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Board of Supervisors
Representing the Fifth District

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August 27, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

I write in response to your letter received July 23, 2020, requesting feedback and recommendations for the National Garden of American Heroes. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my suggestions.

Currently under construction in French Camp is the VA Palo Alto Health Care System Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), which will serve San Joaquin/Central Valley veterans. This facility's campus is an excellent location for a National Garden of American Heroes. This campus is centrally located, and by its very nature, is focused on serving our nation's heroes. Locating a National Garden of American Heroes here will not only serve as a temporary diversion from health matters for veterans and their families, it will also provide an enjoyable educational opportunity for the general public and will serve to ensure that our veterans' service is not forgotten.

National historical figures and icons would certainly be welcome here; however, I would encourage you to consider commissioning and installing monuments/memorials dedicated to local veterans. San Joaquin County and the San Joaquin/Central Valley are home to many highly decorated veterans, to include Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. I am sure that our many service organization posts would be honored to assist you in this effort, as would I.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of any further assistance. I can be reached at (209) 468-3113 or by e-mail at belliott@sjgov.org.

Sincerely,

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Robert V. Elliott
Supervisor, Fifth District
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

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