March 5, 2006: Celebrating 60 Years of “The Sinews of Peace” and the Grand Reopening of the Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery

Westminster College • Fulton, Missouri • Summer 2006
A Message from the Executive Director!

Welcome to a very special edition of *The Memo*, one that aims to capture the flavor of the weekend of 3rd-5th March! If you were there, I hope it brings back some great memories of a tremendous series of events and if you were not there, I hope you can get some idea of what went on!

There were two main purposes to this celebration: first, to remember and to mark the 60th anniversary of Sir Winston’s visit to Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri, and secondly, to mark the dedication of the brand new, state-of-the-art New Winston S. Churchill A Life of Leadership Gallery! We were honored to have Lady Mary Soames as our guest of honor and to welcome Chris Matthews, the host of MSNBC’s “Hard Ball,” as our after dinner speaker. We were similarly delighted to be so well supported by friends of the Memorial and of Westminster, past and present. Edwina Sandys, Senator Kit Bond, John Truman and Mary Eisenhower are just some of the great people who came to Fulton to help celebrate this wonderful weekend and this wonderful institution! Through the pages of this edition of *The Memo* you can see who did what and when! Also, in what has been a very very busy time at the memorial you can see coverage of our exciting ‘Cronkite’ events and also the Board of Governor’s meeting in St Louis with special guest Sir John Major!

I am happy to say that the new Museum is now open and already we are seeing an increase in visitor numbers. Significantly, we are also seeing a change in visitor demographics with far more young and family visits. I would like, once again, to thank all those who have supported this great institution and all those whose time, effort and resources made this wonderful new museum, this wonderful educational resource possible. Thanks to you, Churchill’s words and deeds will continue to echo down through the years and thanks to you, we have what Chris Matthews called ‘one of the best museums in the country’ to showcase Churchill’s life and example to a whole new generation!

This new exhibit is just the beginning however! Now we can turn our efforts toward endowment building and creating educational programs that support our mission to bring Churchill alive across the country! If you think the last few years have been exciting- just wait for the next few!

Dr Rob Havers
Executive Director, Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States

P.S. I am pleased to report that we have so far raised $675 towards the cost of a plaque commemorating Noel Mander’s life and achievements in the Church.
A Message from the Senior Fellow

“My idea of a good dinner is, first to have good food, then discuss good food, and after this good food has been elaborately discussed, to discuss a good topic – with myself as chief conversationalist.”

That quote from Richard Mahoney’s book, “The Quotable Winston Churchill,” perfectly describes the dinner at Old Warson Country Club in St. Louis on January 27, 2006. Although Sir Winston was not there to lead the discussion, he certainly was the lead topic of discussion.

Guests at the small dinner included the Churchill Memorial Board of Governors and several important friends of The Memorial from the St. Louis area. The special guest of honor was former Prime Minister Sir John Major.

Sir John was a most engaging guest and speaker, and he thoroughly enjoyed spending the evening in the company of other admirers of Winston Churchill. He spoke of his fondness for the Churchill family, and especially for Churchill’s daughter, Lady Mary Soames.

Only a few weeks later in early March, Lady Soames visited The Memorial to preside over the grand opening ceremonies for the fabulously renovated Churchill Memorial. The date coincided with the 60th Anniversary of Winston Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace” speech, which of course came to be known as the “Iron Curtain Speech.”

What a grand weekend it was! Mary Soames was the star, whether it was cutting the ribbon at the ceremony, leading the motorcade through Fulton, speaking with students in Champ Auditorium, or entertaining dinner guests with family stories.

Sir Winston’s granddaughter, Edwina Sandys, was also in attendance with her charming husband, Richard Kaplan. Edwina, who of course is the creator of Breakthrough, the sculpture created from remnants of the Berlin Wall, was her usual delightful and entertaining self. We love having Edwina visit us!

Dwight Eisenhower’s granddaughter, Mary Eisenhower, and Harry Truman’s grand nephew, John Truman, also were at The Memorial to share stories and fun to the occasion. Other guests included Dick and Barbara Mahoney, Alicia Milholland, who was involved in the original founding of The Memorial, and Shelby Davis, who has funded a foundation to provide scholarships for students from other countries to attend Westminster College. And I can’t even begin to mention all the other important friends of The Memorial who were there.

Our guest speaker at the Saturday night dinner was MSNBC host, Chris Matthews. He gave a wonderful talk based entirely on the words and deeds of Winston Churchill, and his standing ovation was well-deserved. Everyone hated to see the weekend come to a close, and plans were already being discussed for the 65th Anniversary of the speech.

Please come visit the “New” Churchill Memorial. It is wonderfully designed and executed and we are all very proud of it. You will learn something new, no matter how many times you have been there in the past. There is something there for everyone, including children and grandchildren.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention that the funding is not fully complete. There are a few naming opportunities still available, and any support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Suzanne Richardson
Senior Fellow

Credits

Special thanks to:
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For more information on the Churchill Memorial and Library please call (573) 592-5369.
St. Louis Board of Governors’ Meeting!

In January a Winston Churchill Memorial and Library Board of Governors’ meeting was held in the delightful surroundings of Old Warson Country Club in St Louis.

Two new Board Members were formally inducted, Jean Paul Montupet, VP of Emerson in St Louis and Bob Virgil, recently retired VP at Edward Jones in St Louis.

The Board Meeting was very amenable and was followed by dinner and then a talk by our guest of honor, ex-British Prime Minister Sir John Major, who spoke eloquently about Churchill’s impact on British and international life. Sir John was an engaging speaker and a delightful guest who charmed everyone present. After his turn at dinner, he mingled effortlessly with other guests and prompted many to wonder how on earth he was voted out of office in May 1997! The parallels with Churchill’s abrupt departure in July 1945 seemed quite appropriate! What a fickle bunch is the British electorate!

From left: Earl Harbison, Sir John Major and Dick Mahoney

The ‘Cronkite’ Events!

As part of the promotion of the new exhibition at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library and as a pre-cursor to the events surrounding the Churchill weekend of 3rd-5th March, Memorial Director Rob Havers and staff from Westminster College put on three presentations of the Walter Cronkite narrated film from the ‘Finest Hour’ room at the new museum. This presentation, just 12 minutes, endeavors to paint a visual picture of Churchill’s time as British premiere in WWII from when he took office, the day that France was invaded on 10 May 1940 to his General election defeat in July 1945. The film was shown firstly in Callaway County and then, on consecutive nights, at the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, on 31 January and then at the History Museum in St. Louis 1 February. The impact of this moving piece on the various audiences was profound and all who saw it commented on the amount of information packed into a short space of time as well as the emotional resonance of the events on display. The final frame- where the audience is informed that Churchill is voted out of office- never fails to elicit a response from those that see it and all want to know why and how this could have happened. A great hook to visit the museum itself and a great point to begin further educational programming. A big thank you to everyone who made these events possible!

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Dear Readers of The Memo:

For those of you who attended the grand 60th anniversary celebration commemorating Sir Winston Churchill’s famous “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College, this special edition of The Memo will serve as a precious keepsake of all the memorable experiences we enjoyed that weekend. For those of you were not able to attend, it will give you a taste of what a remarkable three days you missed!

We were very fortunate to have Churchill’s only living daughter, Lady Mary Soames, in attendance, and as one speaker noted, she was “a true rock star” for the weekend. Her hour-long forum, during which she handled questions from our students, was both illuminating and delightful. Obviously, she is every bit her father’s child, having inherited his intelligence, insight, and wit. I hope if you did not attend, you will watch for a showing of the forum on C-Span.

The Gala on Saturday evening transformed our historic gymnasium, where Churchill spoke, into an elegant venue, and the keynote address by MSNBC news commentator Chris Matthews, “The Ten Lessons of Churchill,” kept the audience spellbound for 45 minutes as he explained how many of Churchill’s ideas and actions are applicable to today’s world. A Churchill aficionado himself, Matthews was an ideal speaker for the occasion.

Other luminaries on hand for the weekend included Edwina Sandys, Churchill’s granddaughter; Mary Eisenhower, President Eisenhower’s granddaughter; and John Truman, President Truman’s grandnephew.

Of course, the centerpiece of the weekend was the opening of the brand new Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery in the Churchill Memorial and Library. Following a $4 million renovation, the exhibits are now state-of-the-art, interactive depictions of the life and works of Churchill that will engage and enthrall visitors of all ages. One exhibit simulates the sights and sounds of living through a Luftwaffe attack during the London Blitz, followed by a documentary on Churchi as war leader narrated by none other than Walter Cronkite himself. Another area allows you to take the throttle and fly through the air with the RAF. Or you can relive the glory of Churchill’s visit to our campus, view excerpts of his speech, and see the podium and chair he used on that historic occasion. Or perhaps you would prefer to sit back in a comfortable armchair surrounded by the ambience of an English gentleman’s club to call up Churchill anecdotes and quotations on hundreds of subjects from a computer. Children will enjoy attempting to crack the secret codes of World War II or seeing how children lived in five different occupied countries during the war. As Chris Matthews told the audience at the Gala, these new exhibits “rival those of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.” So if you have not been here yet to see these wondrous new exhibits, plan a summer trip to the Churchill Memorial right away.

Ultimately, though this weekend celebrated history, our main objective was not to relive history but to create history. With the new Memorial, we want to make Churchill as relevant to future generations as he was to our World War II generation and use Churchill as the mold to build leaders of character and service on our campus, making Westminster a center of international public discourse.

The world will always have need for Churchills—individuals with the courage and determination to stay the course… the intellect and vision to guide its way… and the humanity and humor to lift its people. The new Churchill Memorial and Library will prepare a new generation of Churchills to lead in a global community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fletcher M. Lamkin
President of Westminster College
Sir Winston Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech, delivered at Westminster College 60 years ago, is remembered as one of history’s most significant orations. Its significance is rooted not only in the substance of his message of March 5, 1946, but the context and place of the speech. Churchill came to Fulton just under nine months after losing the British premiership. He had led the United Kingdom (UK) to victory over Hitler and the Nazi state in Europe, but was jettisoned by the British electorate prior to the end of the Second World War by August 1945. He surely was disappointed about his fall from power. However, even in opposition, Churchill always had a flair for identifying and engaging the political issues and battles of the day. Like his repeated parliamentary demands to stop Nazism in its tracks as it enounced itself in Germany after 1933, again he made the call at Fulton in 1946 to defend the West, democracy, and its ideals against the growing Soviet expansion not only in Europe, but other parts of the world as well.

Churchill had been one of the world’s most strident anti-communists as a UK minister in the Liberal party-led government of Prime Minister David Lloyd George during the Great War (1914-18). He railed against the coming Bolshevik threat of Vladmir Lenin’s revolutionary regime in Russia. Notwithstanding Churchill’s anti-communism, this did not stop him from seeking an alliance based on realpolitik and the necessities of war with Joseph Stalin’s Soviet Union once Russia was attacked by Germany in June 1941. The speech at Fulton decried the evolving Soviet threat to Europe, its ideological zeal, and the dictator Stalin’s interest in counterbalancing the Western powers geo-politically. Churchill’s view of the global order was oriented toward preserving British influence and dominance in the international political, economic, and social realms. He defended Western parliamentarism, the British Empire, and constitutional monarchy as preferable to rigid totalitarian systems that followed the Leninist and Stalinist ideologies.

Thus, the speech that was given at Fulton, Missouri, in the Winter of 1946 served as a heralding of a new age that saw the shifting of the geo-political compass for states like the UK and the United States (US). The post-WW II era was much like our own post-Cold War era (now 15 years on). New geo-political configurations were evolving. The future appeared uncertain. Churchill had to be insightful and apply vision. The speech’s context was important. That context, a small Midwestern town and venerable college, had historical significance given that the US president, Harry S. Truman, felt it was important to have the former British prime minister visit his (Truman’s) home state as a sign of friendship and symbol of Anglo-American harmony.

The renovation of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library (WCML) on the 60th anniversary of the Iron Curtain Speech is the start of a year-long celebration of Churchill’s contribution to international relations and British-American cooperation. What is more, Westminster College has chosen to memorialize Churchill’s legacy with a series of events that will culminate in the inaugural “Symposium on Democracy” in September 2006. This symposium will highlight democracy and its manifestations globally. Churchill’s Fulton Speech, although known for its warning about Soviet intentions, also called for international cooperation in the new “Temple of Peace:” the United Nations. In Churchill’s second premiership (1951-55) he would end his service to Her Majesty’s Government by warning the world of the dangers of nuclear proliferation, which is still a continual threat to this day. Interestingly, most nations have heeded his warning. US President John F. Kennedy believed that 50 or more countries would possess nuclear weapons by the twenty-first century, thus, leading the globe to the brink of nuclear war. However, by 2006, only 10 nations are believed to have nuclear weapons and South Africa has unilaterally given them up. Churchill would certainly be pleased that a slowing of the nuclear arms race occurred during the Cold War.

As for democracy and the importance of a symposium on the Westminster Campus in Fall 2006, according to the Human Rights NGO Freedom House, in 1975 only 25% of the world’s nations were democracies. Today, nearly 50% are totally free and another 30% are partially free. Democratic polities are complex entities: executives, legislatures, and judiciaries may operate by different rules and means, but the democratic ideals of freedoms of expression, religion, movement, and social and political participation are important in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Sinews of Peace speech. Senator John Kerry said, in April 2004, “you don’t come to Fulton to give a speech; you come to Fulton to honor a legacy.” That legacy is important and 2006 and the 60th anniversary yearlong celebration will commemorate the substance and symbolism of Westminster College and the WCML as part of an increasingly global approach to championing education, freedom, and democracy; ideals that Churchill would be proud to see advanced in the shadows of his great visit of 1946.
The dual celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Winston Churchill’s visit and the dedication of the brand new Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery ensured the 3rd – 5th of March were a very busy few days! In the following pages you can see a photo diary of the events as they happened and remember, again, just what a tremendous time it was.

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

Winston Churchill, 1946 Fulton, Missouri
Signing of Student Resolution

Westminster students signed a resolution in support of the 60th Anniversary celebration activities and the opening of the new exhibit Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership.

Churchill Family Forum

For over an hour, Churchill’s daughter Lady Mary Soames entertained questions from faculty and students at Westminster, providing inspiring and edifying glimpses of her father’s leadership, the relationship between her father and her mother, her childhood, World War II, and the Cold War.
Premiere Opening of Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery

In appreciation of their hard work and significant contributions, those who played leadership roles in the development, fabrication and installation of the Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership exhibit were among the first to experience the new gallery.
The Smoking Club

Guests enjoyed two of Winston Churchill’s favorite things: cigars and scotch whiskey. The Smoking Club was sponsored by Hemingways, LTD in Columbia, MO.

Motorcade through Downtown Fulton

Saturday’s festivities began with a motorcade that retraced part of the route Churchill and Truman took through Fulton on their way to Westminster on March 5, 1946. Among those who rode in the antique cars, provided by local residents, were Lady Mary Soames, Churchill’s daughter; Edwina Sandys, Churchill’s granddaughter; John Ross Truman, grandnephew of President Harry S Truman; and Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight David Eisenhower.
Grand Opening

After remarks by Memorial Executive Director Dr. Rob Havers and speeches by Westminster College President Dr. Fletcher Lamkin and Missouri Senator Kit Bond, Lady Mary Soames gave the keynote address at the formal opening ceremony in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. After the ceremony, Lady Soames cut the ribbon and officially opened the Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery.

Community Luncheon

A community luncheon reminiscent of the one enjoyed by Sir Winston Churchill and President Harry Truman in 1946 was hosted by Westminster College and the Fulton community.

Above: Lady Soames cuts the ribbon and officially opens the Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership Gallery

Above: Missouri Senator Kit Bond listens intently as Westminster student Rita Udisho addresses the crowd

Above: Fulton resident, Aileen Kritzer, whose mother, Eura “Sport” Anthony, baked the cakes enjoyed by Truman and Churchill at the luncheon in 1946, poses with Winston.
Black Tie Gala Celebration

Chris Matthews, host of the popular MSNBC program “Hardball with Chris Matthews” and “The Chris Matthews Show” on NBC, was the keynote speaker at the Black Tie Gala Celebration Dinner. Matthews, who called Churchill his hero, shared 10 lessons he has learned from Churchill and how they relate to life.
Sunday Morning Church Service

The anniversary celebration concluded with a church service, with guest preacher Reverend Cecil Culverhouse, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury.
Explore the New Ch
“Tyranny is our foe, whatever trappings or disguise it wears, whatever language it speaks, be it external or internal, we must forever be on our guard, ever mobilized, ever vigilant, always ready to spring at its throat.”
The exhibition is organized chronologically and begins with Churchill's birth, proceeding through the major events of his life and also of the 20th century! We have taken the opportunity presented by this approach also to look more deeply into events such as World War One or the Cold War or even the rise of the Nazis in Germany. This new exhibition truly is an educational tool of the first degree. One of the interesting elements of this exhibition is the way we really flesh out Churchill's life, really examine all of his various “careers” - as soldier, journalist, painter as well as politician. We also look in greater detail than before at his life pre and post World War Two.

Some of the dramatic highlights of this brand new exhibition include “The World War One” Room. This authentic recreation of a trench conveys to visitors an impression of what it was like to fight on the western front between 1914-18 and the accompanying ambient audio allows the visitor to hear the sound of soldiers’ conversations interspersed with gunfire in the distance. While an exposition of Churchill’s life is obviously our main aim, we also take every opportunity to explore the wider events in which Churchill was involved. The WWI room examines the course and consequences of the War and how that war was fought.

Moving on from World War One, another must see is “The Gathering Storm: 1930s” Room where we attempt to convey instantly and visually what distinguishes Churchill’s view of Hitler from many of his contemporaries. Here, also, five video monitors play excerpts from Nazi propaganda films and they convey the seductive aspects of the Nazi movement and help explain to people why it was that the Nazis had such support. Juxtapositioned with these images are those of the impending war.

In the centre of the museum is, appropriately enough, the centerpiece of the exhibit: “The Finest Hour” Room that discusses World War Two and Churchill’s pivotal role. Visitors here get the full impact of the technical wizardry apparent throughout the museum with a highly impressive sound and light show that replicates the bombing of London and the showing of the tremendous, Walter Cronkite, narrated film that really encapsulates the essence of Churchill’s character and leadership through the dark days of the war. Around the walls of this room are entertaining interactive displays that examine code breaking and plane spotting as well as discuss the war in all its complexities.
The people of Callaway County have generously given to name “The Sinews of Peace’ Room and time spent here is rewarded by a full look at exactly how and why Churchill came to visit the campus of a small Midwestern college and how the people of Fulton took him to their heart! Another highlight is the fantastic “Wit & Wisdom” room where people can sit in a London club themed room and either listen to a great audio presentation of some Churchill stories or search through a database for Churchill’s best quotations and quips on a huge host of topics!
The aim of the new exhibition is, of course, to help bring Churchill alive; alive to new audiences and to new generations born years after Churchill’s death. The new exhibition; immerses visitors in a unique three-dimensional, media-rich experience; and blends the best and most accessible forms of historical text with engaging and innovative exhibits to create a historical and learning experience that is only possible within the special setting of a museum gallery. Although these accompanying pictures can give a good impression of what some aspects of the new museum look like, nothing can prepare you for the reality of the Finest Hour Room; standing in the middle of the exhibition and feeling the ground shake as “bombs” drop around you and hearing the “wail of the banshee” as the air raid sirens sound and the room is illuminated with the flashes of anti-aircraft fire and the prodding beams of searchlights. Of course, no visit to the museum is complete without a visit to the magnificent Sir Christopher Wren designed Church of St. Mary Aldermanbury. While the Church remains the same, there is a fantastic new interactive section of the new museum dedicated to it and to Christopher Wren and a new audio program that discusses the architectural merits of it. Also, a short film that shows the tremendous achievement of actually moving and assembling ‘the greatest jigsaw puzzle of the 20th century’.

Needless to say this brief description can only whet your appetite for this fantastic new museum in the heart of Missouri. The fact that it is here at all is due to you, our loyal friends. If you haven’t seen the new exhibition yet, please come along soon!
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