen. Mark Clark.

The “Breakthrough” sculpture was brought to the campus in 1990 by Churchill’s granddaughter, artist Edwina Sandys, and the university will be having a 30th anniversary celebration to commemorate that event in November.

The museum is located beneath the church. Its exhibits include the first public exhibition of “Painting as a Pastime: From Winston to the White House,” which includes paintings inspired by Churchill from Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and George W. Bush, and includes paintings by Churchill.

Another exhibit, “The Journey of Sir Christopher Wren’s St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury to Fulton,” is a collection of photos, documents and materials showing the task of relocating the church from London to Fulton.

The “Special Relationship Project” features 4,000 paintings by K-12 students from mid-Missouri whose work explores the idea of “special relationships,” a term coined by Churchill in his 1946 speech.

Festivities

Family members including Churchill’s granddaughters and great-grandson and Truman’s grandson will be among those traveling here to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

“This 50th anniversary weekend is designed to celebrate this extraordinary museum and commemorate the legacy of Winston Churchill,” said Timothy Riley, director and chief curator of the museum. “His leadership and his statesmanship continue to inform and inspire us today, just as they did when he visited here 73 years ago, just six months after the end of World War II.”

The weekend will include a special tribute to Eagle Squadron 1st Lt. John F. Lutz, an airman from Fulton who volunteered to join the Royal Air Force before the U.S. entered World War II. On May 4, 1943, his plane was shot down over the English Channel, and he was lost at sea. Today, the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is the official chapel of the highly decorated Eagle Squadrions.

The schedule of events for the 50th anniversary celebration will incorporate many festivities, including a parade as well as exhibits and lectures about Churchill, the museum and the historic church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, an integral part of the museum.

The public is invited to take part in all of the festivities on campus and at the museum. Most events are free, but some activities will require tickets. For more information, go to nationalchurchillmuseum.org or call 1-573-592-5369.

Visiting Fulton

While in Fulton, take time to browse the Brick District, the restored downtown area with mom-and-pop boutiques, galleries and restaurants lining shaded streets reminiscent of bygone days.

The Brick District Playhouse, a 1920s movie theater that was slated for demolition, was saved and found life as a coffee shop while its saviors worked in the auditorium to turn it into a profitable venue for plays, concerts and other events.

The Art House Gallery in the Brick District represents more than 100 regional artists in mediums from paint to ceramics to textiles, and also hosts Calloway Plein Aire, an annual four-day open-air painting event. Creating Unkamen, also in the Brick District, grew from an online crafting store to a brick-and-mortar boutique selling handmade jewelry. Smockingbird’s offers a wide variety of gifts and features Beatrix Ball trays, which made the 2017 Oprah’s Favorite Things
List in “O Magazine.”

Dining options abound in Fulton’s Brick District. For lunch with a Cuban flair, the Fulton Café features carne con papas, a beef and potato dish with onions, garlic and tomatoes, or picadillo, which is ground beef and potatoes with onions garlic, olives and raisins. Try Fontenot’s Po Boys for a bit of Cajun cooking or Brooklyn Pizza for Stromboli, pasta and calzones. Bek’s offers filets, salmon and burgers in a historic atmosphere.

Close to Fulton, Green Meadow Barn Co. features handcrafted furniture out of reclaimed wood from historic Missouri barns, and is custom-made in owner Carolyn Litton’s workshop in Millersburg. Call for an appointment: 573-592-0331.

Take a break at Serenity Valley Vineyards with a glass of wine and wedge of cheese, and enjoy the sunset over the lake. (SerenityWineryMo.com)

For an overnight stay, the Loganberry Inn, a Victorian bed-and-breakfast built in 1899, is a couple of blocks from the Brick District. Guests have included Margaret Thatcher and Polish President Lech Walesa. (loganberryinn.com)

For more information on Fulton, VisitFulton.com or 1-573-642-7692.
Historic weekend to celebrate Churchill museum anniversary

By Jenny Gray, January 20th, 2019

A weekend of historic happenings, including visits from the families of Winston Churchill and American presidents, is generating excitement at the National Churchill Museum in Fulton.

In other words, plan to be a part of the museum’s 50th birthday celebration on May 3-5.

“I think the importance from the museum’s viewpoint is to drive a stake in the ground and tell them this weekend is for us,” event publicist Tom Pagano said.

Family members of former British Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill and President Harry S. Truman will be taking part in celebratory festivities later this year to mark the 50th anniversary of America’s National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College, it was announced earlier this week.

Churchill and Truman’s grandchildren, Randolph Churchill, the Honorable Edwina Sandys, Sir Nicholas Soames and Clifton Truman Daniel will be among the featured guests at the golden anniversary activities during Churchill Fellows Weekend on Friday through Sunday, May 3-5, at Westminster College and throughout the city.

“Since I’ve been here, this will be the most Churchills I’ve seen here at the same time,” said Rob Crouse, media director for Westminster College.

The public is invited to participate in all of the festivities on campus and at the museum, the only museum in North America that commemorates the life and times of the 20th century’s greatest leaders.

“If we could flood the town (with spectators), that would be outstanding,” Pagano added.

Who’s who

In addition to the Truman and Churchill family members, Tricia Nixon Cox, daughter of President Richard M. and Pat Nixon, and Anne and Susan Eisenhower, granddaughters of President Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower, will be taking part in the celebration along with other members of the honorary anniversary committee, which is chaired by Randolph Churchill.

It’s hoped many members of the honorary committee can make the trip, Crouse said. The committee includes Westminster Trustee Chairman John M. Panettiere; former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, of New York; and others.
York City; Senior Fellow and Westminster College Trustee Philip J. Boeckman, of London, England; former U.S. Sen. John C. Danforth, of St. Louis; New York City author and business executive Tina Santi-Flaherty; Westminster College President Fletcher Lamkin; attorney Richmond McCluer, of Winona, Minnesota; former Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon; former CIA Director and retired U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus; Vera Fairbanks, wife of the late American actor and producer Douglas Fairbanks Jr. who worked to secure funding for the museum; and the Honorable Lord Alan Watson C.B.E., of Richmond, England; a member of the British Parliament's House of Lords. Watson visited the campus in 2016 to give the Green Lecture.

“We are very excited and honored to have members of the Churchill and Truman families and many other notables taking part in this historic event here in Fulton,” said Timothy Riley, the Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout director and chief curator of America’s National Churchill Museum. “This 50th anniversary celebration will be fun, and will inform, inspire and motivate people to learn more about Churchill’s leadership and the speech that changed history and still influences the world today.”

Riley was referring to Churchill’s historic March 5, 1946, speech at Westminster College — “Sinews of Peace,” which is often called the “Iron Curtain speech.” That now famous speech sounded the alarm on the fracturing relationship between the post-war superpowers, and essentially marked the beginning of the Cold War between the Allied nations and with what was then known as the Soviet Union.

Churchill came to Fulton at the invitation of Westminster College President Franc McCluer, who asked Churchill to deliver a talk on “international affairs.” The invitation letter also included a hand-written message from then-President Truman, who wrote “This is a wonderful school in my home state. Hope you can do it. I’ll introduce you. Best regards, Harry Truman.”

**Weekend activities**

The 50th anniversary celebration includes many festivities, from a parade of military and high school bands and floats to various exhibits and lectures about
Churchill, the museum, and the historic Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, which is an integral part of the museum.

“The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, which was designed by celebrated British architect Sir Christopher Wren, is historically significant and profoundly inspirational,” Lamkin said.

This church originally was built in Central London and dates to the 12th century (and was attended by writer William Shakespeare). It was bombed and burned during the London Blitzkrieg on Dec. 29, 1940, at the start of World War II.

The church was acquired by Westminster College in 1963, dismantled, and all 7,000 stones were shipped, railed, and trucked from Central London to Fulton, where it was reconstructed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Churchill's 1946 speech, Lamkin said.

The museum originally opened in 1969 as the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library. But, in 2009, the United States Congress formally recognized the museum as America’s permanent tribute to Churchill, and officially designated it “America's National Churchill Museum,” the name it bears today.

Presidential, student exhibition

In addition to the anniversary parade, Riley said exhibits will include paintings by Winston Churchill, a celebrated artist, and by American presidents Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, all of whom were inspired by Churchill's leadership and artistry. There also will be an exhibit of more than 4,000 paintings by Callaway County school children to illustrate the term “special relationship,” which Churchill often used to describe the link between the U.S. and Great Britain.

All Missourians and other fans of Winston Churchill around the globe are invited to take part in the May 3-5 weekend festivities.

A parade will start 2 p.m. Saturday, May 4, and stretch about 2 miles throughout the city, according to organizers.

“We want as many people to join members of the Churchill family and others as they descend upon Westminster College,” Lamkin said. “The parade will culminate at America's National Churchill Museum with a dramatic flyover of World War II military aircraft.”

The weekend also will include a special tribute to Eagle Squadron 1st Lt. John F. Lutz, a young airman from Fulton, who volunteered to join the Royal Air Force before the U.S. entered World War II. After the U.S. entered the war, Lutz and other American airmen joined the U.S. Air Force, and on May 4, 1943, his plane was shot down over the English Channel, and he was lost at sea.

Today, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, is the official chapel of the highly decorated Eagle Squadrions.
Churchill relatives to help mark museum's 50th anniversary

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, January 20, 2019

FULTON, Mo. (AP) — The Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill will mark its 50th anniversary in May with events that include relatives of the famed British prime minister.

Relatives of presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon also are scheduled to take part in the celebration May 3-5 at the National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, the town where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

The museum opened in 1969 and was formally recognized by Congress as America’s permanent tribute to Churchill in 2009.
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FULTON, Mo. — A mid-Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill will launch its 50th anniversary celebration Tuesday with an art exhibit featuring the work of roughly 4,000 students.

Officials with America’s National Churchill Museum on the campus at Westminster College in Fulton say the art was inspired by the words of Churchill’s famous “Iron Curtain” speech. The longtime British prime minister delivered the speech at Westminster in 1946, the phrase “Iron Curtain” describing the separation of Eastern Europe that was under Soviet Union rule.

The artwork was painted by students from the Fulton area, along with Westminster faculty, staff and students. The exhibit is titled the “Special Relationship Project,” a nod to a phrase also coined by Churchill in the 1946 speech to describe the alliance between Great Britain and the U.S.
Churchill Museum celebrates
50th anniversary

By Jenny Gray in Local News, April 13th, 2019

Plans are firming up for the 50th anniversary celebration for the National Churchill Museum at Westminster College.

Workers are busy inside and outside of the museum. Fulton Garden Club members have been planting flowers and mulching the tiny garden on the building’s east side. Anticipation is in the air.

Tyler Oberlag, manager of Guest Services and Museum Operations, is herding all the activities. The celebration will be May 3-5, with a re-creation of the parade famously held when former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited in March 1946 and gave his “Iron Curtain Speech.”

“We have no idea how many people will be coming,” Oberlag said of the celebration. But, he added, there
will be four food vendors and plenty of portable potties dotted around the campus.

The museum will be free to all the whole weekend of the celebration. Some events require paid registration, including three dinners with about 300 registered guests.

“Tickets are almost gone,” he said of the dinners.

Among the events will be an 11 a.m. Saturday talk by artist Edwina Sandys in front of her art installation next to the museum. “Breakthrough” is her sculpture incorporating eight large sections of the Berlin Wall. It was created in 1990 by Sandys, who is Churchill’s granddaughter and will be among the family members returning to Fulton for the big celebration.

The Fulton Sun is publishing a 24-page special guide to activities and also including historical information. It will be inserted into the April 28 edition.

Event schedule

Friday, May 3

11 a.m.: Registration opens

11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m.: Tours of America’s National Churchill Museum; meet at museum’s front desk.

1 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Commemorative Tour. Author, artist and videographer Steve Stinson, who served as one of the original tour guides for the museum during the 1960s, will lead the tour. Stinson’s father, Dave Stinson, was the vice president at Westminster responsible for organizing the relocation from London to Fulton and rebuilding of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.

3 p.m.: “Preserving the Past: Christopher Wren’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.” Esley Hamilton, preservation historian with St. Louis County Parks, will discuss how war and expanding commerce have taken a major toll on Sir Christopher Wren’s 52 London parish churches that constitute one of the greatest architectural achievements of the Baroque era. The lecture will occur at the church.

4:30 p.m.: A recital on the Noel Mander Organ, Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. Churchill Fellow Frederick Hohman transforms the pipe organ from a “Sunday morning” instrument into a virtual symphony orchestra. Hohman will be playing the church’s Mander organ, built and installed by the well-known British organ builder Noel Mander. The Aldermanbury organ is considered by many the finest baroque organ in America.

6 p.m.: Reception with Churchill family members and a preview of new exhibits. The event is for 50th anniversary sponsors only); it will be held on the plaza outside the museum.

The three exhibits are:

Painting as a Pastime: From Winston to the White House, which will display the paintings of American presidents and Churchill.

An Imaginative Concept: Christopher Wren’s St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury Journey to Fulton, which will celebrate the relocation of Wren’s 17th century Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury from London to Fulton in the 1960s.

The Special Relationship Project, which will feature more than 4,000 works of art created by K-12 students from Mid-Missouri who explore the idea of “special relationship,” a term coined by Winston Churchill in his Fulton speech.

7 p.m.: Dinner and program with Churchill family members in Mueller Leadership Hall-Backer Dining Hall. Those attending must be registered.

Saturday, May 4

8:30 a.m.: Registration opens.

9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.: Museum tours. Guests will enjoy three new art exhibits as they tour the museum. Meet at the museum’s front desk. The exhibits are: Painting as a Pastime: From Winston to the White House; An Imaginative Concept: Christopher Wren’s St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury Journey to Fulton; and The Special Relationship Project.

10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.: Walk in Churchill and Truman’s Footsteps, which re-creates the walk of Churchill and Truman when they visited the campus of Westminster College on March 5, 1946. The tour, which will begin outside the front entrance of the museum, will visit the Historic Gymnasium where the “Iron Curtain” Speech was given, and Washington West, the college president’s house where Winston
Churchill enjoyed a nap, a meal and drink. Special guests will include fellow Baxter Watson, who was a Westminster College student in 1946 and led Churchill and Truman into the gymnasium.


10 a.m.: Continuing the Special Relationship, which will feature sculptor and Churchill Fellow Don Wiegand making life casts of two surprise guests — one American, the other British — to symbolize the ongoing special relationship between the United States and Great Britain. The event will be inside the museum.

11 a.m.: Meet the artist and experience Breakthrough. Artist and Churchill granddaughter Edwina Sandys will discuss her Breakthrough sculpture, which is comprised of eight sections of the Berlin Wall, in front of the sculpture.

12:30 p.m.: Enid and R. Crosby Kemper Lecture and Luncheon, which will feature Churchill Fellow and author Andrew Roberts recounting Churchill’s sense of humor which he used to good effect in every facet of his life. Those attending must be registered; the event will be at Mueller Leadership Hall-Backer Dining Hall.

2:30 p.m.: 50th anniversary parade, which will start across from the museum. The parade will feature members of the Churchill and Truman families, U.S. military bands, high school bands, the St. Andrews Society Pipes and Drum Corps, the Air Attaché British Embassy, the Commanding Officer 4th Fighter Group U.S. Air Force and other VIPs. The parade also will include a special salute to the Eagle Squadrons of WWII and one of their own, Lt. John Lutz, of Fulton. The parade will begin at the corner of Westminster Avenue and West Seventh Street, go south on Westminster Avenue, turn east on Fifth Street, turn north on Court Street, go west on Seventh Street, and end after passing the museum.

6 p.m.: Reception and gala dinner with David Rubenstein, who is co-executive chairman of The Carlyle Group. Business attire is required; guests must be registered. The event will be at the Historic Gymnasium.

Sunday, May 5

10 a.m.: Special 50th anniversary service at Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. Those attending are asked to register for preferred seating. The service will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the re-hallowing the church on the campus of Westminster College.
FULTON, Mo. — The Missouri museum honouring Winston Churchill will mark its 50th anniversary in May with events that include relatives of the famed British prime minister.

Relatives of presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon also are scheduled to take part in the celebration May 3-5 at the National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, the town where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

The museum opened in 1969 and was formally recognized by Congress as America’s permanent tribute to Churchill in 2009.

The anniversary celebration will include a parade, lectures about Churchill, and exhibits of paintings by Churchill, Eisenhower and presidents John Kennedy and George W. Bush.
Churchill relatives to help mark museum’s 50th anniversary

by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Updated January 20, 2019

FULTON, Mo. — The Missouri museum honouring Winston Churchill will mark its 50th anniversary in May with events that include relatives of the famed British prime minister.

Relatives of presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon also are scheduled to take part in the celebration May 3-5 at the National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, the town where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

The museum opened in 1969 and was formally recognized by Congress as America’s permanent tribute to Churchill in 2009.

The anniversary celebration will include a parade, lectures about Churchill, and exhibits of paintings by Churchill, Eisenhower and presidents John Kennedy and George W. Bush.
Letter from Prince Charles Marks
Anniversary of Museum

A letter from the Prince of Wales highlights the 50th anniversary of a mid-Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content, May 6, 2019

FULTON, MO. (AP) — A letter from the Prince of Wales highlights the 50th anniversary of a mid-Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill.

Members of the families of Churchill and President Harry Truman were among the hundreds of people attending weekend activities at America’s National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton.

The museum honors the place where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

The museum opened May 7, 1969, after the London church St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury was moved stone-by-stone to Fulton.

The phrase “Iron Curtain” described the separation of Eastern Europe that was under Soviet Union rule.

Prince Charles, in a letter read at a gala on Saturday, noted the museum as the “remarkable and highly appropriate memorial” for the famous speech.

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A letter from the Prince of Wales highlights the 50th anniversary of a mid-Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill.

National
May 8, 2019

Missouri

Fulton: A letter from the Prince of Wales highlights the 50th anniversary of a museum honoring Winston Churchill. Members of the families of Churchill and President Harry Truman were among the hundreds of people attending weekend activities at America’s National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton. The museum honors the place where Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946. The museum opened May 7, 1969, after the London church St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury was moved stone-by-stone to Fulton. The phrase “Iron Curtain” described the separation of Eastern Europe that was under Soviet Union rule. Prince Charles, in a letter read at a gala Saturday, noted the museum as the “remarkable and highly appropriate memorial” for the famous speech.
Times were golden Saturday at Westminster College, as 300 or so people celebrated the 50th anniversary of the re-hallowing of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.

The church is on the Fulton, Mo., campus, where British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946 and is home to the National Churchill Museum.

The church was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666 and then rebuilt by Christopher Wren. Severely damaged during the London Blitz of World War II, it was slated for demolition until Westminster bought it and moved it to Fulton in the 1960s.

Saturday’s event was highlighted by the reading of a letter from Prince Charles, who said the church “represents the essence of the human spirit and our unique ability to overcome tragedy.” (He signed it simply “Charles.”)

As part of the anniversary soiree, three STLers were named as Churchill Fellows: Brock Ayers of Wells Fargo Advisors; James F. Bennett of the Dowd Bennett law firm; and Ken Murer of Automotive Product Consultants Inc.

Several Churchill descendants attended the celebration: granddaughters Edwina Sandys and Emma Soames, and great-grandsons Duncan Sandys and Jack Churchill.
Letter from Prince Charles marks 50th anniversary of Churchill museum in Fulton

By Associated Press, May 6, 2019

FULTON, Mo. (AP) – A letter from the Prince of Wales highlights the 50th anniversary of a mid-Missouri museum honoring Winston Churchill.

Members of the families of Churchill and President Harry Truman were among the hundreds of people attending weekend activities at America’s National Churchill Museum on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton.

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Photo by Fox Photos/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Prince Charles, in a letter read at a gala on Saturday, noted the museum as the “remarkable and highly appropriate memorial” for the famous speech.
HANCOCK SYMPOSIUM/MADELEINE ALBRIGHT
ULTON, Mo. — Madeleine Albright, the nation’s first female secretary of state, said in an address Thursday at Westminster College that democracy worldwide “appears to be in retreat.”

Albright, who served under President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001, also unleashed criticism of President Donald Trump, whom she said was helping to dismantle a world order embraced by presidents of both political parties since the end of World War II.

“Because Missouri is the Show-Me State, I feel I must be blunt: Today we have a president who has become a source of comfort to anti-democratic forces across the globe, instead of rebutting and challenging them,” Albright said to applause.

Since taking office, Trump has removed the United States from an international agreement to combat climate change, has erected trade barriers in hopes of striking new agreements with other countries, has attempted to improve ties between the United States and Russia, and has favored bilateral agreements instead of multilateral ones.

Albright said, “The president has picked fights with Europe over trade, climate change, Iran and NATO instead of rallying our democratic allies to push back against Russia and compete together against China.”

She said Trump was working to “ignore, disparage and dismantle” an established international system of “problem solving and law.”

Albright said the United States must engage with the world, not isolate itself.

She said U.S. foreign policy today echoes its post-World War I attitude, when many “embraced protectionism, downplayed the rise of fascism, opposed help to the victims of oppression and ultimately endangered our world’s security.”
“There’s hardly a major challenge in the world today that does not require like-minded countries to work together for the benefit of all,” Albright said.

Albright said she agreed with former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who delivered his “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton in 1946. She said Churchill spoke of a world in which “markets are open, military clashes are constrained, and those who run roughshod over the rights of others are brought to heel.”

She said investing in fledgling democracies will accomplish these goals.

“Dictators may promise order, yet the plagues of violent extremism, civil strife, famine and epidemic disease are more likely to be present where human liberty and accountable leaders are absent,” she said.

Albright, 82, was born in the former Czechoslovakia. Her father was a Czech diplomat. Her family fled to Britain during Nazi Germany’s occupation of the country. Her family came to the United States in 1948.

After college, she worked as a journalist at the Rolla Daily News while her husband was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Albright is chairwoman of the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm. She resides in Washington.

The address, part of the Westminster College’s John Findley Green lecture series, carries prominence. Historians say Churchill’s speech was prescient in predicting the Cold War.

Other speakers through the decades have included former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former President Gerald Ford and former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., after receiving criticism during his 2016 presidential campaign that he had little experience with foreign policy, delivered the lecture in 2017.
FULTON — Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Thursday she maintains a diplomatic stance when abroad by not speaking ill of the president.

She wasn't overseas, but in a full Champ Auditorium at Westminster College. The auditorium seats 1,200. She also was in the Show-Me State, she said.

“Today we have a president who has become a comfort to anti-democratic forces across the globe,” she said to raucous applause.

Albright delivered the John Findley Green lecture at Westminster, the same venue used by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1946 to deliver a speech titled “Sinews of Peace” that warned of “an iron curtain descending across the continent” of Europe in the form of Soviet expansion.

It wasn’t clear until then that anyone in power in America realized the threat, Albright said.

“One president responded with vision and boldness” to the Soviets, she said. Churchill had come to Fulton on Truman’s invitation.

She was happy to be in Missouri, because it is the home of Harry Truman, she said. Her first job also was in Missouri, writing obituaries and sports stories for the Rolla Daily News and interviewing a local who claimed to have seen an unidentified flying object.

Albright served as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997 and Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton. She was the first woman to serve as secretary of state. She’s now a distinguished professor in diplomacy at Georgetown University.

President Barack Obama in 2012 awarded Albright the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Trump “has picked fights with Europe over trade, climate change, Iran and NATO instead of rallying our democratic allies to push back against Russia and compete together against China,” she said. “His central foreign policy theme is to ignore, disparage and dismantle the global system of international problem-solving and law that Americans led in creating.”

While countries have a right to protect their borders, most migrants are fleeing conflict and economic catastrophe, she said. The president and others instead demonize migrants as rapists and criminals.

“The isolationists were wrong in the 1930s and they’re wrong now,” Albright said.

One of her favorite activities is granting citizenship to migrants, she said. When doing so as secretary of state, one new citizen said he couldn’t believe that a refugee could become a citizen. She told him that she had been a refugee — her family fled Czechoslovakia to Britain during World War II and to the U.S. during the Cold War.

She also criticized the Russian government under Vladimir Putin, saying it had become a revisionist power.

“Vladimir Putin, a KGB agent, has tried very hard to undermine democracy,” Albright said, responding a question from an independent Russian journalist. “I think we have to call it out. Putin is playing a weak hand well, but Russia is not in good shape.”

China is another bad player on the world stage, Albright said, adding that the U.S. can have relations with China while calling out human rights abuses.

“Under President Xi, China has become another
leading global champion of authoritarianism, actively using its economic might to shape the world in its image, while pioneering new methods for monitoring and controlling its population through technology,” Albright said.

During her time as secretary of state, the Cold War had ended and the U.S. had a budget surplus.

“We were the world's unchallenged superpower, and our allies were looking to us to lead,” Albright said.

That changed with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and subsequent military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan. There also was the 2008 recession, she said.

President Woodrow Wilson a century ago asked that the world be made safe for democracy, Albright said.

“We must strive for democracy to keep our world safe,” she said.

The free world isn't facing the threats it faced in the 1940s, Albright said.

“The crisis of confidence we face is undeniable,” she said.

Young people on Friday were planning massive climate marches, inspired by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, she said. It is young people who can make a difference for our future.

“I mentioned earlier that Winston Churchill declared during his visit to Fulton that American democracy was facing a defining test,” Albright said. “I am no Churchill, but today I want to issue a call for action. I want to urge everyone — especially the students — to treat this as another clarifying moment in our history.”

Listening to the speech onstage was George Smith, University of Missouri emeritus professor and 2018 Nobel prize winner in chemistry. Smith and Albright each were awarded honorary doctorates from the college.

Asked later what he thought of Albright's speech, Smith said his answer would get him in a lot of trouble.

“I think she pretty much represents an interventionist view of American foreign policy,” including in Kosovo, he said.

Her position on Russia is wrong, he said.

“This extreme anti-Russian attitude is unnecessarily dangerous for our country,” he said.

Others who have delivered the lecture have included Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Gerald Ford and Bernie Sanders.

rmckinney@columbiatribune.com
Democracy seems to be in retreat, Madeleine K. Albright told an engaged crowd of students and others Thursday at Westminster College.

But the former U.S. Secretary of State urged her audience to help democracy succeed, particularly on a global scale.

“We should do everything possible to help new and struggling democracies earn public trust by providing basic services, fighting corruption, investing in their citizens and building infrastructure that enables prosperity,” Albright said during this year’s John Findley Green Foundation lecture.

The lecture was the final event of the Hancock Symposium, held in a nearly full Champ Auditorium at the college in Fulton. The symposium promotes an understanding of economic and social problems on an international level. Previous lecturers have included Harry Truman and Bernie Sanders.

Albright explained her connection to Missouri at the beginning of her talk. A graduate of Wellesley College, she said she worked at The Rolla Daily News while her husband was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood.

“I have a deep affection for the state of Missouri, in part because it’s where I got my first job and because it gave us the gift of Harry Truman,” she said.

Later, Albright reflected on the early years of her term as the 64th U.S. Secretary of State, the first woman to hold the post. She was appointed in 1997 and served until 2001 in the aftermath of the Cold War, where the U.S. remained as the world’s leading super power.

She was the last secretary of State of the 20th century and the first of the 21st century.

“At the dawn of the 21st century, our overriding goal was to bring nations closer together, around some of the ideas Churchill had talked about in his speech,” she said, referring to “The Iron Curtain” speech he made in Fulton in 1946.

She remembered welcoming the prime ministers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to Missouri, where the documents admitting them to NATO were signed on the table Harry Truman used to authorize the Marshall Plan.

Albright was born in Prague and immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1948.

She frequently mentioned the importance of bringing nations together and reminding Americans that they belong to a world community.

“Most Americans understand that what happens in
the world affects almost every aspect of our lives,” she said. “They also understand that there’s hardly a major challenge in the world today that does not require like-minded countries to work together for the benefit of all.”

Albright reassured those with doubts about the direction of our government that freedom cannot be discarded.

“The goal of most is to make democracy work better, not to abandon the framework of freedom,” Albright said.

Whenever the country has been threatened by those who wish us harm, our identification with freedom has provided an advantage, she said.

“We need to once again seize this advantage. But to do that, we need leaders who see our democratic values not as a burden we must bear, but an essential identity we must proclaim,” Albright said.

She appealed to students to recognize that they are more globally oriented than their predecessors. But they could choose one of two paths forward.

“In a decade or two from now, you could be known as neo-isolationists who allowed tyranny and lawlessness to rise again. Or as those who solidified the global triumph of democratic principles,” she said.

Today’s students could be the generation that allowed technology to drive a wedge between nations, or visionaries who harvest technology to unite people and expand freedom, Albright told the crowd.

“The isolationists were wrong in the 1930s, and they’re wrong now.”
By Helen Wilbers

During the 59th John Findley Green Foundation Lecture, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright encouraged the audience not to fall prey to isolationist fears.

“I am no Churchill, but today, I want to issue a call for action,” Albright said. “I want to urge everyone — especially the students — to treat this as another clarifying moment in our history.”

Lessons in history

Albright spoke Thursday at Westminster College, focusing on the status of democracy in the 21st century. This present moment, she argued, represents an inflection point: Fascism and nationalism are on the rise, threatening to break ties between nations and break democratic governments within nations.

It’s a moment that mirrors another within living memory — one defined at Westminster College when Winston Churchill gave his famed “Sinews of Peace” speech in 1946. He warned of an “iron curtain” descending across Europe in the form of the encroaching Communist threat.

“Churchill came to Missouri during what he called ‘a solemn moment for American democracy,’” Albright said. “In the aftermath of global conflict, the American people were weary of war and wary of new commitments. But here in the heart of the country, Winston Churchill argued that the security and prosperity of Europe and the United States were closely connected, and that America had a responsibility to lead.”

President Harry Truman took that message to heart, planting the seeds of NATO and encouraging the growth of democracy.

That mission endured into Albright’s tenure in public service: as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1993-97, and then as the first female secretary of state under then-President Bill Clinton until 2001.

“At the dawn of the 21st century, our overriding goal was to bring nations closer together around some of the ideas that Churchill had talked about in his speech,” she said. “We worked to strengthen our NATO alliance and erase any trace of the iron curtain by adding qualified new members from Europe’s newly democratic east.

“I will never forget welcoming the foreign ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to Independence, Missouri, where we signed the
documents admitting them to NATO on the table Harry Truman used to authorize the Marshall Plan.”

**Backsliding**

But in 2019, that progress toward a more united and peaceful world is under threat.

“The future seems filled with puzzles to which there are no readily apparently solutions,” Albright said. “Democracy appears to be in retreat. And the pillars of the postwar international system are weakening.”

America’s attempts to impose democracy — “an oxymoron” according to Albright — in Iraq shook global faith in democratic ideals, while the financial crisis of 2008-09 built resentment against the international economic system. The already wealthy in Western urban centers prospered, as did certain segments of Asia; traditional manufacturers and farmers in rural America did not.

“This lopsided pattern created massive pockets of resentment in traditional manufacturing and farming sectors and among people without the high-tech training needed to compete in today’s economy,” she said, adding, “Today, the people who see themselves most clearly as victims are concentrated in such places as the northern cities of England, the former East Germany, and America’s industrial heartland.”

That set the stage for the current situation, in which countries such as Russia hold disinformation campaigns on social media and radical nationalist groups are gaining steam.

Albright pointed a finger at Russian president Vladimir Putin, whom she said is attempting to “cause NATO to collapse from within,” and Chinese president Xi Jinping. China has “become another leading global champion of authoritarianism,” controlling its population through technology and abusing global trade.

America isn’t blameless in all this, she said.

“For almost as long as I have been alive, under both Republican and Democratic presidents, the world has been able to count on the United States to serve as the rock against which the forces of despotism run aground and break apart,” Albright said. “But what concerns me is that we may no longer be able to make that claim.”

Albright said President Donald Trump has become “a source of comfort to anti-democratic forces across the globe.”

“His central foreign policy theme is to ignore, disparage and dismantle the global system of international problem-solving and law that Americans led in creating,” she said. “In its place, the president touts a world in which each country is only out for itself, competing constantly, and valuing material advantage over shared ideals.”

What perhaps concerns her the most is Trump’s isolationist policies, including his increasing resistance to admitting refugees into the United States.

Albright has personal experience with fleeing to the U.S.: Her family did just that in 1948, when the rise of communism in Czechoslovakia threatened her politician father’s safety.

“The best solution by far is to prevent wars, create a healthy global economy and protect the environment so that people do not have to leave their homes in quest of safety and the means to survive,” she said. “There are no easy answers, but of one thing I am sure. The situation is not helped when politicians try to advance their careers by suggesting that most migrants are terrorists and rapists — or that families fleeing persecution and war are less than human.”

**Call to action**

Albright describes herself as an “optimist who worries a lot.”

As an optimist, she said, she believes the current generation of citizens and politicians have time and a chance to prevent democracy’s widespread collapse.

Solutions she proposed include:

Assembling an international coalition to halt Russia’s disinformation attempts.

Teaming up with allies to address chaos-causing global problems, such as terrorism, climate change and nuclear weapon development.

Seeking cooperation with China, while boldly calling out its human rights violations.
Albright closed with words of encouragement and warning for her audience, particularly students of Westminster.

“A decade or two from now, you could be known as neo-isolationists who allowed tyranny and lawlessness to rise again; or as those whose solidified the global triumph of democratic principles,” she said. “You could be known as the neo-protectionists, whose lack of vision produced economic catastrophe; or as those who laid the groundwork for rising prosperity around the world.

“You could be known as the generation that allowed technology to drive a deeper wedge within and between nations; or as the visionaries who harnessed technology to unite people and expand freedom.

“You could be known as the world-class ditherers, who stood by while the seeds of renewed global conflict were sown; or as those that took strong measures to forge alliances, deter aggression and keep the peace.”

Kelsie Slaughter, a Westminster senior and history major who sang the national anthem and Westminster’s school song during the event, said she found the talk inspiring.

“This symposium is called ‘Breakthrough,’ and she symbolizes exactly that for so many women in politics,” she said.

Albright’s anecdote about conferring citizenship on a Czech man particularly touched her. To paraphrase, the man said to Albright he couldn’t believe he was receiving citizenship, and Albright asked if he could believe a Czech refugee could become Secretary of State.

“That was amazing, and that’s just what America is, and that’s what makes America great,” Slaughter said.
BY Brian Hauswirth, September 20, 2019

The nation’s first female Secretary of State spent time Thursday in Fulton recounting her journey from a newspaper reporter in Rolla to the nation’s highest diplomatic post.

But the biggest part of Madeleine Albright’s speech was her warning that democracy “appears to be in retreat”, and her criticism of President Donald Trump (R).

Dr. Albright, who served as Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton (D) from 1997-2001, spoke to a capacity crowd of more than 1,500 at historic Westminster College. She tells the audience that President Trump “has become a source of comfort to anti-democratic forces across the globe.”

“The president has picked fights with Europe over trade, climate change, Iran and NATO instead of rallying our democratic allies to push back against Russia and compete together against China,” Albright says.

She says President Trump “touts a world in which each country is only out for itself.”

“It is a world in which the strong strut, the weak submit, and people everywhere may be divided into patriots and subscribers to, and I quote, ‘the ideology of globalism,’ whatever that may be,” says Albright.

Dr. Albright is also warning about Russia, saying Vladimir Putin’s “clear intent” is to divide the transatlantic community and cause NATO to collapse from within.

She says that President Trump “touts a world in which each country is only out for itself.”

“It is a world in which the strong strut, the weak submit, and people everywhere may be divided into patriots and subscribers to, and I quote, ‘the ideology of globalism,’ whatever that may be,” says Albright.

Dr. Albright is also warning about Russia, saying Vladimir Putin’s “clear intent” is to divide the transatlantic community and cause NATO to collapse from within.


She also recapped her long career journey from a newspaper reporter in Rolla to becoming Secretary of State. Dr. Albright tells the audience she moved to southern Missouri’s Waynesville after college, where her husband was in the Army at Fort Leonard Wood.
Albright worked for the “Rolla Daily News”.

“Where I wrote obituaries and articles for the society page, reported on an occasional sports story, and even interviewed people who had seen a UFO,” Albright says, to audience laughter.

She also notes she sold classified ads in Rolla. She says her favorite read “Cemetery plot, owner must move, will sell at sacrifice.”

Westminster College is where former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

Previous Westminster Green Lecture speakers have included Presidents Harry Truman and Gerald Ford and Vice Presidents George H.W. Bush and Hubert Humphrey.

Copyright © 2019 Missourinet
By Iabel Lohman

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright drew parallels between 1920s isolationism, which she said downplayed fascism, and today’s nationalism while speaking to an audience in Fulton Wednesday.

She said those who embrace an anti-globalization attitude were wrong in the past and are wrong now.

“The issue of immigration is complicated because countries have a right to protect their borders,” Albright said. “But the best solution by far is to prevent wars, create a healthy global economy and to protect the environment so that people don’t have to leave their homes in quest of safety and the means to survive.”

She criticized President Donald Trump’s treatment of immigrants.

“There are no easy answers, but of one thing I am sure: The situation is not helped when politicians try to advance their careers by suggesting that most migrants are terrorists and rapists or that families fleeing persecution and war are less than human,” she said.

Albright was born in what was then Czechoslovakia. She gave the John Findley Green Foundation Lecture at Westminster College where Winston Churchill delivered his “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.
Dr. Madeleine Albright lectures at Westminster

(KRCG also published Albright’s lecture online, and linked to a video of her complete speech.)

By Megan Smaltz, September 19th 2019

FULTON — On Thursday, Dr. Madeleine Albright delivered the Green Foundation Lecture in Champ Auditorium on the Westminster campus.

Dr. Albright is the first female United States Secretary of State.

At the time of her nomination, she was the highest-ranking woman in the history of the United States Government.

Her lecture was the main event of Westminster’s 12th annual Hancock Symposium, a two day series of lectures, panel discussions, and presentations.

The Green Foundation Lecture was established in 1937 in honor of John Findley Green, a St. Louis attorney and 1184 graduate of Westminster.

The lecture series has hosted significant speakers like Sir Winston Churchill in 1946 when he delivered his “Iron Curtain” speech.

Dr. Madeleine Albright joins the ranks of U.S.S.R. President Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Poland Lech Walesa and President Harry S. Truman in delivering speeches for the 59th John Findley Green Foundation Lecture.

Carli Rabon/KRCG13

Other significant speakers include British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, U.S.S.R. President Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Poland Lech Walesa, President Harry S. Truman, President Gerald Ford, Vice President George H. W. Bush, and Secretary of State and Treasury James A. Baker.

To read the full speech click here.
Madeleine Albright in Fulton: Isolation is not America’s future

By Kayley Allen, September 19, 2019

After giving her lecture for the John Findley Green Foundation Lecture at Westminster College on Thursday, former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Madeleine Albright sits with Jeremy Straughn, the Assistant Dean for Global Engagement at Westminster College, while taking questions from the audience.

Dr. David Jones, right, marshal of the college at Westminster College, hands former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Madeleine Albright her honorary degree she received before her lecture.

Albright spoke Thursday at the 59th John Findley Green Foundation Lecture at Champ Auditorium in Fulton.

Democracy seems to be in retreat, Madeleine K. Albright told an engaged crowd of students and others Thursday at Westminster College.

But the former U.S. Secretary of State urged her audience to help democracy succeed, particularly on a global scale.

“We should do everything possible to help new and struggling democracies earn public trust by providing basic services, fighting corruption, investing in their citizens and building infrastructure that enables prosperity,” Albright said during this year’s John Findley Green Foundation lecture.

The lecture was the final event of the Hancock Symposium, held in a nearly full Champ Auditorium at the college in Fulton. The symposium promotes an understanding of economic and social problems on an international level. Previous lecturers have included Harry Truman and Bernie Sanders.

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“I have a deep affection for the state of Missouri, in part because it’s where I got my first job and because it gave us the gift of Harry Truman,” she said.

Later, Albright reflected on the early years of her term as the 64th U.S. Secretary of State, the first woman to hold the post. She was appointed in 1997 and served until 2001 in the aftermath of the Cold War, where the U.S. remained as the world’s leading super power.

She was the last secretary of State of the 20th century and the first of the 21st century.

“At the dawn of the 21st century, our overriding goal was to bring nations closer together, around some of the ideas Churchill had talked about in his speech,” she said, referring to “The Iron Curtain” speech he made in Fulton in 1946.

She remembered welcoming the prime ministers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to Missouri, where the documents admitting them to NATO were signed on the table Harry Truman used to authorize the Marshall Plan.

Albright was born in Prague and immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1948.

She frequently mentioned the importance of bringing nations together and reminding Americans that they belong to a world community.

“Most Americans understand that what happens in the world affects almost every aspect of our lives,” she said. “They also understand that there’s hardly a major challenge in the world today that does not require like-minded countries to work together for the benefit of all.”

Albright reassured those with doubts about the direction of our government that freedom cannot be discarded.
“The goal of most is to make democracy work better, not to abandon the framework of freedom,” Albright said.

Whenever the country has been threatened by those who wish us harm, our identification with freedom has provided an advantage, she said.

“We need to once again seize this advantage. But to do that, we need leaders who see our democratic values not as a burden we must bear, but an essential identity we must proclaim,” Albright said.

She appealed to students to recognize that they are more globally oriented than their predecessors. But they could choose one of two paths forward.

“In a decade or two from now, you could be known as neo-isolationists who allowed tyranny and lawlessness to rise again. Or as those who solidified the global triumph of democratic principles,” she said.

Today’s students could be the generation that allowed technology to drive a wedge between nations, or visionaries who harvest technology to unite people and expand freedom, Albright told the crowd.

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This article originally ran on columbiamissourian.com.
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Albright, who served under President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001, also unleashed criticism of President Donald Trump, whom she said was helping to dismantle a world order embraced by presidents of both political parties since the end of World War II.

“Because Missouri is the Show-Me State, I feel I must be blunt: Today we have a president who has become a source of comfort to anti-democratic forces across the globe, instead of rebutting and challenging them,” Albright said to applause.

Since taking office, Trump has removed the United States from an international agreement to combat climate change, has erected trade barriers in hopes of striking new agreements with other countries, has attempted to improve ties between the United States and Russia, and has favored bilateral agreements instead of multilateral ones.

Albright said, “The president has picked fights with Europe over trade, climate change, Iran and NATO instead of rallying our democratic allies to push back against Russia and compete together against China.”

She said Trump was working to “ignore, disparage and dismantle” an established international system of “problem solving and law.”

“The president touts a world in which each country is only out for itself,” Albright said. “It’s a world in which the strong strut, the weak submit and people everywhere may be divided into patriots and subscribers to, and I quote, ‘the ideology of globalism’ — whatever that means.”

Albright said the United States must engage with the world, not isolate itself.

She said U.S. foreign policy today echoes its post-World War I attitude, when many “embraced protectionism, downplayed the rise of fascism, opposed help to the victims of oppression and ultimately endangered our world’s security.

“There’s hardly a major challenge in the world today that does not require like-minded countries to work together for the benefit of all,” Albright said.

Albright said she agreed with former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who delivered his “Iron Curtain” speech in Fulton in 1946. She said Churchill spoke of a world in which “markets are open, military clashes are constrained, and those who run roughshod over the rights of others are brought to heel.”

She said investing in fledging democracies will accomplish these goals.

“Dictators may promise order, yet the plagues of violent extremism, civil strife, famine and epidemic disease are more likely to be present where human liberty and accountable leaders are absent,” she said.

Albright, 82, was born in the former Czechoslovakia. Her father was a Czech diplomat. Her family fled to Britain during Nazi Germany’s occupation of the country. Her family came to the United States in 1948.

After college, she worked as a journalist at The Rolla Daily News while her husband was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

Albright is chairwoman of the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy company. She resides in Washington.
The address, part of the Westminster College’s John Findley Green lecture series, carries prominence. Historians say Churchill’s speech was prescient in predicting the Cold War.

Other speakers through the decades have included former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former President Gerald Ford and former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., after receiving criticism during his 2016 presidential campaign that he had little experience with foreign policy, delivered the lecture in 2017.
James Hansen, biographer of Neil Armstrong, spoke at Westminster College on Wednesday to preview his new book coming in October.

By Quinn Wilson, September 19, 2019

James Hansen, biographer of Neil Armstrong, spoke at Westminster College on Wednesday to preview his new book coming in October.

As a part of the 14th Hancock Symposium, Hansen’s talk revolved around his forthcoming book “Dear Neil Armstrong: Letters to the First Man from All Mankind,” which will be available Oct. 15. The book is a collection of letters and correspondence between Neil Armstrong and his fans, even critics, from all over the globe.

“An overwhelming sense that I got after reading through all of this was, ‘Please leave this guy alone,’” Hansen said.

Hansen had the fortune of spending time with Armstrong in his later life while writing Armstrong’s biography “First Man,” which became a major motion picture in 2018. Hansen explained how it took two years of convincing to get the green light from Armstrong to be able to pen his biography.

“I wrote him a letter; he wrote me back a short, polite letter that basically said, ‘not right now,’” Hansen said. “I backed off for a little bit and I sent him a gift box with three of my books for his 70th birthday. A few months later, I got a letter saying ‘let’s keep the door open to future possibilities.’ Long story short, that opened the door to him inviting me to his home.”

Hansen spent the past summers at Armstrong’s alma mater, Purdue University, going through the collection of about 75,000 letters to Armstrong the university holds in archives. Hansen said the bulk of Armstrong’s letters were discarded by NASA because they took up too much space.

“To me and other historians, we’re devastated by the loss of these letters. But I guess I’m in pretty decent shape already having so many to choose from,” he said.

Hansen said, from 1969-70, Armstrong received 10,000 letters per week. Hansen said Armstrong tried his hardest to reply to the kind letters throughout his life while the not-so-kind ones were usually met with form letters. While compiling letters for the book, Hansen said he came to the realization he was not making a biography, but an iconography.

“I was studying a symbol. I was studying what society and culture projected onto Armstrong,” he said.
“The astronaut is always at the center of any visual presentation promoting the space program.”

Hansen also covered the history of the international space race and touched on events like the Russian satellite Sputnik and the American “Mercury Seven.” He explained the historical significance of the space race and how it shaped world history.

“If Sputnik did not come first, Nixon would have been elected (in 1960) and would not have launched the space program like Kennedy did, and we probably would have not made putting a man on the moon a priority,” Hansen said.

He emphasized how after the moon landing, the American astronauts were going to countries all across the world being greeted by crowds of hundreds of thousands of people —sometimes millions — and everybody was cheering and proud of them.

“(The astronauts) expected the people to say, ‘Good job, Americans.’ But what they heard was, ’We did it! We, humankind, did it!”’ Hansen said. “And this is one of those unifying experiences that I don’t think we’ve had since, and it’s hard to imagine anything like it happening today.”
State Rep. Mackey brings political discourse to symposium
Political discourse was in full display Wednesday afternoon as Westminster alum and new member of the Missouri House of Representatives Ian Mackey spoke ...

Federal attorney lectures on God, law
After earning his bachelor's degree at Westminster, Dailey attended Yale's divinity school and earned his juris doctor at Fordham University School of Law.

Reality TV producer opens Hancock Symposium
Westminster College's 14th Hancock Symposium opened Wednesday morning in Champ Auditorium with a lecture from an alum who has worked 25 years as a ...

Hancock lecturer featured in HBO documentary
The subject of a current HBO documentary is one of about 20 presenters to speak at Westminster College's Hancock Symposium on Sept. 18 and Sept.

Hancock Symposium focuses on human experience
The Hancock Symposium this year will feature guest lectures and panelists starting Sept. ... Westminster College's annual lecture series is Sept. 18-19.

CRISPR brings science advances, questions
On Thursday, she spoke at Westminster College’s Hancock Symposium about CRISPR. During her talk, Jorgensen offered a user-friendly explanation of the ...

Nobel Prize winner calls for boycott of Israel
... of Israel during his lecture Thursday morning at the 14th Hancock Symposium. George P. Smith addressed the crowd at Westminster College on a topic he ...

DNA providing investigative breakthroughs
A 1999 Westminster College graduate, Oyerly is now a Combined DNA Index ... She spoke Wednesday as part of the Hancock Symposium, a series of talks by ...

Madeleine Albright receives honorary degree at Westminster ...
Former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Madeleine Albright delivered the 59th John ... degree along with Dr. George Smith at Westminster College in.
Cherry-Price Lecture/Ambassador Joe Hockey
Joe Hockey, Australian ambassador to the United States, had a clear message during his lecture Thursday at Westminster College.

“Free trade represents the best of Western values,” Hockey said.

Hockey delivered the annual Cherry-Price Leadership Lecture, titling his talk “The Sinews of Prosperity: In Defense of Free Trade.” In keeping with the leadership theme, Hockey urged the U.S. government to resist its recent shift toward isolationist trade policies.

“History proves that economic isolationism is a precursor for war,” he said.

Hockey explained that in the 1940s the United States was a world leader in developing free trade norms that benefit the global trading system even to this day. That included becoming one of the first nations to sign on with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (which was later succeeded by the World Trade Organization) in 1947. GATT promoted international trade by discouraging the use of tariffs and quotas between member nations.

“By having rules, we gained order and discipline which facilitated trade and prosperity,” Hockey said.

The benefits of free trade are numerous, according to Hockey — participating nations get to enjoy quality goods at reasonable prices, and economies can specialize in what they excel in.

For example, Australia currently has fair trade agreements with about 70 percent of its trading partners. As a condition of one agreement, Australia had to stop subsidizing its automobile industry (which was only producing about one million vehicles per year at the time). Into the gap stepped South Korea, Japan and China, all eager to export cars to Australia. Meanwhile, Australia’s healthy elder care industry is making inroads with China’s aging population.

According to Hockey, the United States’ historic enthusiastic participation in global trade is also why he can name 20 American companies off the top of his head, but can’t do the same for France.

“Today, trade represents 30 percent of the U.S.
“If you abdicate leadership you rarely get it back,” Hockey said. “So the U.S. must not allow itself to walk away from its trade leadership role; otherwise, it will inevitably pay a very significant economic price.”

Then there’s President Donald Trump’s trade war with China, in which Trump has imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of Chinese goods. Trump has stated objections to China’s handling of international intellectual property, its currency and the trade surplus it holds over the U.S.

Hockey said he’s sympathetic to Trump’s choice to impose the tariffs.

“As a security measure, the tariffs were Trump’s call,” he said. “We support U.S. efforts to ensure China plays by the rules in protecting intellectual property.”

He also condemned China’s choice to subsidize its farmers, artificially suppressing global prices of crops such as wheat and rice.

However, he said, tariffs and quotas aren’t a long-term solution — they’re ultimately more of a burden on U.S. citizens than a deterrent for China.

“Stopping trade with China is the worst-possible response,” he said. “We need to encourage China to head a different direction.

He encouraged measures such as bringing World Trade Organization cases against bad actors instead.

“I find the debate on free and fair trade baffling,” Hockey said. “Being open to trade made America great in the first place; it will keep you great.”
Australian ambassador, in Missouri visit, says country is cooperating with Barr’s probe

By Jack Suntrup St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FULTON, Mo. — The Australian ambassador to the United States on Thursday said his government was continuing to cooperate with the U.S. in its probe into the origin of the FBI’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

“We’ve had a number of meetings and we’ve been as open and transparent as a very good partner would be,” Ambassador Joseph Hockey told the Post-Dispatch after delivering a lecture on free trade at Westminster College.

He would not detail how the Australian government had assisted President Donald Trump’s administration, and would neither confirm nor deny providing the U.S. government with Australian diplomatic cables.

“We’re not in the business of hiding things from the United States and the United States is not in the business of hiding things from us,” Hockey said. “We’re the closest of intelligence partners you can have.”

In Special Counsel Robert Mueller III’s report on Russian interference, he wrote that former Trump aide George Papadopoulos had met in May 2016 with a representative of a “foreign government” — identified through news reports as Australian diplomat Alexander Downer — and said that Russia possessed damaging information on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The foreign government, according to the report, reported the contact to the FBI in July 2016, prompting the FBI to open an investigation into the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia.

Attorney General William Barr has since launched an investigation into the origins of that investigation, asking the U.K., Italy and Australia to cooperate.

Hockey personally entered the fray this month when he responded to a letter by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., that said someone “directed” Downer to meet with Papadopoulos and then relay that information to the FBI.

“In your letter you made mention of the role of an Australian diplomat. We reject your characterization of his role,” Hockey said in a letter to Graham this month.
Hockey, in the interview Thursday, stood by his government, saying it had done nothing improper in regard to its communication with the FBI.

“At all times Australia and Australians have acted honorably in relation to these matters,” Hockey said. “I think that Senator Graham was worried that we may not cooperate. I think he would probably accept that we’ve been very cooperative.

“It’s improper to mischaracterize Alexander Downer’s role, who did the honorable thing as the high commissioner to Great Britain in relation to the matter,” Hockey said. “I’d be surprised if Attorney General Barr’s report said otherwise.”

He also said the U.S.-Australian relationship was at “an all-time high.”

“I think we get on incredibly well together,” Hockey said. “And the president was extraordinarily generous to us with a state visit.”

Hockey, in his lecture, warned the U.S. against isolationism and urged its government to ink “free and fair” trade deals that reestablish the United States’ presence around the world.

“We’d like to think that all of the initiatives being taken at the moment by the U.S. are about having fairer trade, which we support, but we wouldn’t like to see, you know, the United States head down the wrong path on a permanent basis,” Hockey told the Post-Dispatch.

Hockey defined the “wrong path” as the United States becoming “a more isolationist economy that puts up trade barriers that at the end of the day hurt the rest of the world, but most significantly will hurt Americans over the medium term.”

Hockey, speaking on climate change, stopped short of urging the United States to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, which it withdrew from in 2017.

“It’ll take a global effort to respond to a global challenge,” he said. “I think there’s a lot of politics and there’s a lot of ideology around the entire debate. What’s indisputable is that the climate is changing, it’s causing enormous pressures on Mother Earth and we all need to do as much as we can to ease those pressures.”

(This article also was published by Houston Herald, Cherokee Tribune & Ledger-News, Marietta Daily Journal, Republic Monitory, The Neighbor, Sedalia Democrat, West Plains Daily Quill, Richmond News and Branson News.)
New York: Australia’s ambassador to Washington Joe Hockey has launched a blistering attack on the isolationist tariff policies of US President Donald Trump, warning the US risks losing its economic dominance and provoking war unless it again becomes a champion of free trade.

In a speech in Missouri on Thursday night (Friday AEDT) Hockey said Trump was right to call out anti-competitive behaviour by China, but that protectionism was a short-term solution that would not solve the flaws in the global trading system.

Australia’s ambassador to Washington Joe Hockey said free trade critics base their arguments on “sentimentality and fear, rather than hope and opportunity.”

In strikingly forthright comments from a diplomat who has built close relationships with the Trump administration, Hockey, whose term as ambassador expires early next year, said the US had made several major economic mistakes in recent years.

These include withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and declining to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank.

“The United States is the most innovative nation on earth but, like every market leader, it will be beaten if it thinks it can do it all on its own,” Hockey said in the speech to Westminster College.

“If you abdicate leadership you rarely get it back.

“So, the US must not allow itself to walk away from its trade leadership role otherwise it will inevitably pay a very significant economic price.”

Referring to the US President’s election slogan, he added: “Being open to the world made America great in the first place; it will keep you great.”

Hockey said he found US debate on trade “baffling” and that free trade had made the world safer by bringing nations closer together.

Critics of free trade base their arguments on “sentimentality and fear, rather than hope and opportunity”, he added.

“History proves that economic isolationism is a precursor for war,” he said.

“If a nation becomes economically isolated then history proves it can end up accelerating domestic nationalism fueling outward facing aggression.”

The former Australian treasurer’s speech, entitled ‘The Sinews of Prosperity’, was the third annual Cherry-Price lecture delivered at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

He said tariffs should only be used as a “very short-term tool” to force change on recalcitrant World Trade Organisation members.
“President Trump is deploying all the tools he can to get a fairer global trading system for the United States,” he said.

“I understand the reasons for his frustrations. Australia supports both free and fair trade.

“But these types of measures are not a sustainable long-term solution.”

He added: “The sensible middle ground of society understands that when we trade freely with other nations, our nation gets richer.

“Whilst global trade continues to grow in goods and services, that growth has been at lower than forecast rates in recent years.

“So now, more than ever, the United States should be leading the debate in favour of free and fair trade.”

Hockey took aim at some of Trump’s most fundamental economic views - including his oft-repeated claim that tariffs function as a tax on rival countries.

“Let’s be really clear: tariffs are taxes imposed by governments on their own people,” Hockey said. “Quotas are access limits placed by governments on their own people.”

Hockey also argued it “doesn’t make sense” to focus on trade surpluses or deficits with other countries - another Trump contention.

“I have heard suggestions – and perhaps you have heard them too – that to ‘win’ in trade with another country, you need to sell more to them than you buy from them,” he said.

“That is, that you should have a trade surplus. I disagree.”

He continued: “The argument put by protectionists in favour of tariffs and quotas is akin to saying that instead of spending my time working for my employer I should make my own food and sew my own clothes.

“Trust me, no one wants that.”

Hockey said the US had “walked away from its own leadership” by abandoning the Trans Pacific Partnership, a defunct 12-nation trade deal spearheaded by Barack Obama.

He also said the US should have followed Australia’s lead and joined the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank even though it was initiated by China.

Under President Barack Obama’s leadership, the US declined to join the infrastructure bank.

Former Liberal senator Arthur Sinodinos will take over from Hockey as US ambassador in January.

(This article also ran in the following major Australian newspapers: Brisbane Times, Financial Review and The Age.)
Aust role in Trump probe faces scrutiny

By Peter Mitchell, AAP US Correspondent

World, October 25, 2019

Australia’s role in sparking the FBI probe into links between Russia and US President Donald Trump’s 2016 election campaign is expected to be put under a blowtorch by a ramped-up US Justice Department criminal investigation.

US Attorney-General William Barr was originally overseeing a Justice Department “administrative review” of the Russia investigation.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that probe has been elevated to a criminal inquiry.

The move provides prosecutor John Durham subpoena power for witness testimony, documents, to empanel a grand jury and file criminal charges.

Trump called Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison last month and asked for a point of contact between the Australian government and Barr.

Australian Ambassador to the US Joe Hockey confirmed on Thursday that Australia was cooperating with the probe.

“We’ve had a number of meetings and we’ve been as open and transparent as a very good partner would be,” Hockey told the St Louis Post-Dispatch after giving a speech at Missouri’s Westminster College.

A May 2016 meeting at a London bar between then Australian high commissioner to the UK, Alexander Downer, Australian official Erika Thompson and Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos will likely be a focus of the criminal investigation.

Downer claims Papadopoulos said during the brief gin and tonic drinks session Russia might use “damaging” material they had on Trump’s presidential rival Hillary Clinton in the lead-up to the November 2016 election.

Downer said he passed the highly sensitive information back to Canberra “the following day or a day or two”.

US Special Counsel Robert Mueller concluded in his final report into Trump-Russian ties the London bar meeting between Downer and Papadopoulos prompted the FBI to open its probe on July 31, 2016.

Trump has repeatedly branded the FBI and Mueller investigations as witch hunts.

Papadopoulos, who was prosecuted by Mueller, entered a guilty plea in 2017 to lying to the FBI and was sentenced to 14 days’ prison.

Papadopoulos claims he was the victim of an international spying plot by US, Australian, UK, Italian and Israeli intelligence agencies.

He also alleges he was set up by Maltese professor Joseph Mifsud, who told him Russia had dirt on Clinton.
Downer, the Australian government and former high-ranking US intelligence officials have rejected the claims.

“That is a really far-fetched theory in my view that somehow Mifsud was set up by the FBI to create this conspiracy,” James Clapper, director of US national intelligence in 2016, told CNN.

Trump has latched on to Papadopoulos’ spying claims.

The president previously told reporters he hoped Barr looked “at the UK, and I hope he looks at Australia and I hope he looks at Ukraine”.

Barr recently visited Italy and the UK.

The ramping up of the Department of Justice probe comes as Trump faces abuse of power accusations, including an impeachment inquiry into whether he withheld military aid to pressure Ukraine to investigate presidential rival Joe Biden and son Hunter.

Australian Associated Press

This news article also ran in the following Australian publications: Blue Mountains Gazette Kiama Independent and The Courier)
Australian ambassador to the US, Joe Hockey has delivered a speech heavily criticising the economic strategy of United States President Donald Trump.

Delivering the high-profile Cherry-Price Lecture at Missouri’s Westminster College, Mr Hockey said the United States risked damaging its enormous economic influence.

Mr Hockey specifically singled out Mr Trump’s strategy of economic isolationism, instead of stressing the importance of free trade with other counties.

“Now more than ever the United States should be leading the world in debate in favour of free and fair trade,” he said.

“The United States, of course, was leading the charge to deliver the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It walked away from its own leadership.”

Ambassador Joe Hockey said the United States had a lot to lose by continuing on the path of economic isolationism.

Mr Hockey said the United States would not prosper by shutting itself off from the rest of the world.

“The United States is the most innovative nation on earth but, like every market leader, it will be beaten if it thinks it can do it all on its own,” he said.

He also said Mr Trump’s approach to trade was not sustainable in the long term, and there were more than just economic benefits to be had.

“Through free trade, we also have deeper and more meaningful relationships with other countries. It brings nations together, brings differing cultures together,” he said.

US President Donald Trump has notoriously spruiked
an “America first” approach to global trade.

“History proves that economic isolationism is a precursor for war. Plentiful trade is a facilitator of peace.”

The United States had a lot more to gain by remaining committed to international trade, Mr Hockey added.

“You are still the world’s largest economy. Your dollar is the world’s reserve currency. Your capital markets are the engine room for global commerce.

“So, I find the debate here in the United States on free and fair trade rather baffling.

“Being open to the world made America great in the first place. It will keep you great.”

Mr Hockey, a former treasurer under Prime Minister Tony Abbott, finishes his term as Australian ambassador to the United States next year.
FULTON - Ambassador Joe Hockey is giving a lecture on international trade at Westminster College on Thursday evening.

Hockey is expected to endorse the benefits of increasing international trade. This comes amid President Donald Trump’s ongoing trade war with China, which has affected the global economy.

Despite the fact that Australia’s economy has expanded for 28 consecutive years, President Trump’s trade war still has had a massive impact on the country, according to a report published in the New York Times.

“Australia has been a major beneficiary from the rules-based global trading system over many decades. The current threats to that are clearly a major risk for the Australian outlook over a longer horizon,” Guy Debelle, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, said to the New York Times.

One Westminster College official said bringing in speakers that cover controversial topics is intentional.

“What we try to do is create those opportunities for students to encounter ideas that are hitting right at those cutting-edge controversies,” Jeremy Brooke, the Director of the Churchill Institute for Global Engagement, said.

One student said opportunities like these do not come around often.

“It’s going to be tremendously beneficial for us,” Thomas Booker said. “Not only because it’s a cool life experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It also gives us really valuable insight to how the world works.”

Booker added, one of his majors is Political Science and he is excited to learn from a dignitary of Hockey’s stature.

He said events such as these gives him pride in his college.

“Westminster is this hidden gem of Missouri, of the country, where all these hugely important people in history come to speak,” Booker said.

The event is open to the public. It will be held at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury on Westminster College’s campus. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the lecture will begin at 6 p.m.
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Breakthrough
Sc out the “Breakthrough” sculpture on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton has layers of connections to the site on which it stands. Composed of sections from the Berlin Wall, it stands in front of the National Churchill Museum, which commemorates the site where Winston Churchill famously described the Iron Curtain dividing eastern and western Europe which that wall came to represent.

But, Edwina Sandys, the artist behind 11-foot-high, 32-foot-long sculpture, also has a direct connection to that history: She is Churchill’s granddaughter. Sandys, who returned to Fulton last weekend for the 50th anniversary celebration of the museum, joined guest host Jim Kirchherr on Tuesday’s St. Louis on the Air. Sandys said that she had the idea to make the sculpture when she saw friends returning from Berlin with pieces of the wall after it fell in 1989.

“People were chipping away at the wall, and nobody seemed to stop them,” she said. “And I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful if I could go to Berlin and make a sculpture out of the Berlin Wall?’”

After that original piece of inspiration, Sandys said, she began to think about where such a work of art should go, and it was not long before she decided that Westminster College was a logical choice.

“I thought, ‘If I could get a piece and make a sculpture, where would I put it?’ And then I remembered my grandfather’s speech about the Iron Curtain that was made in 1946, and it’s been a famous speech for all this time, and I knew that they had a museum there in Fulton,” she said.

“And, so I called the president, Harvey Saunders, and said, ‘What if I could get a piece of the Berlin Wall and make a sculpture, would you like to have it in Fulton?’ And he said, ‘You bet.’”

Sandys also discussed the good and the bad of always being identified as “Winston Churchill’s granddaughter” and what the famous British prime minister was like as a grandfather.

“St. Louis on the Air” brings you the stories of St. Louis and the people who live, work and create in our region. “St. Louis on the Air” producers Alex Heuer, Evie Hemphill, Lara Hamdan and Jon Lewis give you the information you need to make informed decisions and stay in touch with our diverse and vibrant St. Louis region.
Winston Churchill’s Granddaughter’s MTV Connection

A visit with the octogenarian Edwina Sandys in the SoHo loft that launched “The Real World”—and American reality TV.

By Naomi Fry, August 19, 2019

This is the true story of two strangers who, on a recent morning, arranged to meet in a loft. The strangers were Edwina Sandys, a British-born artist of illustrious lineage (she is a granddaughter of Winston Churchill), and Chris McCarthy, the president of MTV. The loft was the very one in which, three decades earlier, the first season of the MTV reality show “The Real World” was filmed. Sandys, wearing surprisingly sporty sneakers, is eighty and bespectacled, with flame-red hair. She has lived in the loft, situated on a busy corner of Broadway and Prince Street, since 1995, but had recently decided to put it on the market. (Asking price: seven and a half million dollars.) Before Sandys bid the space farewell, though, McCarthy dropped by to take a look at the location from which American reality television was launched.

“This loft is natural for shooting reality TV, because of the high ceilings,” McCarthy said, the severity of his all-black outfit and shaved head belying his affable manner. “Nowadays, more often than not we end up shooting in old banks.” He gazed seventeen feet up, as if envisioning the cameras that had once been there to capture every move of the seven youngsters—among them Julie, the country bumpkin from Alabama; Kevin, the poet and activist who lived in Harlem; and Eric, the hunk from New Jersey—who fought and made up and fought again in the space. He pointed at a twelve-foot-tall window. “And there’s the fire escape where they used to sit and smoke cigarettes!” he said.

In the “Real World” days, the loft—sixty-five hundred square feet of old-school SoHo grandeur, with cast-iron Corinthian columns, mezzanines, and marble floors—was done up with the signifiers of Gen-X communal living, including a pool table and a lava lamp. Sandys has overlaid the surfaces with colorful Matisse-like canvases and sculptures of her own making. On one wall hangs a portrait of her grandfather in the act of painting, cigar in mouth, homburg aslant.

“Painting relaxed him when he was at home,” Sandys said, in a Queen’s-English burr. “He always allowed us children to be around, which was exciting. His children collected bottles and such for him to make still-lifes from. He called it a bottlescape. This was his favorite champagne,” she said, gesturing toward a painted magnum of Pol Roger.
Sandys is not a professional politician, but through her art she has been concerned with bridging international differences. She directed McCarthy to a photograph that showed Ronald Reagan, in 1990, speaking at a ceremony held in Fulton, Missouri, in which a sculpture of hers—a swath of the Berlin Wall from which two oversized figures, male and female, are cut out—was installed. “It was the town where my grandfather gave his Iron Curtain speech,” she said. “And then Reagan gave the sculpture’s dedication, because he had said to Mr. Gorbachev, ‘Tear down this wall.’” Last May, she returned to the site for a commemoration. “I said, ‘I’ve invited thirty lovely young guests to come and show us about peace and freedom,’ and I went behind the wall, and thirty white doves flew out from the cutouts.”

“When the Berlin Wall was coming down, we were launching networks around the world,” McCarthy said. “It’s the spirit of youth, to drive change.” The focus of “The Real World,” he explained, has always been on bringing people together, in spite of their differences. “Now there’s the Internet,” he said. “But, back in the nineties, people would go on the show and it would be the first time they would meet people from different religions, different races.”

“It’s like the United Nations,” Sandys said. “A bit of diplomacy!” Never having seen the show, she asked, “And they live together?”

In June, the network launched three new iterations of the franchise. One is in Atlanta, the second in Mexico, and the third in Thailand, with the latter two airing, for the first time, in the countries’ native languages, with closed captions in English. “The Atlanta one is good,” McCarthy said, “but in America people are familiar with the format, and everyone comes in with a brand.” He went on, “In Thailand and Mexico, though, there aren’t as many unscripted youth shows, so it’s refreshing. You get to see people really acting real.”

“Will you have people from different parties? Somebody who’s mad keen on Trump and someone who’s not?” Sandys asked.

“That’s what we’re doing in Atlanta,” McCarthy said.

“That’ll be almost like in the Andes, except they don’t eat each other,” Sandys said, with a mischievous smile. She was referring to the 1972 crash of Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571, whose survivors were forced to practice cannibalism. McCarthy looked baffled.

“You know, the Andes? The plane that crashed . . .”

“Oh!” McCarthy said, getting it. “No, hopefully nothing like that!” He laughed nervously.

“I often wonder on a plane; I look around and think, If it crashed—”

“Who looks the tastiest?” McCarthy asked.

“No!” Sandys said. “Which one would I be friends with!” She laughed. “There’s not always a lot.”

This article appears in the print edition of the August 19, 2019, issue, with the headline “Bottlescape.”
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Special Relationship
Special Relationship Project to be unveiled Tuesday

March 3rd, 2019

America's National Churchill Museum will kick off its 50th anniversary celebration with an exhibition inspired by the words of Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech.

The Special Relationship Project will be unveiled on the day Churchill delivered his speech at Westminster College 73 years ago.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will start at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the museum on Westminster Avenue and Seventh Street in Fulton. This will open an exhibit of 4,000 small pieces of art painted by Callaway County students and a group of Westminster faculty, staff and students, who all participated in this Special Relationship Project.

A group of the students who participated in the project will be in attendance.

“The phrase ‘Special Relationship’ was coined by Churchill in his 1946 speech at Westminster to describe the alliance between Great Britain and the United States,” said Timothy Riley, the Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout Director and Chief Curator of the museum. “We used that concept to engage Mid-Missouri school children in our 50th anniversary celebration in a contemporary way by asking them to send us their individual artistic interpretation of what constitutes a special relationship.”

The official launch of the Special Relationship Project was during last year’s Hancock Symposium where about 40 Westminster students attended a break out session to learn about the project and create artwork.

Then the museum sent out 4,000 6-by-6-inch canvases for local K-12 school children to paint, collected the completed paintings, and have now installed them in a massive mosaic on the walls of the museum.

Children from the school districts of Fulton, North and South Callaway, New Bloomfield, Holts Summit, St. Peters Catholic School, those from the Missouri School for the Deaf and home-schooled students have participated in the project.

“The children chose to explore their relationship with a parent, and other popular subjects were their pets, neighbors, churches or schools,” Riley said. “As Churchill would phrase it, all of these relationships are sinews that bind us together as a society and make us stronger.”

Along with the drawings and paintings, the students included brief artist statements. Those will be on a website...
(under development) accompanied by their artwork.

Following the opening of the exhibit, these students and their families will be able to come to the museum on nights designated specifically for their school from 5-7 p.m. to view the exhibit and the rest of the museum’s treasures, free of charge.

Tyler Oberlag, director of Guest Services and Operations at the Museum; Susan Whitmar, the Robert and Doris DeFer intern at the Museum; and a large group of volunteers have spent the past nine months, planning and coordinating with 20 schools in eight different school districts.

After the drawings and paintings were returned to the museum, they had to be documented and ultimately installed.

“People, and particularly families, should come and witness this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit that can only be seen in its totality at America’s National Churchill Museum,” Oberlag said. “As much as the students learned from Churchill, visitors will learn from our community’s youngest citizens about the importance of alliances of all kinds.”

In addition to the exhibit, the museum will celebrate a $35,000 fundraising effort by the Mid-Missouri Friends of Churchill on behalf of preservation of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.

Participating students in the project will be able to get their paintings back when the exhibit, located in the back gallery of the museum, is dismantled later this year.

“We want to thank all the school officials, teachers and volunteers who made this spectacular exhibit possible,” Riley added. “No two paintings are alike in the exhibit, but their commonality is the project. That is the relationship that empowers us and make us, as Churchill would have said, a better world.”

The final day to view this special exhibition is Sept. 22.

For a complete weekend schedule of Churchill Weekend May 3-5, go to nationalchurchillmuseum.org/05-03-19-50th.html.
The End of the Special Relationship?

The close alliance between the U.S. and the U.K. has lasted since World War II, but strains are showing in the age of Trump and Brexit.

By David Reynolds, July 19, 2019

Kim Darroch, the British ambassador in Washington, became an international celebrity overnight on July 7, when some of his confidential cables to the U.K. Foreign Office were leaked to a London newspaper. His assessment of the Trump administration as “inept” and “dysfunctional” triggered a tirade of tweets from the president, who called Mr. Darroch “a very stupid guy” and declared that “we will no longer deal with him.” Mr. Darroch is only the third British ambassador in history to become persona non grata in Washington; the others were in 1856 and 1888.

Mr. Trump has been called far worse things, of course, by the other Kim—the North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, with whom Mr. Trump has conducted an on-and-off diplomatic romance. (“He wrote me beautiful letters, and we fell in love,” Mr. Trump has said.) The president’s petulance about the Darroch cables isn’t simply a matter of being thin-skinned—after all, most of the ambassador’s criticisms can be read most days in U.S. newspapers. Rather, the attack on Mr. Darroch seemed to be a piece of diplomatic calculation, and the affair reveals a good deal about the current state of the U.S.-U.K. “special relationship.”

That term was popularized by Winston Churchill during and after World War II, and it was in large measure an attempt to mask and manage the decline of Britain as a global power. Over the following decades, most U.S. presidents were more circumspect about assigning so elevated a status to the relationship. But during the Cold War, Washington valued the U.K. as a vital and distinctive ally, especially for its roles in Europe and the Atlantic alliance. In the era of Trump and Brexit, it is unclear whether the relationship can endure on the basis of shared principles and interests, even as China and Russia exert a wider influence inimical to both countries.

The close connection between the U.S. and the U.K. can be traced to June 1940, when the amazing defeat of France by Nazi Germany transformed geopolitics. Continuing British defiance of Germany was essential to prevent a total Nazi victory, and Churchill knew that defeating Hitler would require American participation in the war. President Franklin Roosevelt was convinced that the obscenity of two world wars, it was necessary to set out fresh principles to forge a more decent and stable world. In the Atlantic Charter, Roosevelt and Churchill affirmed basic
What’s more, being relatively new to world power, the U.S. would surely need the help and advice of a global veteran. “In order to make use of American power for purposes we regard as good, we must be prepared to make use of British power for purposes we regard as good. A British Foreign Office memorandum stated patronizingly in 1944, adding that “we go about our business in the right way we can help steer this great unwieldy barge, the United States of America, into the right harbor.”

In 1943, Harold Macmillan, a future British prime minister, reached for a classical analogy to describe Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers. “We…are Greeks in this American empire,” he told a colleague languidly. “You will find the Americans much as the Greeks found the Romans—great big, vulgar, bustling people, more vigorous than we are and also more idle, with more unspoiled virtues but also more corrupt. We must run AFHQ as the Greek slaves ran the operations of Emperor Claudius.” A combination of American brawn and British brains—that was the conceit behind London’s conception of the special relationship.

In Washington, things naturally looked a bit different, not least because of the legacy of 1776. In American folk memory and textbooks, Britain, one might say, was the original “evil empire”—the brutal overlord from which the Americans had escaped thanks to the combined efforts of the Founders, the Minutemen and Divine Providence.

In the global struggle to confront communism, British power became an asset. American power for purposes we regard as good, a British Foreign Office memorandum stated patronizingly in 1944. ‘It must be our purpose to make use of American power for purposes we regard as good,’ a British Foreign Office memorandum stated patronizingly in 1944, adding that “we go about our business in the right way we can help steer this great unwieldy barge, the United States of America, into the right harbor.”

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But attitudes in Washington shifted as the U.S. set out to confront communism world-wide. In this new global struggle, British power became an asset. Though in retreat from empire, Britain had an industrial output in the early 1950s equal to that of France and West Germany combined, and its armed forces numbered nearly a million, trailing only the Soviet Union and the U.S. In 1952, Britain followed the superpowers in testing an atomic bomb, thereby becoming the world’s third nuclear-armed state. It also retained bases around the world at key strategic points, from Gibraltar to Singapore, which enhanced the projection of U.S. power.

Most U.S. policy makers still avoided the term “special relationship.” In 1950, Secretary of State Dean Acheson ordered all copies of a memo that used the phrase to be burned. He did not contest “the genuineness of the special relationship” but feared that, “in the hands of troublemakers,” the memo “could stir no end of a hullabaloo, both domestic and international.”

By 1962, Acheson believed that Britain was just about “played out” as a global power. His warning that it had “lost an empire and not yet found a role” touched a raw nerve in London, but Macmillan’s government had already decided to do as Acheson was urging and make the “turn” to Europe. Yet it did so in order to bolster the special relationship. The British cabinet concluded that “the Common Market, if left to develop alone under French leadership, would grow into a separate political force in Europe” and eventually might “exercise greater influence” on the U.S. than the British were able to do, which could undermine Britain’s position as “the bridge between Europe and North America.”

In the event, the U.K. was kept out of the European Common Market all through the 1960s by French President Charles de Gaulle, who was still bitter at les Anglo-Saxons for marginalizing him during World War II. Even after the U.K. finally joined the European Community in 1973, its leaders continued to see their country as a bridge between America and Europe. Their tactic was to manage disagreement with U.S. policies discreetly, in contrast with the Gaullist practice of public denunciation. Britain’s axiom, one might say, was “Never say ‘no,’ say ‘yes, but’”—with the “yes” stated loyally in public and the caveats uttered behind closed doors.

Few U.K. leaders were more Americophile than Margaret Thatcher. Her rapport with President Ronald Reagan became legendary, though she could be caustic about him in private. She supported his firmness toward the old Soviet leadership but encouraged his opening up to Mikhail Gorbachev (a man with whom she famously decided she could “do business”). Even when furious about Reagan’s apparent readiness to sacrifice the principles of Western nuclear deterrence during the Reykjavik summit of October 1986, she responded with classic “closed doors” diplomacy. She invited herself to Camp David and “hand-bagged” the president into a public reiteration of NATO’s official policy.

Yet nothing Mrs. Thatcher said in private or public could stop the president from unilaterally sending U.S. troops into Grenada in 1983, even though this was a Commonwealth country and Queen Elizabeth was its head of state. And after 9/11, Prime Minister Tony Blair supported President George W. Bush over the invasion of Iraq, partly in the hope of bringing peace and democracy to the Middle East, but got little for his pains except a tarnished reputation.

Such episodes have prompted criticism that the special relationship is just a fig-leaf for the continued waning of British power. Yet the U.S.-U.K. relationship does remain distinctive in several respects. The sharing of military intelligence, dating back to World War II, has evolved into the so-called “Five Eyes” network of global surveillance among the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

No American ally other than the U.K. has been allowed the same access to U.S. nuclear technology and delivery systems.

The nuclear relationship is also truly special. No other American ally has been allowed the same access to U.S. nuclear technology and delivery systems, in the form of first Polaris and then Trident ballistic missiles. More amorphous, but equally unique, is the habit of consultation: British and American politicians, officials and members of the armed forces at all levels find it natural to talk with their opposite numbers. The common language helps, as does the historic commonality of worldviews and political values.

In consequence, the special relationship has proved a linchpin of the NATO alliance. The U.K., along
with France, is the U.S.’s only European ally with a significant “out-of-area” military capability—as seen in the recent reinforcement of British and French forces in Syria, to allow the Trump administration to pull back U.S. troops. And the British are regarded as far more reliable allies than the French. As for the European Community and eventually the European Union, Britain’s membership and its trans-Atlantic bridging role have been supported by every U.S. administration from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama.

Which brings us back to Mr. Trump and Mr. Darroch. Today, the cohesion of the West matters as much as ever in the face of a newly assertive Russia and China. Under fourth-term President Vladimir Putin, Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its continued interference in the domestic politics of Western democracies threaten the stability of the postwar order. Mr. Putin has recently dismissed liberalism as “obsolete.” In Beijing, President-for-life Xi Jinping has embarked on a grandiose strategy to take control of the South China Sea and to expand China’s global reach under the “one belt, one road” initiative.

In 2019, the U.S. remains the world’s leading military and economic power, but its hegemony is under threat from these challengers. Arguably it needs allies as much today as it did during the Cold War. (And yes, those allies definitely need to do more to sustain the alliance.) Yet President Trump has been erratic in his attitude to NATO, hostile toward the European Union and positively jubilant about Brexit—none of which is conducive to the solidarity of the West.

The Darroch affair might seem like a storm in a British teacup. But it also matters to the U.S. Mr. Trump has made no secret of wanting a Brexiteer as British ambassador. And Boris Johnson, the man likely to become Britain’s prime minister next week, pointedly refused to support Mr. Darroch in a recent TV debate. Mr. Johnson’s critics have suggested that he is anxious to appease the president in the hope of a favorable post-Brexit trade deal. Mr. Johnson says that he will “leave” Europe by Oct. 31, “do or die.”

Yet historically, the postwar special relationship has been most effective when Britain has had strong links with Europe as well as the U.S. If Brexit weakens the special relationship, the entire West will be weakened as well.

Mr. Reynolds is professor of international history at the University of Cambridge. His most recent book, with Vladimir Pechatnov, is “The Kremlin Letters: Stalin’s Correspondence with Churchill and Roosevelt” (Yale University Press).
9

“Extra-Extra!”

Harbison, former president of Monsanto and deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was honored as a Distinguished Churchill Fellow at a soiree Thursday at the Bogey Club in Ladue.

The honor officially notes Harbison's dedication to the National Churchill Museum at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where the former British Prime Minister gave his famous “Iron Curtain” speech in 1946.

Harbison was a Washington University student, he drove to Fulton to hear Churchill speak. He could not secure a ticket, however, and had to settle for seeing Churchill and President Harry S. Truman wave to crowds as they drove to the event.

“It's been nearly 75 years, but I finally have one,” Harbison said of the original ticket presented to him by museum officials.

Of Churchill's landmark speech, Harbison said, “I did not know how significant it would become. We were young, but I am proud to have been there.”

After graduating from Washington University, Harbison earned a law degree and then worked for 18 years at the CIA. Then he began a 26-year career with Monsanto.

Harbison, a member of the Churchill Museum's board of governors, has been involved in numerous other philanthropic efforts in STL. The chancellor’s house at Washington University is named in honor of him and his wife, Suzanne.

(This article also was published by more than a dozen regional newspapers in Missouri and as far away as suburban Atlanta.)
In March 1946, young history buff Earle Harbison Jr. drove from St. Louis to Westminster College, hoping to hear Winston Churchill’s now-famous Iron Curtain speech. He didn’t have a ticket and was unable to get in, but he did get to see Churchill and President Truman in their motorcade.

Nearly three quarters of a century later, the retired business executive, lawyer, philanthropist and former CIA deputy director got to relive those memories during a recent ceremony at The Bogey Club.

The Association of Churchill Fellows recognized his commitment to America’s National Churchill Museum, where he serves on the board of governors. During the event, Harbison received a framed ticket from the 1946 speech.
When Sir Winston Churchill and U.S. President Harry S. Truman came to Fulton on March 5, 1946, the whole town came out to wave at the motorcade.

Secret Service men clung to the limo’s running boards like watchful mountain goats, and crowds dressed in their finest competed with media outlets from around the state, nation and world.

The motorized promenade ended at Westminster College. There, Churchill, former prime minister who led Britain through World War II, reportedly had a drink and maybe a cigar before giving his now famous Iron Curtain speech, “The Sinews of Peace.”

Churchill and Truman are gone from the world, but memory of them is not. This May 3-5, officials of the National Churchill Museum, created in memory of that event, are celebrating with the community the museum’s 50th anniversary.

Also, at 2:30 p.m. that Saturday, there will be a repeat parade with members of the Churchill and Truman families.

Trying their best to recreate the parade, all the same high school and military bands have been invited back, to include a band of pipers. The parade begins at Westminster Avenue and West Seventh Street, winds through city streets then north on Court Street, to end at the museum.

A reviewing stand will be across the street from the museum. There also will be a flyover and a salute to the Eagle Squadrons of World War II and Lt. John Lutz, of Fulton.

Sam Craghead is executive secretary for the museum’s 50th Anniversary Project. He said he feels Lutz’s story is worthy of consideration.

Flying eagles

“In 1940, the Germans had just conquered France, and they now controlled Continental Europe,” Craghead said recently, sitting on a bench on the front porch of The Churchill Institute. “They are looking at the White Cliffs of Dover from one of their places in France. The threat is they are now going to invade England — and Churchill and England know it.”

On May 10, 1940, Churchill had become prime minister of the United Kingdom. By May 26, Allied troops were trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk. Between May 27 and June 4, by use of any sea-worthy vessel they could find, 330,000 troops — French, British, Belgian and Dutch — were slowly and methodically evacuated. Of the 861 vessels in the operation, 243 were sunk. Britain had to
regroup, and quickly.

“The British expeditionary force was evacuated from Dunkirk, and that gave them the soldiers they needed badly,” Craghead said. “In order to invade Britain, Germany must assault England from across the Channel.”

Britain had plenty of military airplanes, but not enough pilots. They gathered together some pilots escaped from Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium, Holland and Norway, and “the RAF also began receiving Americans,” Craghead added.

At that time, the United States was still neutral in what was considered to be a European war.

“If American citizens joined the military of another country at war, they would lose their citizenship,” Craghead said.

Enter John Frederick Lutz, a 1936 graduate of Fulton High School. He had one academic year at Westminster College when he left for California where he earned a pilots license.

“He was approached to join the RAF,” Craghead said.

RAF is the famous Royal Air Force, the United Kingdom's aerial warfare force formed toward the end of World War I, on April 1, 1918. They emerged as the largest air force in the world.

Lutz traveled to Canada, then England, and became a fighter pilot for the RAF's 71st Eagle Squadron (First Squadron) in September 1941. He was 23.

“He fought with the RAF until September 1942, then he and other Eagles transferred to the U.S. 8th Army Air Force,” said Craghead. “All Eagles were Americans. They are still called Eagles today.”

On May 4, 1943 — the date of this year’s parade — Lutz died.

“John was with a group of U.S. Air Force planes escorting a bomb run over German-occupied Europe when he had engine trouble and headed back to Europe,” Craghead said. “He bailed out over the Channel and his chute failed to open. He was MIA/KIA.”


“He bailed out at 2,000 feet, but his chute only partially opened and he never got in his dingy. (Another pilot) stayed with him over 15 minutes, but I’m afraid I can offer no hope, for I have none myself.”

Lutz wasn’t the only pilot lost. One third of the Eagle pilots never came home, and more than 20,000 American airmen died while on active service in Britain.

“In September 1992, surviving members of the RAF Eagle Squadron designated St. Mary the official chapel of the Eagle Squadron,” Craghead said. “And May 4 is 1st Lt. John F. Lutz Day by proclamation of the (Fulton) mayor.”

The parade will honor the Eagles, some members of which also will be on hand.

“Every one of the musical units (except the pipe band) will be playing Kenneth Alford’s Eagle Squadron March,” Craghead said. “Alford wrote the music to ‘Bridge of the River Kwai.’”

Craghead said he thought Lutz’s story deserves the light of day.

“I think this is a fantastic story and I think it’s one most people don’t know,” he added.

**Particulars**

Last Sunday, the Fulton Sun ran a schedule of events for the Churchill Museum anniversary weekend. For the parade, VIP bleachers will be erected at the corner of Westminster Avenue and West Seventh Street. Organizer Tyler Oberlag said there will be porta-potties dotted throughout the area, and four food vendors on hand.

“The museum will have free admission all weekend,” he added.
April 21st, 2019

When Sir Winston Churchill and U.S. President Harry Truman came to Fulton on March 5, 1946, the whole town came out to wave at the motorcade.

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“I think this is a fantastic story and I think it’s one most people don’t know,” he added.
By Jenny Gray, May 7th, 2019

Twelve new members have joined the ranks of the Association of Churchill Fellows.

“Since 1969, more than 300 have been given this honor,” said Tim Riley, director and chief curator at the National Churchill Museum.

The Sunday morning ceremony concluded the 50th anniversary celebration of the museum and a commemorative service in the 17th Century Church of St. Mary the Virgin, the cornerstone of the museum.

The Association of Churchill Fellows is an honorary society of more than 300 men and women dedicated to the development of America’s National Churchill Museum, the only museum in North America fully dedicated to commemorating the life and times of Churchill.

Presenting red-ribboned medals to the inductees was Missouri native Philip J. Boeckman, a Westminster College and University of Missouri graduate, who is a partner in the legal firm Cravath, Swaine and Moore in London. He also is a member of the board of directors of the International Churchill Society.

New inductees include:

- Brock Ayers, first vice president-Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors.
- James F. Bennett, partner, the Dowd Bennett law firm.
- Ken Murer, founder and CEO, Automotive Product Consultants Inc.
- The Honorable Emma Soames, noted writer and editor, of London, England.
- The late Dave Stinson, of Manchester, former Prince Erik De Bourbon-Parme, right, is inducted into the Association of Churchill Fellows on Sunday. He is a noted art consultant, curator and historian. His father was a hero of World War II and fought for the U.S.A. (OSS), the U.K. (Jedburgh Commandos) and later for France in Indochina.

(Photo by Jenny Gray/Fulton Sun.)

- David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-executive chairman of The Carlyle Group, of Washington, D.C.
- Clementina “Tina” Santi Flaherty, author, business executive, of New York City.
- Erik de Bourbon, art consultant, curator and historian, of Palm Beach, Florida.
- Writer and historian Deborah G. Lindsay, of Marietta, Georgia.
- Don Foss, retired CEO and chairman of the board, Credit Acceptance, of Franklin, Michigan.
- Dr. William E. Parrish, author and former Westminster College history professor, Starkville, Mississippi.

(Photograph by Jenny Gray/Fulton Sun.)
administrator at Westminster College who raised funds to relocate the church from Central London to Fulton and had oversight responsibilities in rebuilding the church and opening the museum. His family also attended the ceremony.

The nearly 275-year-old church burned during the bombing of London by the German Luftwaffe at the start of World War II. In 1966, it was disassembled — all 7,000 stones — and shipped, railed and trucked to Fulton.

Several years of fund-raising and reconstruction of the ancient church based on Royal Architect Christopher Wren's original 1672 plans led to the May 7, 1969, opening of the museum and the re-hallowing of the church as a place of worship.
Speakers and veterans at Thursday’s D-Day ceremony had a clear message.

“War is a bad thing,” James Feltz Sr. said. “There’s no glory in it whatsoever.”

Feltz was among several World War II veterans recognized at the National Churchill Museum in Fulton during a ceremony memorializing D-Day’s 75th anniversary.

Attendees heard speeches delivered by then-Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and Winston Churchill on June 6, 1944, and mourned the troops who died freeing France from its invaders.

Museum director Timothy Riley thanked the veterans in attendance.

“History is why we’re all here,” he said. “There are those of you here who lived it and those of you here who made it. For that, we are grateful.”

After the end of WWII, he told the crowd, then-Prime Minister Churchill lost his bid for re-election. In 1946, he was asked to deliver a speech at Westminster College — the now-famous Sinews of Peace speech. During his speech, Churchill recalled the warnings he’d given about the rise of fascism before the war broke out.

“He said, ‘If people had listened to me, we could’ve won the war without a single shot,’” Riley recounted.

Churchill urged people to learn from history in the face of a new, rising threat — that of the Soviet Union. Today’s threats might be different, but the opportunity to listen to the lessons of the past is still here.

“It’s important, especially for the young children (in attendance today) that we remember what happened and why, so we never have to repeat it,” urged Gen. Frank Grass, who read a proclamation honoring veteran Capt. Mort Harris.

**Henmi**

Richard Toshio Henmi witnessed America’s xenophobia firsthand during the war. Henmi grew up in Fresno, California. At age 17, in 1942, he learned he and his family would be forced into an internment camp. He noted, though the United States was also at war with Italy and Germany, only those of Japanese descent were detained en masse.

“We had to close our business,” he said. “We lost our home, our cars, our pets. War creates a hysteria. Things happen that maybe should not happen.” Three months later, Henmi found a way out: college. He was allowed to apply to Washington University in St. Louis, a city he knew next to nothing about.

In 1943, Henmi was called to the Jefferson Barracks for Army service but ended up in the reserves.
“They didn’t know what to do with me,” he said. “They thought with my background I could be a spy. I went back to school.”

He was drafted once more in 1945. This time, he headed to officer candidate school in Fort Benning, Georgia, and went on to become a highly decorated officer. He and 50 GIs escorted 1,400 German prisoners of war back to Germany following the war’s end. He also served as a member of Gen. Eisenhower’s division in Munich, guarding trains and railroad yards.

When asked how it felt to don the uniform for a country that had imprisoned his family, he said, “What happened, happened. We felt we had to do our part. The experience was interesting. I learned a lot in the Army, and I have no regrets.”

After the war, Henmi became a notable designer in the St. Louis area, known for creating the so-called “flying saucer” building in Council Plaza in 1967. His family’s experiences in the internment camp inspired him to design good living spaces for his clients.

“I did what I thought would make a better life for people,” Henmi said.

At 95, Henmi has had many years to think about peace in this world. He said he doubts it will ever totally happen.

“I don’t think we’re ever going to have peace, per se,” he added. “People have too many opinions. People are more concerned about their countries. We have areas that are constantly in an uproar, in the Middle East in particular — but we could improve things. People should learn to live together better.”

**Feltz**

Feltz grew up in St. Louis County and served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Plunkett. His ship carried photographic equipment to Normandy on D-Day.

Information about the operation was scarce among the rank and file.

“We knew it was big, but we didn’t know it was that big until we assembled the ships in the Atlantic,” he said.

Even then, the historical scale of the event, now considered a turning point in the war, wasn’t obvious until much later. Feltz didn’t go ashore; he was tasked with bombarding the beaches.

“I didn’t see nothing,” he said. “I was down in the hole. We found out later (how important the operation was).”

Feltz was also at the Battle of Anzio when it began in January 1944. His ship was struck by a 550-pound bomb, which lit the aft magazine’s ammunition on fire.

“One of my good buddies got killed, John Gallagher, on Jan. 23,” he recalled.

Feltz aided in the shore bombardment at Cherbourg, France, and later accompanied the first wave of occupation troops to Japan. At one point, Churchill, Gen. George Patton and Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal came aboard to talk strategy.

“They went straight into an office and that was the last we saw of them,” Feltz said.

Only recently has Feltz begun to feel comfortable talking about his experiences during the war.

“When I came out of the service, I didn’t talk about it for 40 years afterward, until our first ship reunion,” he said. “The more you talk about it, the freer you get.”

He urged today’s youngsters to “live life as fully as you can.”

Claude Brauer Friend, of the U.S. Army, and Morton E. Harris, of the Air Force, were also recognized during Thursday’s event but were unable to attend.
Mort Harris was a young man in a brown leather jacket piloting a freezing cold B-17 Flying Fortress with a 10-man crew during a bombing mission near Caen, France.

It was June 6, 1944. From above, he could see soldiers struggling to scale a cliff.

“So many were killed,” he said. “It was a terrible scene. Terrible.”

Harris, 99, arrived over the beaches of Normandy with members of the U.S. Eighth Air Force. He flew not one, but two missions that day as more than 150,000 Allied forces staged an assault on German troops in the biggest military invasion in history.

As people around the world gather Thursday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day, they will pay tribute to people like Harris, who charged into danger to try to end a horrific war.

Harris said he was just doing his job.

“I was no hero. I just went where they told me,” he told the Free Press in a recent interview at his sun-filled Bloomfield Hills home.

After more than seven decades, many memories of an incredible military career are still fresh.

Harris, who grew up in Detroit near Henry Ford Hospital, enlisted in the armed services when he was in his early 20s and an engineering student at Wayne University (now Wayne State). He learned to fly planes in Texas before going to Europe.

A squadron commander, Harris was stationed in England and flew in more than 30 missions during the war. He volunteered to drop supplies into Warsaw to help besieged Polish resistance fighters. He also bombed Berlin, Germany, seven of the first eight times it was bombed, said his son, Stuart Harris. That earned him the nickname “The Berlin Kid.”

“He was the only lead pilot to live to do that,” Stuart Harris said. “It was phenomenal what he did.”

Harris was shot down twice. Once he went down in the North Sea, losing four men. Another time, he was barely able to clear the White Cliffs of Dover before bringing down the damaged plane in a farm field.

Harris saw many of his friends die.

“I did know one guy who I had breakfast with that
morning. And he had a nice beautiful new airplane, as I did. We were going to Czechoslovakia, and he had a Catholic priest bless him, and then we walked onto our planes, shook hands and said goodbye.

“He was hit in the left wing. I remember an orange flare coming out of his left wing,” Harris said, taking a pause. “And he said (over the radio) ‘So long, Mort.’ And blew up in my face.”

Harris said he got through the stress and fear by steeling his nerves and staying focused.

D-Day was a turning point in the war that helped steer the Allies toward victory. On that day, the IFF radar device that allowed ground command to identify Harris’ plane was damaged, causing a delay in getting clearance to land back in England. On board, his gunner was suffering from a gunshot wound...

After the war, Harris started a family and embarked on a successful business career. He ran several companies, including Mercier Corp., and was a co-founder of American Axle and Manufacturing, Inc. He sat on the boards of Michigan National Bank and Henry Ford Hospital.

Later in life, Harris became a prolific philanthropist, a decision he said was influenced by his experiences in the war. He has donated millions of dollars to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Wayne State University, The Henry Ford and many other causes. Many of the gifts have been anonymous.

“I didn’t want to just keep making a lot of money,” he said. “Really, I wanted to do things for mankind.”

In 2016, Henry Ford Hospital announced that Harris had contributed $20 million to support the construction of a new cancer facility. It was the biggest donation from an individual benefactor the hospital had received in 100 years.

Harris gave the money in honor of his late second wife, Brigitte, who died of pancreatic cancer. He attended the groundbreaking of the center in 2017 and said he plans to be there for the preview grand opening event that hospital officials have planned for April 2020 — on Harris’ 100th birthday.

Soft-spoken and gracious, Harris said he has no special plans to mark the D-Day anniversary. However, he will be honored during a D-Day ceremony at the National Churchill Museum in Fulton, Missouri.

Harris was named a Winston Churchill Fellow last year.

“They wanted to recognize him for three reasons: the first is his service, the second is his service in flying so many missions over Europe to repel the Nazis, and third, because he has lived his life afterward as a man for others,” said friend Clark Durant, also a Churchill fellow.

On a wall in a bedroom in Harris’ home is a framed collection of his military medals: the French Legion of Honor, the Warsaw Uprising Cross, the Polish Home Army Cross, the Air Force Air Medal (he has six) and the Distinguished Flying Cross (he has three).

There is also a framed black-and-white copy of a March 1944 edition of LIFE magazine. Harris and about 130 other men are pictured standing on and around a Flying Fortress to commemorate the first American attack on Berlin. Harris is on a wing.

The brown leather bomber jacket Harris is wearing in the picture still hangs in his closet, its sleeves tattered and worn, a keepsake from a pivotal moment in American history.
Flag presentation at Fulton’s Churchill Museum to honor WWII pilots

August 2, 2019

Great Britain’s Royal Air Force will present an official flag to the National Churchill Museum on Aug. 14.

The presentation will reaffirm the special relationship between the United States and Great Britain and commemorate the American airmen and women who volunteered to fight the Nazis over London before the United States entered World War II, according to a news release.

The public is invited to attend this presentation at 11 a.m. in the museum’s historic Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury in Fulton.

The three Eagle Squadrons were formed in late 1940 when Americans traveled to England from Canada to volunteer to become fighter pilots in the RAF as Great Britain — under the leadership of Prime Minister Winston Churchill — defended itself against Adolf Hitler’s German Luftwaffe.

“At the time, the U.S. was not at war, and these young pilots — many of them roguish adventurous types — took great personal and legal risks to travel to England to fight with the RAF to save Britain and defeat tyranny,” said Timothy Riley, chief curator of the museum. “Churchill held these brave Americans in the highest regard and considered their help as an essential building block to the ‘special relationship’ he often referred to in describing the connection between the U.S. and UK.”

At first, to skirt American laws that prohibited them from fighting for a foreign entity, the volunteers were listed as Canadian or South African. But in September 1940, Churchill intervened, and the Air Ministry officially organized the 71st, 121st and 133rd American Eagle Squadrons as a branch of the RAF.

They fought to save London in the Battle of Britain and in other air wars across Europe at the start of WWII. Once the United States entered the war in 1942, the 8th U.S. Air Force was formed in England and the three Eagle Squadrons became part of the “Mighty Eighth” U.S. Air Force as the 4th Fighter Group.

Despite their flying prowess, nearly 100 of the 244 highly decorated members of the Eagle Squadrons
never made it home.

One of those airmen was Fulton’s own First Lt. John F. Lutz, an alumnus of Westminster College. He joined the 71st Eagle Squadron in 1941 at age 23. On May 4, 1943, Lutz’s plane was hit by enemy fighters over the English Channel, and he was forced to bail out. His body was never recovered.

America’s National Churchill Museum has a permanent exhibit honoring Lutz.

Commodore James Linter OBE, the RAF’s Air Attaché in Washington, will present the flag (often called an ensign) to the museum in honor of the legendary Eagle Squadrons.

The RAF flag will be on display in the church — the official chapel of the Eagle Squadrons. The Eagle Squadrons still exist and are now assigned to the U.S. Air Force’s 4th Fighter Group at Seymour Johnson Air Base in North Carolina.

Executives from Boeing, which acquired St. Louis-based McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft in 1997, also will be saluted for the Boeing and Douglas fighter planes used by the U.S. and British air forces in World War II.

They included Boeing’s B-17 (The Flying Fortress) and B-29 (The Liberator), and Douglas’s A-20 (Havoc), A-26 (Invader), C-47 (the U.S.’s Skytrain/
Britain’s Dakota), C-54 (The Skymaster), and the SBD Dauntless, the primary carrier-based dive bomber in WWII.

Also participating in the ceremony will be Westminster College President Fletcher Lamkin; Gen. Richard Harding, (Ret.) USAF; Gary D. Joiner, professor of history at Louisiana State University; and Riley, the Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout director and chief curator of the museum.

The ceremony also will mark the opening of new exhibit “The Few: Winston Churchill and the Royal Air Force.” It will display rarely seen items from the museum’s collection and archives related to the Eagle Squadrons and the Battle of Britain.
The 10 Most Intriguing Travel Destinations for 2019

Here, our top destinations worth zeroing in on in 2019, from an Argentinian wine region to—wait for it—Missouri

By Christian L. Wright, October 23, 2018

6. Missouri

It's not all pigs and brick. St. Louis, a fast-growing tech hub, is actively expanding its network of greenways that connect rivers and parks, including the revitalized Gateway Arch National Park. And part of the historic garment district's renaissance, the 142-room Last Hotel, housed in the circa-1909 International Shoe Company headquarters, will open in the spring. The 21c Museum Hotel brand chose Kansas City for its latest endeavor, piggybacking on the river city's percolating art scene (from $185 a night). About midway between the two urban centers, in the college town of Fulton—where Winston Churchill gave his Iron Curtain speech—sits the National Churchill Museum. Starting in January, the museum kicks off its 50th anniversary with a year-long program of cultural events (nationalchurchillmuseum.org).
Led by Churchill museum, Fulton picked as ‘cool’ small town

By Joe Holleman, July 17, 2019

Buzz-wise, July has been big for the little town of Fulton, Mo.

The National Churchill Museum at Westminster College is one of the reasons Budget Travel named Fulton as one of the “10 Coolest Small Towns in America.”

The publication said “Fulton’s Westminster College has seen more than its share of elite action,” and lists visits not only by Churchill but by former Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

The museum opened in 1969 and is dedicated to the life of former British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, who delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech on the campus in 1946.

Also cited for superlatives were the restored Church of St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury and the sculpture “Breakthrough,” made from eight panels of the Berlin Wall by Edwina Sandys, Churchill’s granddaughter.

Museum curator Timothy Riley said a number of positive words have been used to describe the museum. “It looks like we can now add ‘cool’ to the lexicon,” he said in a statement.

Earlier this month, the Churchill was the only museum in the state to win a “GEMmy” from the Midwest Travel Journalists Association. Fulton is about 95 miles west of St. Louis.