



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear President Trump,

Five years ago, in an Independence Day speech at Mount Rushmore in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, you announced a "National Garden of American Heroes" to honor the greatest men and women who helped make America exceptional. I would like to offer those same Black Hills as the perfect location for this garden. In fact, we have a plot of land available in sight of Mount Rushmore that would be ideal for this fantastic effort.

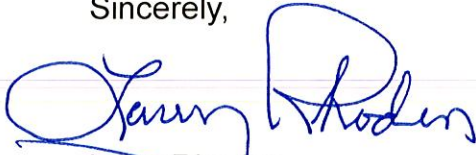
We are preparing to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with a tremendous fireworks celebration at Mount Rushmore, and we have invited you to that celebration. This is the same event where you initially announced the National Garden of American Heroes in 2020, so this occasion would mark the perfect opportunity to highlight the nearby land as the future location of this Garden.

Former Governor Kristi Noem, who now serves as your Secretary of Homeland Security, first offered the Black Hills as the perfect site for this Garden in 2020. Although we were not able to get the project accomplished in your previous term, I am confident that we can work together to make it happen in the next four years.

Chuck Lien and his family have a tract of land a short distance from Mount Rushmore with a beautiful view of the memorial. They are "willing to donate the land for the park to make the project a reality." The attached enclosure includes conceptual designs, the original offer from Former Governor Noem, and documentation of the willingness of the family to facilitate the project and donate the land.

The Black Hills mark the perfect location to achieve your vision for the National Garden of American Heroes. I look forward to working with you, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, and Task Force 250 to make this project happen. Together, we will make this project happen in a way that honors America's heroes, takes advantage of South Dakota's natural beauty, and incorporates the most iconic monument to our greatest leaders: Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Sincerely,



Larry Rhoden  
Governor of South Dakota

Cc: Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum  
Senate Majority Leader John Thune  
Senator Mike Rounds  
Congressman Dusty Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem