November 7, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

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

Angus Day, Army National Guard

Benjamin Schrader, Army

Bill Ibanez, Navy

Bobby Roberts, Air Force

Chester Moore, Army

Challenge Aspen Military Opportunities (CAMO)

Christopher Sanchez, Army

Dale Goodin, Air Force

Dana Barker, Army

Dave Weber, Army

David Brock, Army

David Cantrell, Air Force, Captain

David Hursey, Air Force

David Pierce, Air Force

Dennis Lennon, Army, Sgt. E5

Don Thompson, Army

Doug Dunkle, Army, E4

Douglas Luithly, Air Force, Sgt

Dr. Lacey Berumen, Air Force, Air National Guard, E5

Ed Richey, Air Force

Eugene Allison, Army

Evan Lay, Navy

Garrett Reppenhagen, U.S. Army, 2-63 ARBN 1st Infantry Division

Gary Schneider, Marine Corps

George Bacon, Marine Corps

Harold Hinde, Air Force, Army

Hector Galicia, Army

J Dreibelbis, Army

James Hoffmeister, Army

JD Cleveland, Army

Joanne Dixon, Marine Corps, Major

John Beach, Air Force

John Cornely, Air Force, Captain

John Martinez, Army

Joseph Lane, Army

Kim Croft, Army, E5

Larry Forrest, Army

Larry Kimball, Army, Spec 5

Larry McLaughlin, Air Force

Lawrence Crowley, Army

Leo Fisher, Army, E5

Lewis Hart, Army

Marcellus Armstrong, Army

Margret Latourrette, Navy

Michael Casey, U.S. Navy Aurora, Colorado

Michael Fults, Navy

Norvelle Couch, Army, E4

Percy Muetz, Navy, FPM/3

Ramon Moreno, Navy

Ray Rahne, Marine Corps

Richard Montoya, Marine Corps

Richard Murphy, Navy

Rick Hall, Air Force

Robert Rochester, Air Force

Robert Wise, Navy

Roger Brewer, Navy

Ron Chacey, Navy

Ronald Ramey, Air Force

Ronald Brackett, Navy

Ronald Harden, Air National Guard, Staff Sargeant

Terry Gomell, Navy, Lieutenant

Tim Cummins, Navy

Tim Lang, Army, MSG

VernonBatty, Army

William Grannell, Marine Corps

William H. Miller, Army

William Doolan, Army

District of Columbia

Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington

Florida

Arthur Borduas, Navy Ensign Bill Reed, USMC, Sergeant Bruce Hodgkins, Veteran Charles M. Collins, Army, PFC Charlie First, S/Sgt, USAF ChesterHamlin, Sgt Air Force
David Greenwood, USMC, Sergeant E5
DonaldFlannery, CTMC USN (Retired)
Florida Public Archaeology Network
Florida Veterans Foundation
Howard Scott, U.S. Army, Captain
John Yahres, U.S. Army, First Lieutenant
Morris Andrews, U.S. Army, E4
Paul McHenry, U.S. Coast Guard, E5 EN2
Robert Dube, U.S. Air Force, Major
Trilogy Orlando Veterans Association

Georgia

Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Jim Butler, U.S. Army, E5 Jim Kerr, U.S. Army Special Forces, Green Berets, Colonel Joe Binns, Army, PFC Jonathan Mullen, U.S. Army, E5 Julian Middleton, U.S. Coast Guard, LCDR Mike Wiley, U.S. Army, E4 Scott Holcomb, Georgia State Representative Sonni Green, Veteran Stacey Williams, U.S. Air Force, Airman First Class Steven Roberts, U.S. Air Force, E5 Timothy Baldwin, U.S. Army, E5 Tom James, U.S. Army, PFC

Hawaii

Friends of the Natatorium

Illinois

Michael Taft, Veteran

Louisiana

Cathy Arroyo, U.S. Navy, ET1
Harry Crocker, U.S. Army Reserve, SFC
John Rose, U.S. Navy, Petty Officer First Class
Joseph McKee, U.S. Army, Captain
Joy Brue, U.S. Army, E4
Mathew Crawford, U.S. Army, Captain
Nicki Hall, U.S. Army, E3
Patrick McCauley, U.S. Army Reserves, Major
Russ Wise, U.S. Army, Captain
Susan McCauley, ARNG, SFC/E-7

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

Alfred L. Cate, U.S. Army, World War 2
Allan Costa, USMC, Captain
Franklin Roy, U.S.M.C, L/Cpl
John Curtis, Veteran
Jonathan Scharath, U.S. Army Reserves, Staff Sergeant
Matthew Logan, U.S. Army, Specialist E4
Michael Neri, USMC, Lance Corporal
Michael S. Siegel, U.S. Army, Sergeant First Class
Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts
Richard Telford, U.S. Navy, E5 Second Class; U.S. Marine Reserves, Sergeant
Robert Morgan, Veteran
Steve Freeland, U.S. Army
Thomas O'Reilly, U.S. Army

Minnesota

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

Mississippi

Alfrod Robinson, HHC 2-198, SFC Army

Allen McDaniel, Army LTC

Allison Pait, U.S. Navy, Petty Officer First Class (E6)

Antonio Humphrey, SSG Army

Benjamin T. Inman, Retired, LTC Army

Bob Ganz, U.S. Navy, E6

Bob Lee, U.S. Army Colonel

Bobby Floyde, SSG Army

Bobby Hawkins, Spec 4 army

Bobby Snyder, American Legion, Sgt Marine Corp

Brittany Frazier, CMTC- MSARNG, SGT Army

Carl Gaddy, SFC Army

Chad Lamoing, ILT Army

Charles Crowell, Colonel, U.S. Army

Charles Moss, 2-198 AR, MAS Army

Charles Wilson, VFW, U.S. Navy

Christopher Greer, E4 Army National Guard

Christopher Sherman, E-S Army

Chrystal Costillow, MSARNG Training Center McCain, SSG Army

Clark Robert, 2-198 AR, CPT Army

D.I. Smith, U.S. Army, Colonel & City of Ridgeland Board of Alderman

Danny DePriesl, SP4 Army

Danny Smith, Commander, VFW

David Letherwood, 155 HBCT, U.S. Army, Major (Retired)

David E. Littrell, Retired, MSG

David Kirtley, BG Air Guard

David Buck, LTC AF

David Dixon, SGT Army

Dennis Adams, HHC 2-198AR, SGM Army

Douglas Denton, MSARNG Traning Center McCain SSG Army

Erik Hearon, AF Maj Gen

Freddie Davis, Clarksdale Municipal School District, JROCT, SGM, U.S. Army

Gail Wilson, SFC Army

Gary E. Huffman, VFW, MOPH, AT EASE, BG Army

Glen Davis, Retired, CSM Army

Glenn Adams, U.S. Army, Retired

Hayes Dent, U.S. Army Field Artillery, Captain

HC Franklin, VFW DAV, American Legion

Henry Jenkins, U.S. Navy

Hugh Franklin, Army

Jackie Hankins, Veteran

James Bullard American Legion/VFW SMS Navy

James Burns, U.S. Army

James C. Winters, U.S. Army, Retired

James Jackson, COL ARMY

James S. Bennett, MSARNG, LTC Army

James Winters, U.S. Army

James Sims, E4 Army

Jason Burton, SFC Army

Jeffery D. Williams, SPC Army

Jeremy Ringham, HHC 2-198 AR, SSG Army

Jerry Bratton, DAV, VFW American Legion, Sgt.

Jerry Burchfield, E7 Army

Jerry Dickey, SSG Army

Jerry Stanford, U.S. Army

Jerry Stanford, U.S. Army, Retired

Jesse Miles, U.S. Army, E5

Jim Sherman III, U.S. Army Colonel

Jimmy Stiglets, COL AR

Jimmy Lee, National Guard, CW4 Army

Joe Dettor, E9 Army

Joe Dettor, U.S. Army

John Earp, A- 2/198, SFC Army

John Mayo, U.S. Army

Jonathan Howe, HHC2-198th, ILT ARMY

Joseph Dickey, CSM Army

Joshua A. Cummings, MS ARMY National Guard, SPC Army

Joshua D. Connerly, MS Army National Guard, SSG Army

Kary Bernard Evans, U.S. Army, Major (Retired)

Kary Rogan, Retied, CSM

Keith Gillespie, American Legion, DAV, VEW SGT Air Force

Ken Welch, E6

Kevin Waters, SSG

Lawrence Shannon, COL AR

Lennie Luther, Retired, Army

Leroy Matthews Jr, VFW, DAV, American Legion E-7 Army

Maekie Riddle, U.S. Army

Malcolm Self, Army E6

Mario Kirkwood, SSG Army

Mark Pait, U.S. Navy, Chief Petty Officer (E7)

Matthew K. Welch, Veteren, CW4

Megan Albaugh, U.S. Army, E4

Megan Welch, 1108th AVCRAD, SGT

Melvin Larry Edwards, CPT AR

Michael Asbury, SFC Army

Michael Broadnax, SPC Army

Michael D. Taylor, MSARNG, SGT Army

Michael Merrill, 4 Co. 106 BSB, ES Army

Michael Merrill, U.S. Army

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

New York

Kenneth Rich, USMC, Sergeant

Vincent Mazzurco, USMC, Captain

Ohio

Brian Stewart, United State Army

Dick Stobbs, U.S. Army, E-4 Vietnam Veteran, Chairman of the Gold Star Family Committee Heritage Ohio

Jim Bernholtz, President of the Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial, US Navy Veteran, Gold Star Father Jon Fishpaw, United States Marine Corps, E-4

Thomas Foos, United State Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Ret.

Oklahoma

Daniel Rooney, USAFR, Major Dianne L. Campbel, USMC, Corporal

Oregon

Adam Hough, Veteran

Becky Kemper, U.S. Army, E-4 specialist

Central Oregon Veterans Ranch

Emily Cullen, U.S. Coast Guard, E3 Seaman

Eugene Sanchez, President, Northwest Indian Veterans Association, U.S. Army

Ian Tubby, USMC, Sergeant

Joseph Mah, U.S. Army, E4

Kurtis Ashworth, U.S. Army, Specialist E-4

Matthew Reynolds-Hollon, U.S. Army, E4

Michael Barker, Veteran

Mike Magda, Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps

Mike White, U.S. Army, Sergeant

Robert Cutter, Veteran

Representative Paul Evans, Oregon, House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness,

Chair, Major, Air Force

Scott McLean, Veteran

Stephen Jardin, U.S. Army

Tyler Savely, USMC, Sergeant

Pennsylvania

Barbara Bolla, Veteran

Bradley Hilbert, Veteran

Brian Williams, Veteran

Christopher Altmeyer, Veteran

Cindy Keelon, Veteran

Cynthia Smith, Veteran

D. Scott Hartwig, Veteran

Daniella Pusateri, Veteran

Dawn Zubasic, Veteran

Dean Schlebusch, Veteran

Dennis Hillard, Veteran

Dr. Stephen Whitehead, Veteran

Ellen Zissis, Veteran

Frank Pusateri, Veteran

Frank Zissis, Veteran

Greg Kloosterman, Veteran

Jacqueline Hilbert, Veteran

James E. Williams, U.S. Marine Corps

James Romanosky, Veteran

James Hilbert, Veteran

Jason Arington, Veteran

Jeanne Russo, Veteran

Jef Romanosky, Veteran

Joanne Romanosky, Veteran

Joey Davis, Specialist E-4, Veteran

Joey Pusateri, Veteran

John Dowling, Veteran

Joseph Carrier, Veteran

Joseph Romanosky, Veteran

Julie Arington, Veteran

Kara Williams, Veteran

Kenna Altmeyer, Veteran

Kim Schlebusch, Veteran

Kristi Hilbert, Veteran

Lia Pusateri, Veteran

Lisa Black, Veteran

Lisa Hofrichter, Veteran

Maria Pusateri, Veteran

Matthew Bolla, Veteran

Megan Kloosterman, Veteran

Michael Zubasic, Veteran

Mike Allen, SFC, Retired

Millie Hendricks, Veteran

Monica Orluk, Operation Troop Appreciation

Nancy Hilbert, Veteran

Patricia Romanosky, Veteran

Pete Hofrichter, Veteran

Rhoda Geminski, Veteran

Richard Geminski, Veteran

Richard Russo, Veteran

Roger Whittemore, U.S. Army, Specialist 5

Sandra Carrier, Veteran

Travis Black, Veteran

William Ault, Veteran

Puerto Rico

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

American YouthWorks Anthony Dale, U.S. Army Beth Waller, Veteran Bill Clear, Army, Cpl. Bill Farmer, U.S. Army, E4 Brandon Metroka, Veteran Cody McGregor, Veteran Gary Guis, U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel Humberto Zamora, U.S. Marines James Mills, U.S. Air Force, Tech Sergeant John Sylvester, U.S. Army, LTG Johnny Mikes, U.S. Army JT Edwards, Veteran Mary Dale, Veteran Nancy Nabors, U.S. Army, Spec4 Neil Chafee, Veteran Paul Briones, U.S. Army, E4 Rip Collins, USAF Robert Manross, U.S. Army, E4 Thomas J. Allen, Navy

Utah

Coffee for Troops

Preservation Utah

Virginia

Albert Flores, Jr., USMC, Major

Andrew Jenkins, US Army, SPC

Barton Myers, Washington and Lee University

Belle Grove Plantation

Brian T. Lamson, U.S. Army Colonel

Bryan Kennedy, US Army, SPC

Cain Roberts, US Army, Major

CharleyMcMullen, US Army, E5

Chris Weakley, US Army, SSG

Christine Ciarlo, US Army, Specialist

Connor Crossey, US Army, E5

Dan Corbin, US Army, SSG

Dan Prince, US Army, SFC

Eric Deuweke, USMC, Captain

Frank Justus, USMC, Corporal

Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Inc.

Glenn Clark, US Air Force, Sgt (Vietnam Veteran)

Great Appalachian Valley Conservation Corps

Gregg Lynch, US Army, MSG

Ivan Raiklin, US Army, CPT

James Blesse, US Army, LTC

Joesph Maynard, US Navy, E5

John McCarthy, USMC, Captain

John Paul Coussau, US Army, SPC

Jon Williams, US Army, Sgt

Jonathan Noyalas, McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah Unversity

Keith Willett, US Navy, Lieutenant

Kenneth Hein, USMC, MSgt. (Retired)

Kenya Wheeler, US Army, E3

Kurt Meissgeier, US Army, SSG

Matt Hix, USMC, CPL

Mindy Shearin, U.S. Army, E7

Nancy Wheeler, US Army, E3 Specialist

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation

Stephen Ross, US Air Force, CPT

Steve Fravel, US Army, SFC

Theo Lawson, USMC, E3

Todd Hammond, US Marines, CPL E-4

Tommie Wheeler, US Army, E4 Specialist

Wynn Ryan, US Army, Captain

Washington

Chuck Tye, LTCOL (Ret) USMC

David Isaac, ARNG

Dick Muri, U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel and Washington State Representative

Doug Pfeffer, U.S. Army, 1st Sergeant

Drew MacEwen, WA State Representative, U.S. Navy, EM2(SS) - Current State Representative

Gary D. Smith, Navy - LtCdr

John Lovick, WA State House of Representatives, U.S. Coast Guard QM2 - Current State Representative

Julia Sheriden, USMC, Sergeant, E5

Mark Hargrove, U.S. Air Force, Captain, Washington State Representative

Mike Kreidler, U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel, former U.S. Congressman, and Washington State Insurance Commissioner

Mike Volz, WA State House of Representatives, U.S. Army, Military Police Officer, Current State Representative

Sid W. Morrison, Former Congressman, WA-4th CD, U.S. Army, PFC Reserve 2nd Lieutenant, Former Congressman WA-4CD

Wisconsin

Aaron Leair, ARNG

Bradley Geyer, U.S. Air Force

Brandon Withers, USMC

Cait Taylor, ANG

Cheryl Adams, U.S. Navy

Curtis Snyder, Veteran

David E. Collins, Lance Corporal, USMC

Dwayne Haines, ARNG

Elijah Klumb, USAF

Hanna Snyder, ARNG

James Lundstrom, Veteran

Jay Tobin, Veteran

Jeff Peck, Veteran

John Adams, U.S. Army

John Ludwig, Veteran

Michael Balistriere, Veteran

Rick Seeger, U.S. Army (retired)

Robin Eckstein, Veteran

Scott Morfit, Veteran

Steven Acheson, Veteran

Wyoming

Daniel Sullivan, U.S. Army

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

The Honorable Ken Calvert

The Honorable Tom Udall

The Honorable Betty McCollum