



Fayette County Courthouse

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August 28, 2020

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

Submitted via email to: jeffrey_small@ios.doi.gov

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

On behalf of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, we respectfully submit our response to your recent request for information regarding President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order (EO) on Building and Rebuilding Monuments to the American Heroes and the Task Force for the National Garden of American Heroes, which he appointed you to lead.

1. Are there locations of natural beauty within your unit of local government that would serve as a reputable location for these monuments, statues, and the National Garden of American Heroes?

There is an incredible property of natural beauty within Fayette County that would serve as a reputable location for monuments, statues, and the National Garden of the American Heroes. Friendship Hill, National Historic Site is 675 acres of/and, located on the east bank of the Monongahela River between New Geneva and Point Marion in rural southwestern Pennsylvania. Friendship Hill was the home of fearly American politician and statesman Albert Gallatin (1761-1849). GaLlatin was a US. Congressman, the longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury under two presidents, and ambassador to France and Great Britain. This spectacular site is situated in Fayette County, Pennsylvania which attracts over two million visitors each year. This makes it the per.feel location for the National Garden of Heroes.

2. Are there any statues or monuments your locality can donate or loan to this effort that will honor our nation's heroes?

Fayette County, Pennsylvania is rich in history and has a significant number of statues which include Albert Gallatin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, George C. Marshall and General Edward Braddock. In name a few. //chosen as the National Garden of Heroes site, Fayette County would work with the Task Force to accomplish their goals for the monuments and statues.

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3. In addition to the 31 individuals listed in the EO, are there any other American Heroes who should be recognized in the National Garden of American Heroes?

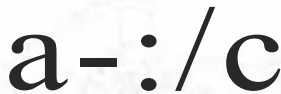
General George C. Marshall - (1880-1959) was one of the most decorated military leaders in American history. He was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania in Fayette County. Marshall was an American soldier and statesman who rose through the United States Army to become Chief of Staff under presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, then served as Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense under Truman. Marshall was responsible for exponentially increasing the size of the US Army, and he helped devise Operation Overlord in 1944. His economic recovery program for Europe became known as the Marshall Plan, and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

Marquis de Lafayette - (1757-1834) was a French aristocrat and military officer who fought in the American Revolutionary War, commanding American troops in several battles, including the Siege of Yorktown. He helped the colonists against the British. He volunteered his time and money to help the Americans. He quickly became part of Washington's military family and over the years, their relationship grew to that of a father and his adoptive son. He was able to help the Americans win the war and was treated as a hero. Fayette County Pennsylvania was named for this hero.

Albert Gallatin - (1761-1849) was a Swiss-American politician who served as a United States senator, member of the House of Representatives, secretary of the Treasury, minister to France, and ambassador to the United Kingdom. As mentioned above, Albert Gallatin made his home at Friendship Hill in Fayette County.

Fayette County would be honored to be included in your consideration of a location for the Hero Garden. Please contact us with any questions at 724-430-1231.

Sincerely,



David Lohr
Chairman



Vincent A. Vicites
First Vice-Chairman



Scott Dunn
Second-Vice Chairman