

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2007

Mary A. Bomar, Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Bomar,

It is with great concern that we write to you in regards to the removal of language on an educational display that identifies the engraving "Laus Deo" atop the Washington Monument and its English translation, "Praise be to God". We are equally concerned with reports that the replica of the top of the Washington Monument has been placed so that the "Laus Deo" engraving faces the wall and is hidden from the view of visitors.

The stated mission of the National Park Service is to "preserve *unimpaired* the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations" [emphasis added]. Furthermore, NPS lists "Heritage Education" or "educating park visitors and the general public about their history and common heritage" as a guiding principle of the institution.

We believe that the removal of this educational reference and the obstruction of the "Laus Deo" engraving on the replica violate the stated mission and a key guiding principle of the National Park Service. Furthermore, this inaccurate and incomplete display prevents visitors to this national landmark from gaining a factual understanding of the religious and spiritual heritage that has served as the foundation of the United States since its inception and throughout its history.

We urge you to replace the current signage at the Washington Monument with signage that properly identifies this important engraving overlooking our nation's Capitol. We also call upon you to enact swift measures to ensure that such an incident of historical omission does not occur again in the future at this location or any other site under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. We look forward to hearing what actions you will be taking on this matter.

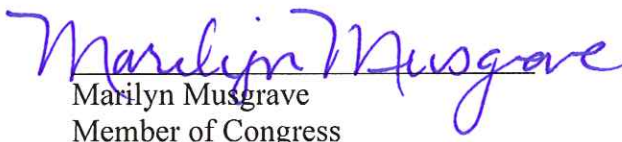
Respectfully,



J. Randy Forbes  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Congressional Prayer Caucus



Joe Pitts  
Member of Congress  
Chairman, Values Action Team



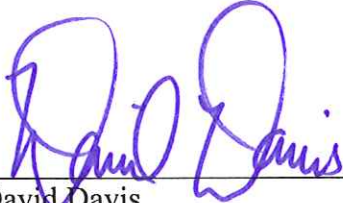
Marilyn Musgrave  
Member of Congress



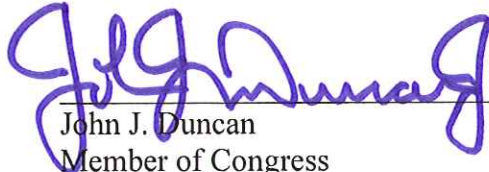
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

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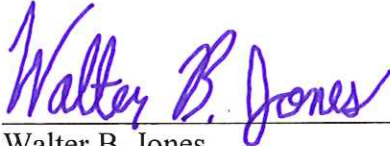
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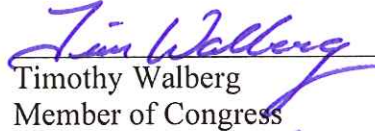
David Davis  
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Timothy Walberg  
Member of Congress

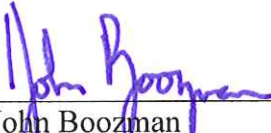


Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Michelle Bachmann  
Member of Congress

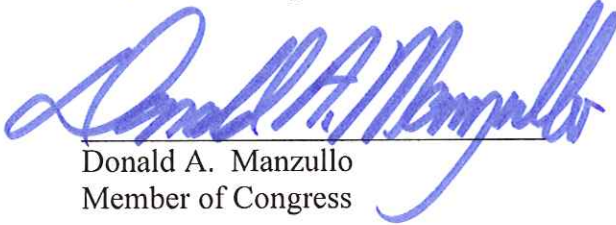
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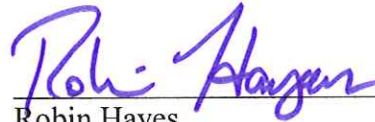
John Boozman  
Member of Congress



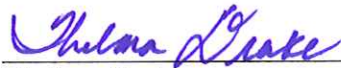
Bill Sali  
Member of Congress



Donald A. Manzullo  
Member of Congress



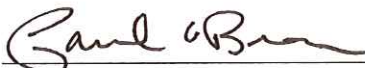
Robin Hayes  
Member of Congress



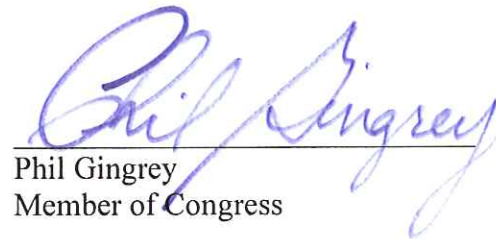
Thelma Drake  
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Paul C. Broun  
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey  
Member of Congress