November 7, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski	The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chair	Chair
Interior Subcommittee	House Subcommittee on
Committee on Appropriations	Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Tom Udall	The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Minority Member	Ranking Minority Member
Interior Subcommittee	House Subcommittee on
Committee on Appropriations	Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murkowski, Chair Calvert, Ranking Member Udall, and Ranking Member McCollum:

As groups representing and supporting veterans and their families, we urge you to enact legislation to maintain and restore America's national park sites that commemorate the men and women who risked their lives to protect our freedom. Places like Valley Forge National Historical Park, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Gettysburg National Military Park, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are iconic national parks that preserve our shared history.

About one-third of all national parks commemorates and interprets military history, including 25 battlefields and 14 national cemeteries. Some of these parks manage the decommissioned defensive structures, forts, and bases that once served to protect our country and where veterans trained; they now document this military history for future generations to learn from. All told, parks with military history assets have approximately \$6 billion in maintenance needs, about half of the overall estimated \$11.3 billion backlog for infrastructure repairs needed for the entire National Park System. Bipartisan legislation, the National Park Service Legacy Act (S. 751/H.R. 2584), would provide dedicated annual federal funding for national park deferred maintenance, including repairs devoted to military heritage. We strongly encourage its passage by Congress.

Places such as Vicksburg National Military Park, a final resting place for 17,000 Civil War Union soldiers, needs two million dollars to restore its cemetery. The Fort McHenry site, which interprets the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812 and served as inspiration for the "Star Spangled Banner," needs \$3.8 million in repairs. Park sites that commemorate 20th century wars also need infrastructure improvements, including the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., which has more than \$545,000 in deferred maintenance; the grounds at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial require a \$600,000 facelift; and Manzanar National Historic Site, one of ten camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were incarcerated during World War II, has more than \$6.2 million in infrastructure needs.

Veterans stepped up when we needed them to protect and defend our country. Now it is time for Congress to honor their service by passing the National Park Service Legacy Act and ensuring that the sacrifices and stories of our veterans will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Anthropological Association American Association for State and Local History American Cultural Resources Association Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education Coalition for American Heritage **Combat Flip Flops** Community Training Works! (CTW), Inc. Conservation Legacy Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Higher Ground Veterans Advocacy Military Outdoors Mission Memorial Day National Military Family Association National Veterans Foundation No Barriers Warriors Northwest Youth Corps OneVet OneVoice **Operation Amped** Operation Troop Appreciation ORAPS Outreach and Resource Services for Women Veterans (OARS) Outward Bound Veterans Santa Fe Trail Association Save the VA Society for Historical Archaeology Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba The Corps Network The Mission Continues Warrior Expeditions World War I Memorial Inventory Project Young American Conservation Corps

Alaska

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation Sealaska Heritage

Arizona

Aaron Thacker, Veteran Adrian Fontes, USMC Corporal (Ret.), Maricopa County Recorder Andrew Lake, U.S. Army Sergeant (Ret.) Arizona Conservation Corps Arizona Veterans & Military Leadership Alliance Crystal Reidy, ARNG James Bolen, USAF, Staff Sergeant E-5, Ret. Jon Paladini, U.S. Army LTC Marc Raciti, Healing Wounds, Army Mark Cardenas, Sergeant, United States Army; Member, Arizona House of Representatives Pamela Dacus, Air Force Robin Arredondo-Savage, Sergeant, U.S. Army (Ret.); Vice Mayor, Tempe City Council Ryan Scully, E4 Army Shawn Walkington, Army Sonja Raciti, U.S. Air Force, Sgt. (Ret.) Stephen Whittemore, U.S. Army Reserves, Sgt/E-5

California

Alex Snyder, Veteran Floyd "Shad" Meshad, U.S. Army, 844th Engineer Battalion, Captain (Ret.) Kyle Hudick Former 68W Combat Medic at Wisconsin Army National Guard Michael Krufka, Sergeant, USMC (Ret.) Paul Simonds, U.S. Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Snyder, Veteran San Francisco Veterans Film Festival Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assemblywoman, Committee on Veterans Affairs

Colorado

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District of Columbia

Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington

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Georgia

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Hawaii

Friends of the Natatorium

Illinois

Michael Taft, Veteran

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Maine

Anthony Diver, Navy David Cotta, Army CW-4 Earle McCormick, Air Force Ellen Morrison, Army Jay Manhardt, U.S. Navy Katherine Reilly, Air National Guard Keith Herrick, Air Force Nichi Farnham, Air Force Paul Raymond, National Guard, M/Sgt Scott Clifford, Air National Guard, Tsgt State Senator Tom Saviello, Army Vanessa Bartlett, Army WilliamBrown, U.S. Navy, Commander

Maryland

Baltimore Heritage Preservation Maryland T. Destry Jarvis, U.S. Army Captain

Massachusetts

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Minnesota

Alec Timmerman, U.S. Army Sarah Rude, U.S. Air Force Cliff Coy, U.S. Army

Mississippi

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Pat Haley, VFW, Comp Army Paul Allen, MSG Army Paul Cox, PVT Army Perry Campbell, Retired, CSM Army Ralph Williams, MSARNG Training Center McCain, SFC Army Ray Wilburn, ISG Robert Madison, Vets of Foreign Wars, Corp Army Rodger Brown, 289th ENCO Army SSG Roy E. Shook, Army Sam Mius, American Legion, U.S. Army Sterling Mays, National Guard, SGT Army Thomas Alas, CSM Army Thomas Cooper, Col AF Thomas D. Booth U.S. Army, Retired Thomas Jones, VFW/American Legion, U.S. Navy Thumian Stone, American Legion Tim Campbell, HHC 2-198th, SFC Army Tim Magandy, USMC, E4 Timothy Plunk, SGM Army Timothy Powell, LTC Army Tommy Havens, 298th CSSB, Army Tommy Respess, U.S. Army Trinity D. Bishop, SVA/ American Legion SPC Army Turner Dustin, SSG Army Warren Daniel Jones, Veteran Warren Jones, E-4 SPC William Brooks, SGM Army William Crisler, Maj Gen AF William Shepherd, VFW Williams Ashley, CPT Army Wydell Johnson, DAJ

Montana

Billings Area American Legion, District 11

Nevada

Hadim Deputy, U.S. Army, E5

New Jersey

Director of Veterans Education & Training at Robert Morris University

New Mexico

Doug Gibson, USMC Joe Archuleta, U.S. Army Marcia Garcia, USMC Veterans for Peace – Albuquerque

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Oregon

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Sandra Carrier, Veteran Travis Black, Veteran William Ault, Veteran

Puerto Rico

Kurtis Ashworth, Army, Specialist E-4

South Carolina

Dan Roundcastle, U.S. Army, Private

Tennessee

Andrew Day, USMC LCpl 2/7 Scout Sniper Ashley Dickens, U.S. Army (2002-2007) Ben Walker, USMC Charles Harrison, United States Army, 844th Engineer Batallion Chris Christie, U.S. Army Dustin McKenzie, United States Marine Corps Erin Coleman, U.S. Army Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Greg Adkins, U.S. Army Reserves Jessica Callihan, United States Navy John G. Castellaw, USMC, Lieutenant General Jonathan Gensler, U.S. Army, Captain Southeast Conservation Corps

Texas

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Utah

Coffee for Troops Preservation Utah

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Tommie Wheeler, US Army, E4 Specialist Wynn Ryan, US Army, Captain

Washington

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Wyoming

Daniel Sullivan, U.S. Army

CC: Secretary Ryan Zinke