

July 31, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey Small
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Intergovernmental Affairs/External Affairs/Communications
1849 C Street NW, Office 6217
Washington, DC 20240

Via Email: jeffrey_small@ios.doi.gov

Dear Mr. Small:

Douglas County appreciates the opportunity to provide a recommendation to the Task Force for Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes (Task Force).

The Douglas County Commissioners recommend the Task Force add Kendrick Castillo to the list of historically significant Americans. Kendrick Castillo sacrificed his young life so that his classmates would live. On May 7, 2019 at the STEM School in Highlands Ranch Colorado, two gunmen entered the school with the intent to harm as many classmates as possible. Within one classroom, a hero was tragically born and lost. According to a classmate “Kendrick lunged at [the suspect], and he shot Kendrick, giving all of us enough time to get underneath our desks, to get ourselves safe, and to run across the room to escape.”¹


Our community continues to grieve the loss of Kendrick’s promising life and we are determined to honor his memory and sacrifice. We believe that the ultimate sacrifice by Kendrick Castillo, that saved the lives of many of his classmates, deserves the recognition and the honor of being included in the Task Force’s discussions. Our recommended location for honoring Kendrick’s life within Colorado is Rocky Mountain National Park as there are no viable locations within Douglas County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this recommendation.

BOARD OF DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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¹ <https://kdvr.com/news/local/remembering-kendrick-castillo-one-year-after-the-stem-school-highlands-ranch-shooting/>