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## **New Publication Captures Inspiring Stories – “The Gateway Arch: An Architectural Dream”**

St. Louis, MO: The completion of a dream that was born 70 years ago is captured in the new publication “The Gateway Arch: An Architectural Dream.” The idea of a riverfront memorial to commemorate St. Louis’ role in the westward expansion movement was born in the 1930s. Thanks to the many public servants, designers, architects, skilled tradesmen and local St Louisans who were involved over the years, the dream of creating Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) became a reality and changed the city of St. Louis and the lives of those who live here forever. No other publication documents the entire span of this incredible project and the construction of its major feature, the 630-foot Gateway Arch. The book also includes inspiring first-hand stories and unbelievable photography.

Author Bob Moore, National Park Service Historian at JNEM, realized more than a decade ago that the oral history interviews he was conducting with construction workers and other participants in the Gateway Arch project could be edited and arranged to tell the compelling story of the Arch and how it was built. More than two years ago the non-profit Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA), which supports programs and projects at JNEM, realized that the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Arch offered a wonderful opportunity to develop such a publication. Project manager Rick Trigg of JNPA began researching the photography that was available to document the history of the Arch, and found three large collections which contained more than 25,000 images of the project. Additionally, Bob and Rick worked together to contact various individuals who were involved with the project and ask them to write essays about their experiences.

The resulting publication is a 160-page, 13 x 11 inch coffee-table sized book with a total of 23 essays and 16 oral history excerpts, as well as over 200 photographs (black/white and color). The book describes a memorial that not only captures the inspiring stories of our country’s westward expansion but is itself an incredible story of courage and innovative design. The Gateway Arch was one of the most awesome and technically difficult designs ever created by master architect Eero Saarinen. The Arch represents the largest single use of stainless steel in a structure. The workers on the project were among the most skilled in their respective trades in the country at that time. The safety record on the project was exemplary – the insurance companies estimated a possible 13 deaths, but there were no fatalities or major injuries on the project. The construction of the Gateway Arch changed St. Louis and the surrounding area, and the Arch became an internationally-recognized icon of the city. It also changed the lives of those involved in the project – and continues to change the lives of visitors to the memorial – because it embodies and represents so many fulfilled dreams, and inspires those who see it to continue to pursue their own. “The Gateway Arch: An Architectural Dream” shares these stories of fulfilled dreams and more.

JNPA has published previous books and has won the Association for Partners and Public Lands Media Award for their publication on the Museum of Westward Expansion. Bob Moore is a public historian with a background in art and film. He is the author of seven other books and holds a Masters and Ph.D. degrees in history from Washington University in St. Louis.

“The Gateway Arch: An Architectural Dream” is available from the non-profit Jefferson National Parks Association, an organization that assists public land agencies. The book is available in hardcover and also in a special limited edition with a slipcase (there are only 300 limited edition copies). Proceeds from sales are used to help sustain educational programs and projects at JNEM and the Gateway Arch.

Jefferson National Parks Association educates and inspires present and future generations through the priceless national parks and historic treasures of St. Louis and the Nation.

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