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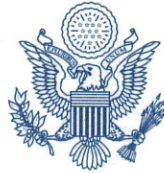
MEMBER,

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 -2501

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing to express my sincerest congratulations to you, Rep. Bennie Thompson, President Hogan, Tougaloo College and the extended family and friends of Medgar and Myrlie Evers. When I crafted the African American Civil Rights Network legislation, today's fitting tribute is exactly what I envisioned. Thank you, Mr. Secretary for bringing my vision to life.

The African American Civil Rights Network recognizes, preserves, protects and shares the remarkable American story of the modern struggle for civil rights. This unique national experience touches every American, regardless of age, ethnicity or heritage. Medgar and Myrlie Evers are truly American heroes deserving of recognition for their tremendous courage and personal sacrifice in the effort to make the United States a more perfect union.

This historic site creates tremendous educational opportunities, under the tutelage of Tougaloo College and President Beverly Wade Hogan, by recognizing the brave souls who fought to make the promises enshrined in our constitution finally ring true.

In too many places across this country, precious historic waypoints along the routes of that still largely untold story are at risk of being lost forever. My hope is that the historic civil rights network and the programs that will grow from the continuous implementation of this law will honestly tell the full and oftentimes painful story of the struggle for civil rights, not just for African Americans, but to foster healing, tolerance and understanding among all Americans.

I am extremely grateful to Secretary Zinke for his leadership, support, and development of the Civil Rights Network across the nation through the U. S. Park Service. To all attendees today, please enjoy this historic day and continue to tell the full story of our American history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wm. Lacy Clay".

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress