

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2004

Mr. John Parsons, Chairman
National Capital Memorial Commission
c/o National Park Service, National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Rm. 220
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Mr. Parsons:

We are writing in support of locating a memorial to the victims of Communism at Maryland and Constitution Avenues, N.E., in Washington, DC.

The memorial, authorized by P.L. 103-199, would honor over 100 million victims of Communist atrocities around the world. With a death toll greater than that of all of the wars of the 20th century combined, Communism has cast a shadow of terror from Berlin to Beijing, from Hanoi to Havana. The struggle of men and women against Communism in these and other places must not be forgotten. As the world's leader in challenging Communist oppression, the United States cannot afford to forget the cost of Communism and the reason for our struggle against it.

The Victims of Communism Memorial will commemorate this struggle by paying tribute, in our Nation's capital, to those who have lost their lives to Communist tyranny. An enduring reminder of their sacrifice, the memorial will stand as a testimony to future generations of Americans, a solemn remembrance of the lives lost to Communist oppression and of the purpose of our Nation's fight against Communism and for the cause of freedom.

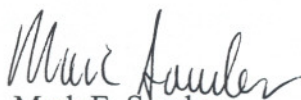
This story is not only an international story but also an American story. An estimated 26 million Americans trace their origins to former Communist countries.

The location at Maryland and Constitution Avenues, N.E., suggested to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation by the National Park Service, would be well suited to this important memorial. This site, which is part of the master plan for memorials in Washington, would provide adequate space for the memorial that has been designed, featuring a replica of the Goddess of Democracy statue created by pro-freedom activists in Tiananmen Square, as well as an eternal flame to the victims of Communism and bronze panels with quotes from heroes of the Cold War. Just a block from the U.S. Capitol and the forthcoming Visitors Center, this location is in sight of the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome—a fitting viewscape for a memorial commemorating a struggle for freedom. The site is also located across the street from the Washington

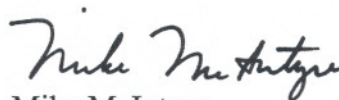
headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose members fought against Communism in Korea and Vietnam. Convenient to Union Station and near the National Mall, this location would offer easy access for the many visitors to our Nation's capital. With no other organizations seeking the site for a memorial, it seems appropriate to locate such a significant memorial as the Victims of Communism Memorial at this site.

We encourage you to approve the location at Maryland and Constitution Avenues, N.E., for the Victims of Communism Memorial. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Souder
Member of Congress



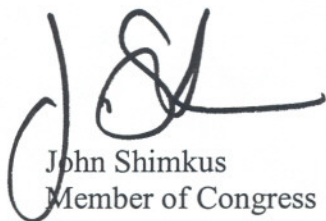
Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress



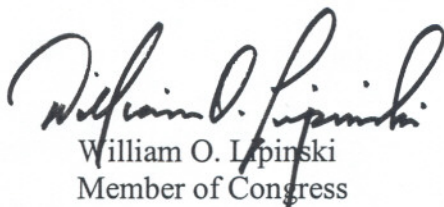
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress




John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



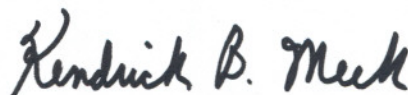
William O. Lipinski
Member of Congress



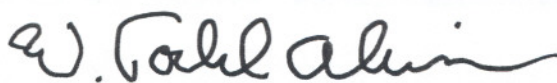
Christopher Cox
Member of Congress



John N. Hostettler
Member of Congress



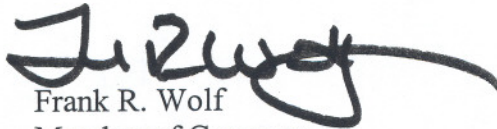
Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress



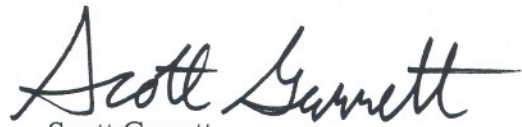
W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Rick Renzi
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Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



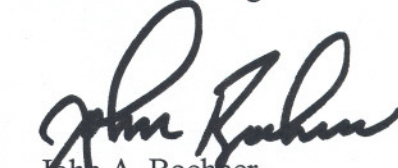
Steve King
Member of Congress



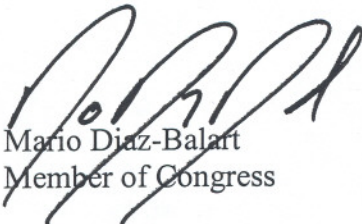
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress




Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress



John A. Boehner
Member of Congress



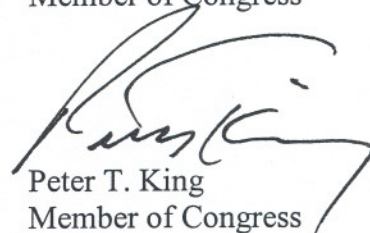
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



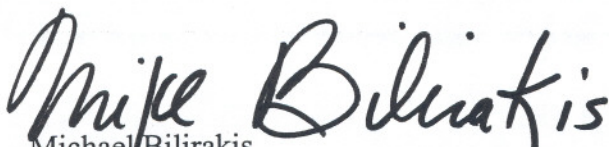
Mark Foley
Member of Congress



Mark R. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress