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The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

Earlier this month, I visited the World War II Memorial and was disappointed to find that it was fenced off. While I was pleased to see that the memorial was being opened for Honor Flight veterans, I was upset when I saw individual veterans being barred from entering. I was caught up in the emotion of that moment; seeing our veterans denied access to the memorial built in their honor, and I expressed my frustration to a Park Ranger working at the memorial. I meant no disrespect to the Ranger on duty, but my tone was inappropriate. I regret how I handled that situation, and I would like to offer you my apologies.

While I do feel strongly about allowing our veterans access to the national memorials, I'm sorry for the way I spoke, not only because I put the Ranger on duty in an uncomfortable position, but also because my remarks were not an accurate reflection of the regard I have for the Park Service.

As an avid outdoorsman, I enjoy spending time in nature. So I appreciate all that you do to help preserve and maintain our country's open spaces. Thanks to the National Park Service, generations of Americans can enjoy our country's greatest natural wonders. Places like Yellowstone, Shenandoah, and the Grand Canyon remind us that the grandeur of America lies not only with our people, but also in the land we live on.

Public service is a calling, and I have the highest respect for all who choose a career that serves this country. The work isn't easy, and while we all love our country, we may not always agree on the best path forward. Debate and dissent is crucial to our democracy, but it should be done in a respectful manner. While that was my intent, I realize that it wasn't the outcome.

I had hoped to apologize directly to the Ranger I spoke to that day, but I respect her wish to remain anonymous. I hope you will accept my apology in her stead.

With sincere regards,


Randy Neugebauer