



**Governor Brad Little**

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August 27, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC, 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer recommendations on the Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes Executive Order. I look forward to hearing about the work of the task force you will be leading. As we go through these unprecedented times, lessons from the past can offer guidance for decisions in the future. Memorializing many of the United States' great leaders is an important part of that.

You asked that I respond to this letter with locations in Idaho that would fit as a prominent location for this monument garden. Idaho is a large, geographically diverse state with incredible mountain ranges, vast high mountain deserts, and lush forests. If the task force decides to look to the West for a suitable location to serve this garden, I would be happy to engage the task force, and I am open to Idaho being the recipient of the national monument and memorial.

In addition to the many great leaders included in President Trump's executive order and those you have received from Idaho counties, I have included a list of Idahoans who showcase the very best of what makes Idaho so special.

Thank you for spearheading this important effort and for your work to preserve Idaho and the United States' incredible history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Little', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho

# Idaho Heroes

Name	Dates	Relevance	Place	Category
<b>Abigail Scott Duniway</b>	1834-1915	<p>Born in Illinois, became an Oregon Pioneer and suffrage leaders. The leader of Idaho's woman suffrage. Her family journey to Oregon in 1852, when she was 17 years old. Once established in Lafayette, Oregon, she began teaching school. She married Benjamin Charles Duniway on August 1, 1853, who had also emigrated from Illinois in 1850. Her marriage produced six children, and she experienced hardships of rural Oregon. By 1862, her husband lost the farm after enduring notes from a friend that turned out to be fraudulent. This sparked her concern over a man's ability to make decisions without consulting his wife that could endanger his family. Her husband then experienced an accident that left him partially disabled. Duniway then moved to a larger town, Albany, OR, and operated a boarding school, and later a millinery and notions shop. She continually heard of injustices and mistreatments from her female patrons. This, coupled with her husband's insistence that things would only improve if women won the vote, persuaded Duniway to take up the suffrage cause. She moved to Portland, began publishing a weekly newspaper devoted to suffrage, the New Northwest. She published the paper for 16 years and also became a lecturer and traveled the country for more than 25 years in support of women's suffrage. She claimed to have given over 140 speeches and lectures in Idaho.</p>	Custer County	Suffragist
<b>Adolfo James Achabal</b>	1922	<p>Born in 1922 in McDermitt, Nevada, to parents original from Balboa, Spain. He and his family raised cattle and sheep, but he also has an interest in the transportation industry. He first began working for the Boise-Winnemucca Stages, Inc. in 1942 at a service station. He served a quick stint in the U.S. Army, from 1945-1947, in the 482nd Engineer Battalion. This was the first outfit of troops to take over occupation duties in Korea after WWII. After his military career he returned to the Boise-Winnemucca Stages, Inc., and in 1950, he purchased the bus line. He quickly added new routes to his service, connecting to points in Caldwell, Wilder, Homedale, and Marsing. He introduced new equipment and steadily increased patronage. He also built connections within Boise's large Basque Community, and is a member of Rotary International, Boise Chamber of Commerce, Keep Idaho Green Committee, and was affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.</p>	Boise	Veteran, Entrepreneur

<b>Amy Trice</b>	1936-2011	<p>Amelia "Amy" Trice, a member of the Kootenai Tribe, was born in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho. She served on the Kootenai Tribal Council as secretary and later as tribal chairwoman. In 1974, Amy led her tribe in a symbolic, nonviolent war against the United States. Idaho's Kootenai Tribe did not sign a treaty with the US government, so they had no reservation land. By 1974, the tribe had dwindled to 67 members and were living in extreme poverty. Amy Trice said, "It was so depressing out here. There were only two or three houses left. The kids were on their own. They had no future. They were lost. People lived in anything, anyplace." When an elder died of exposure in his unheated home, Amy ran for Tribal Council Chair and won. The tribe sent a formal war declaration to Washington on September 20, 1974. Tribal members set up informational pickets along Highway 95 near Bonner's Ferry and collected 10 cent tolls. They gathered in the tribal office across the street from the Bonner's Ferry Police Department and demanded immediate treaty negotiations. State troopers were sent in, armed with mace and shotguns. The stand-off lasted for several days. BIA Director of Trust Resources Martin Seneca came to assess the situation and negotiate. Congressman Steve Symms and Senator James McClure came as well. Amy led a delegation to Washington. Ultimately the Tribe acquired 12.5 acres of federal land and the promise of decent housing, infrastructure, a new road, and a tribal community center. Over the next two decades, the Kootenai made great progress. They established the Kootenai River Inn, Kootenai River Casino, and the Kootenai Tribal Sturgeon Hatchery. They became one of the largest employers in Boundary County. Amy Trice stated, "We got our dignity back. That was what the war accomplished."</p>	Bonners Ferry	Tribal Rights
<b>Arthur Troutner</b>	1921-2001	<p>Arthur Troutner was born on September 29, 1921, in a rural farming community near Pingree, Idaho. The seclusion of Idaho's vast Snake River Plain did more than promote the development of Troutner's own self-reliance; it encouraged Troutner to experiment, which further nurtured his inventive spirit. Despite a late start to formal schooling, Troutner graduated with a diploma from Boise High School in 1939, and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. Following his service, he enrolled in an engineering program at University of Idaho, but ultimately graduated with a degree in architecture. During the 1950s, Troutner developed a reputation as an innovative designer and as the architect of unique contemporary homes. His designs necessitated a new building approach, and in the mid-1950s, he invented what he called a truss deck system. This system, which he patented, led to the creation of other engineered lumber products that all served to revolutionize the construction industry. Today, Troutner's pioneering work in wood technology, as well as his unique contributions to the field of architecture, serve as his legacy. Historians have argued that Troutner was "the most important single figure in the history of the development of wood technology for architecture," and an individual who made several significant contributions to both architecture as well as engineering. Many of the properties he designed still stand in Idaho, including residential homes in southern Idaho, the Boise Little Theatre and the Kibbie Dome.</p>	Boise	Architect

<b>Barbara Morgan</b>	1951-	<p>Born in Fresno, CA, she attended Stanford University, and received a BA in Human Biology in 1973, and earned a teaching credential in 1974. She began a teaching career on the Flathead Indian Reservation, and then moved to McCall, Idaho to teach 2nd grade from 1975-1978 and again from 1979-1998. From 1978-1978 she taught at the Colegio Americano de Quito in Ecuador. In July, 1985 she was selected as the backup candidate for the NASA Teacher in Space Program. From September 1985 to January 1986, she trained the Challenger crew at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Following the Challenger accident, Morgan assumed the duties of Teacher in Space Designee. From March 1986 to July 1986, she worked with NASA, speaking to educational organizations throughout the country. In the fall of 1986, Morgan returned to Idaho to resume her teaching career. Her duties as Teacher in Space Designee included public speaking, educational consulting, curriculum design, and serving on the National Science Foundation's Federal Task Force for Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering.</p>	McCall	Astronaut
<b>Bill Wassmuth</b>	1941-2002	<p>Wassmuth grew up in Idaho County. He became a priest and moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1979. Richard Butler had arrived a few years earlier and built an Aryan Nations compound. Wassmuth became head of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations and worked to rid Kootenai County of Butler and the Aryan Nations. In 1988, he resigned from the priesthood, moved to Seattle, and became director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, building it into one of the nation's most powerful human rights organizations. In 2014, Idaho's leading civil liberties organization became the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights.</p>	Idaho County/Coeur d'Alene	Human Rights
<b>Carol Rylie Brink</b>	1895-1981	<p>Born in Moscow, Idaho. Brink's father died when she was five; her grandfather, a prominent physician, was assassinated in Moscow a year later; her mother committed suicide when Carol was nine. Carol's grandmother raised her, and in 1936 Brink published her first book, based upon her grandmother's stories. Caddie Woodlawn won the Newbery Medal as the outstanding children's book that year. Brink had launched a writing career. Between 1936 and 1977 she wrote 30 books for adults and children, many set in Idaho, some detailing the tragic events of her childhood. Brink is remembered in her hometown with a city park, the children's wing of the public library, and the University of Idaho English Department building named in her honor.</p>	Moscow	Author

<b>Cecelia Violetta Lopez</b>	1981-	<p>Celebrated soprano, Cecilia Violetta López, has been named one of opera's "25 Rising Stars" by Opera News. She was born in Rupert, Idaho in 1981, into a migrant farmwork family. The singing actress is praised for her "alluring voice and incredible range." She has received accolades for her signature role of Violetta in La Traviata, which she has performed many times throughout North America. Her debut of the role was with Martina Arroyo Foundation's prestigious summer festival, Prelude to Performance. From this performance, critic James Jorden exclaimed "she is a Violetta fully-formed and, I think, ready for the great stages of the world." She has also performed the role with Opera Tampa, Opera Idaho, Northern Lights Music Festival, Ash Lawn Opera, and in her company debuts with Virginia Opera, Opera Colorado and Minnesota Opera. Ms. López also recently made her European debut as Norina in Don Pasquale with Zomeropera in Belgium, for which Klassiek Central exclaimed: "She turns out to be the revelation of the show and wins over the audience with her funny rendition, irresistible charm, and [she is] natural in the different vocals."</p>	Rupert	Artist-Rising Star
<b>Emma Edwards Green</b>	c. 1856 - 1942	<p>Born Emma Sarah Etine Edwards in 1856 to Emma Jeanne Catherine Richard and former Missouri Governor John Cummins Edwards in Stockton, California. In 1885, she received a teacher's certificate for 2nd grade in Modesto California/ She married Alva Udell on December 7, 1888 and they were divorced June 17, 1890. She filed for divorce asking that she could keep her maiden name. She claimed bigamy. She arrived in Idaho 1890 to stay with relatives. She involved with the Democratic Party, the Teachers Association of Bruneau. She always aspired to be an artist. Around 1895, she likely attended art school in New York. She married James G. Green on December 1, 1903 in Portland. They made their home at 412 Grove Street in Boise. She died in a Boise Hospital in January 1942. Obituary states she died in 1942 at the age of 84, making her birth year 1858, not 1856.</p> <p>Discussion of state seal debated at length during the state constitutional convention in 1889. That body reached the conclusion of how to address the seal as part of the constitution, Article 4, Section 12, "There shall be a seal of this state which shall be kept by the secretary of state and used by him officially and shall be called "The Great Seal of the State of Idaho." The seal of the territory of Idaho as now used shall be the seal of the state until otherwise provided by law. The territorial seal had been designed by Caleb Lyon after Silas Cochran's seal had been thrown out. The first state legislature convened in December 1890 and appointed a committee of house and senate representatives to recommend a design for the state seal. Joint Committee sponsored a contest, and Miss. Emma Edwards submitted a drawing and won the prize offered. Newspaper research indicates she received \$50 as payment for her design on May 19th, 1891. This would have been four days after the design officially went into effect on May 14th, 1891. Her design official placed men and women on equal footing and equal stature. It is believed to be the only state seal designed by a woman.</p>	Boise/Brun eau	Artist, Suffragist

<b>Gretchen Fraser</b>	1919-1994	<p>Born in Tacoma, Washington to German and Norweigan immigrants, she became a skier at 13. After earning a spot on the 1940 U.S. Olympic Ski Team, the organizing committee canceled the Games because of World War II. She redirected her energy to helping injured veterans at Sun Valley Resort—beginning a career dedicated to helping people with physical disabilities learn to ski. In 1948, despite being considered old for the sport and not competing for four seasons, Gretchen once again earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Ski Team. Surprisingly, she won silver in the combined slalom. The very next day, eight years after making her first Olympic Team, 28-year-old Gretchen Fraser became the first American to win gold in skiing. People recognized Gretchen for her braids. After winning gold, she returned to Sun Valley, and received an escort by two Labradors wearing pigtailed wigs.</p>	Sun Valley	Olympian
<b>Harry Magnuson</b>	1923-2009	<p>Magnuson grew up in Wallace, the son of a butcher and a mother who dropped out of school in the 8th grade to support her family. He returned to his hometown after serving in the Navy during World War II and completing business degrees at the University of Idaho and Harvard. He set up an accounting office and began purchasing mining stock. He often took stock rather than cash in exchange for his accounting services, and eventually wound up with a majority interest in key mining companies. His investments grew to include banks, hotels and shopping malls. He had vast land holdings in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. As his wealth grew, Magnuson became known for his philanthropy, particularly his devotion to historic preservation. He spearheaded efforts to preserve the rapidly deteriorating Old Mission at Cataldo—Idaho’s oldest standing building. He led efforts to prevent Interstate 90 from destroying his hometown of Wallace, where the community’s main street now bears his name. He helped Gonzaga University survive a financial crisis by guaranteeing loans. He served as the chair of Idaho’s statehood Centennial Commission.</p>	Wallace	Entrepreneur
<b>Idaho Purce</b>	1926-	<p>Born in Pocatello, Idaho in 1926, Idaho Purce grew up to become a leader in Idaho's civil rights work. She became involved in the Pocatello Civil Rights Committee in 1957. Professors at Idaho State University and the local chapter of the NAACP started the organization. She was later appointed to the first Idaho Human Rights Commission in 1969. The Salvation Army named her Humanitarian of the Year in 1977. As a child in the 1930s, she often experienced racial discrimination. As an adult, she fought inequity through grassroots efforts. Idaho Purce has been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for decades. She said of the organization, "We need to ensure that people who feel as though they don't have a voice have someone to go to for help."</p>	Pocatello	Civil Rights

<b>J.R. Simplot</b>	1909-2008	<p>Simplot moved to Idaho with his parents in 1910 as a one-year-old. He dropped out of Declo's school after eighth grade. With a few dollars from his mother, he bought pigs, fattened them on cull potatoes, and used the profits to purchase farm equipment, lease land, and raise potatoes. Soon, he planted onions. By the 1940s, Simplot was America's largest shipper of fresh potatoes. In 1941, he opened an onion dehydrating plant in Caldwell, just in time to contract with the U.S. Army to provide onions to troops during World War II. Later he landed a similar contract for dehydrated potatoes. By the war's end, Simplot operated the world's largest potato dehydrating plant. To ensure larger crops, he produced his own fertilizer, eventually owning one of the country's largest fertilizer manufacturing plants. He fed potato scraps to ever-growing herds of cattle and pigs. When the market for dehydrated potatoes crashed after the war, his company developed the world's first commercially viable frozen French fries. By the time Jack Simplot died at age 99 in 2008, he also controlled the largest number of shares in Micron Technology, one of the world's largest producers of computer chips. He owned ski resorts, cattle ranches, feedlots, urban real estate, and one of the country's largest privately held agribusinesses.</p>	Southern Idaho	Entrepreneur
<b>Jesse Berain</b>	1928-	<p>Born in San Antonio, Texas. He arrived in Idaho in 1954 as a migrant work. He served in the Korean War and His numerous occupations ranged from labor camp grocery store owner to Union Pacific brakeman to radio host. In the 1960s, he became a radio host for the then, underserved Latino community. Only a few Spanish-language radio programs connected the Latino community across sprawling southern Idaho. With no radio experience, Jesse recruited local businesses to be sponsors. He then pitched the idea to the area's largest radio station who quickly picked up the program. He later became an Idaho legislator, one of the first Latinos to hold that office. He and his wife founded a group called Hispanic Seniors, and he headed Idaho's Office on Aging. He also served as the first director of the Idaho Human Rights Commission. He received President H.W. Bush's "Point of Light" award for his volunteer work.</p>	Boise/Twin Falls	Veteran, Civil Rights Advocate, Politician
<b>Joe Albertson</b>	1906-1993	<p>Albertson began his career in the grocery industry in 1927 as a clerk at a Safeway store. By 1939, he was a Safeway district manager, and that year he opened the first Albertsons store in Boise. By 1969, Albertsons had become the nation's largest supermarket chain. In the 1970s, Albertsons pioneered the concept of supercenters, selling drugs and groceries under one roof. Joe stepped down as chairman of the board in 1976, but his business continued to grow. Albertson was also one of Idaho's leading philanthropists. In 1966, Joe and Kathryn Albertson established the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation.</p>	Boise	Entrepreneur

<b>Joseph Garry</b>	1910-1976	<p>In 1953, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to “free” Indian tribes by cutting off all federal supervision, aid, and protection. The proposed action was called “termination.” The National Congress of American Indians had just elected Coeur d’Alene tribal member Joseph Garry as president. Garry organized tribes throughout the country to fight the legislation that would have denied tribes their treaty rights of federal protection and various benefits. Tribes rallied in Washington, D.C. in what was called “the biggest demonstration by American Indians ever” in the nation’s capital, and ratified a Declaration of Indian Rights. Garry’s call to Washington began a multi-year struggle to defeat termination. The robust tribal governments of the 21st century are testimony to his ultimate success. Joe Garry also set political firsts in Idaho. He became the first Indian elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 1957 and 10 years later became the first Indian elected to the Idaho Senate. He served on the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Council for a quarter of a century, half of those as chairman.</p>	Coeur d’Alene	Tribal Rights
<b>Marilyn Shuler</b>	1939-2017	<p>Marilyn Shuler led the Idaho Human Rights Commission, including the era in which the Aryan Nations group was active in the state. Shuler was involved with the Boise School Board, the City Club of Boise, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State University. She also served on the board for Boise State's College of Public Affairs and the Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy. She held degrees from the University of Utah and Boise State University and received honorary doctorates from Boise State University and the University of Idaho. She co-founded the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. Distinguished member of the Junior League of Boise. That organization created an annual award in her honor - the Marilyn Shuler Lifetime Achievement Award.</p>	Boise/North Idaho	Human Rights
<b>Mary Thomas Brooks</b>	1907-2002	<p>Born in 1907 in Colby, Kansas, she grew up as the daughter of U.S. Senator for Idaho, John W. Thomas. In March 1969, Richard Nixon appointed her the 28th Director of the United States Bureau of the Mint. She was the third women to hold this post. In addition to overseeing the production of coinage for the U.S. economy, she also directed production medals for armed service, manufacture and sale of public medals of historic interest, and special coin sets; she also safeguarded the government's foreign monetary affairs. Between 1971-1972 she served on the President's Commission on School Finance, and was on the Coins and Advisory Panel for the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Before this appointment, she served in the Idaho State Senate (Blaine County, R). She served as Chairman of the Republican Caucus, and was on the State Affairs Committee, Agriculture Committee, Fish, Game, and Recreation Committee, and the Transportation and Defense Committee. She also managed and developed the Flat Top Livestock Company in Muldoon. She was voted as Idaho's Woman of the Year, elected to the University of Idaho's Hall of Fame, and the U.S. Treasury's Highest Honor, the Alexander Hamilton Award, which she received on January 11, 1977.</p>	Blaine County	Appointed Federal Official



<b>Robert Limbert</b>	1885-1933	<p>Born in 1885 in Minnesota, and raised in Nebraska by his adoptive family. He moved to Idaho in 1911 to start a taxidermy business after serving two years as a field naturalist for the Smithsonian Institute. He is most remembered for his work in designing Idaho's medal award-winning exhibition for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and for his work in writing about and promoting Idaho scenic and wild places. Magazines including Outdoor America, Outdoor Life, and National Geographic Magazine published his articles about Idaho in the 1920s. In 1921, after several preliminary visits, he led an exploring party into the vast lava fields of south-central Idaho; the resulting article in the National Geographic brought this little-known area to the attention of the nation and led to its designation as the Craters of the Moon National Monument by President Calvin Coolidge.</p> <p>He led explorations through the Snake River and Bruneau River regions and the Sawtooth Mountains. He identified petroglyphs, and named mountains and lakes. He also participated in national lecture tours promoting the vacation potential of Idaho. During the late 1920s he obtained from the U.S. Forest Service a concession to operate a "dude ranch" at Stanley, Idaho. He then established Redfish Lake Lodge, which is still a popular Idaho resort. Limbert died of a brain hemorrhage in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1933, returning from a speaking tour in the East.</p>	Bruneau	Explorer, Naturalist, Writer
<b>Sally Reed</b>	1909-2002	<p>Sally Reed brought the case of Reed v. Reed to the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging an Idaho state law showing preference for men over women in the matter of a child's estate. For the first time since the Fourteenth Amendment had gone into effect in 1868, the Court struck down a state law on the ground that it discriminated against women in violation of the Equal Protection Clause. The US Supreme Court held that the Idaho statute violated the Equal Protection Clause. "To give a mandatory preference to members of either sex over the other, merely to accomplish the elimination of hearings on the merits...is to make the very kind of arbitrary legislative choice forbidden by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." Though she never sought the spotlight and didn't realize the widespread significance of what she was doing, Sally's basic instincts for right and wrong moved her to challenge this discriminatory law all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court -- with the help of "Attorneys Robert McLaughlin in the probate court and Allen Derr in all courts thereafter, together with briefing by now U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, then a Rutgers University Law Professor and American Civil Liberties Union volunteer.</p>	Boise	Women's Rights Advocate

<b>Vernon Baker</b>	1919-2010	<p>Baker was an Army infantry platoon leader during World War II and a paratrooper during the Korean War. In 1997, President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to Baker and six other Black Americans who served in World War II. They were the first and only Black Americans to receive the Medal for service in that war. Baker, who received his Medal for actions in April 1945 in Italy, was the only one of the seven recipients still living at the time. In 1986, Baker moved to northern Idaho, where he died in 2010.</p>	St. Maries	Medal of Honor
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