



CoUNTY OF LEHIGH
Office of the Commissioners

Amy Zanelli
Commissioner

July 30, 2020

(VIA EMAIL: jeffrey_small@ios.doi.gov)

David L Bernhardt,
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

Thank you for your letter dated July 23, 2020. President Trump's Executive Order on Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes, issued July 3, 2020, is a welcome development in the preservation of our American history.

In response to your inquiries:

1. Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, is a growing and thriving area. As such, we do not have any locations that would be suitable for these monuments, statues, or the National Garden of American Heroes.
2. One of the most recognized monuments in our county is the Martin Luther & Coretta Scott King Memorial. I would consider this to be the pride and joy of many of our citizens. This monument is not available for donation or loan; however, I do hope that you are able to acquire a monument similar to this as Dr. Martin Luther King and the King family have been an integral part of our history.
3. You ask if, in addition to the 31 individuals listed in the Executive Order, there are any other American heroes who should be recognized in the National Garden of American Heroes. The answer is yes. Each individual that is listed in that Executive Order has undoubtedly been a key figure in American history but there are others. I had previously mentioned Dr. Martin Luther King as a historical figure shaping our history. Most recently, we can acknowledge that George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Treyvon Martin and others, have shaped the future of America by finally bringing the systemic racial injustices present in our policing to the forefront of politics. We are making great advancements, and it would be prudent to remember them as historically significant Americans.

History is the foundation of all civilizations. One cannot simply erase the history of a society without leaving cracks in that foundation. It is through the preservation of our history that we as Americans strengthen our foundation so that we may learn and grow as a country.

In Solidarity,

Amy Zanelli, Commissioner
Lehigh County Board of Commissioners

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