



Commissioned Officers Association

of the U.S. Public Health Service

October 11, 2019

The Hon. Jamie Raskin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Raskin:

When we spoke back in June at your Sunday afternoon fundraiser in Kensington, you said you would help us with the Smithsonian and its Native American Veterans Memorial that omits veterans who earned that status through service in the USPHS and NOAA.

Since we met, I have been in touch many times with Andre Miller of your staff. He tells me that he has kept you apprised of what the Smithsonian is doing, but we have seen nothing indicating that you have reached out to the Smithsonian on this issue. Perhaps you have, and perhaps Andre has not shared your efforts with us. But, the Smithsonian has now had its furtive groundbreaking, and it proceeds apace to build a Native American Veterans Memorial that will not include either the USPHS or NOAA veterans.

We have written to the current Secretary three times, and he has not given us a response. We have written to the Smithsonian Regents—all of them—and they have not responded.

Meanwhile, the Smithsonian continues to build the memorial, though its design could be changed with no problem. Your district has more USPHS officers resident in it than any other in the House. NOAA headquarters and USPHS headquarters are in your district. These are your constituents who are being dishonored. We count on you to step in and tell the Smithsonian to correct the design of the memorial.

Respectfully,

Col. James T. Currie, USA (ret.)
Executive Director