



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

July 31, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

Thank you for your letter regarding President Donald J. Trump's recent Executive Order on Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes. I appreciate the Department of Interior's efforts to preserve the legacy of our Nation's heroes, and I am writing to you to provide answers to your three questions.

In regard to a location for these monuments, Arkansas has no shortage of natural beauty, and our state would be honored to be considered as a potential location for the National Garden of American Heroes. The federal government administers a significant amount of land in Arkansas, and several potential candidates for a location present themselves, such as the Fort Smith National Historic Site, Hot Springs National Park, and the Ouachita National Forest, which are all easily accessible to metropolitan areas.

Arkansas has many heroes who have contributed to our nation both in terms of military service and political service. General Douglas MacArthur is on the list already, and we could suggest others, such as our civil rights leaders from Daisy Gatson Bates to the Little Rock Nine. In the arena of music, we are proud of musicians from Johnny Cash to Levon Helm. In addition, several business leaders and politicians would be excellent candidates for inclusion in the National Garden. Prior to nominating any specific Arkansans, I would need to consult with the Arkansas General Assembly and other stakeholders to choose appropriate candidates.

As the Task Force formalizes their report, I look forward to working with you on this important project, and I appreciate your leadership in this matter.

Thank you, again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson