

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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## STATE OF ALABAMA

July 31, 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:

As Governor, I wanted to respond to your July 21, 2020 letter requesting feedback and recommendations for the National Garden of American Heroes. Let me begin by saying how thoughtful it was that you reached out to the governors to get their feedback. This garden will stand as a symbol of our country's history by highlighting key figures of our nation's past and it would be a true honor to have either the location of the National Garden of American Heroes right here in Alabama or have representation from our great state.

Alabama is well known as "Alabama the Beautiful" and our welcome signs proudly display the message to entering visitors. From towering mountain ranges to pristine beaches, natural wonders abound here in Alabama. The federal government owns about 2.7 % or about 867,360 acres of Alabama, we believe that there are several key locations that would meet the executive orders criteria. If Alabama was considered to be the home location for this garden, I would like to connect you with our Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to discuss potential sites.

Also, I would recommend working with our Department of Archives and History for potential statues or monuments that we could donate to the National Garden of American Heroes. Lastly, there are multiple American heroes that I would suggest being recognized in the garden on behalf of our great state. I would recommend Congressman John R. Lewis, Rosa Parks and Harper Lee.

Please feel free to contact my office with any further questions you may have. We would give a warm "Alabama" welcome if the National Garden of American Heroes site was chosen to be in our great state! There are many true patriots of our nation from here in Alabama that I know will represent our nation and state well at the garden.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Ivey  
Governor