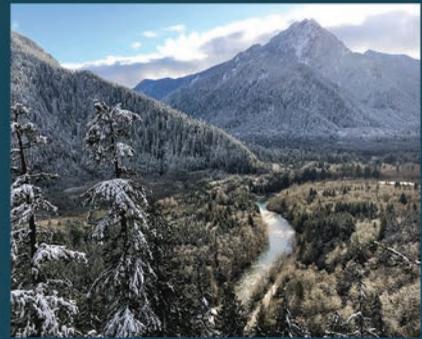


OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

CONNECTING THE
Heart & Soul
OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



Alliance
of National
Heritage
Areas

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 4

While National Heritage Areas generate jobs and tax revenues through economic development, they also impact communities at a deeper level. American history is comprised of soaring accomplishments alongside painful struggle. Together, they embody our national character.

In this edition, we focus on 12 communities throughout the nation where National Heritage Areas have helped work through those struggles — bringing diverse communities together for the common good.

Find out more at www.NationalHeritageAreas.us

Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY) and
Congressman David McKinley (R-WV)



NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT OF 2019

H.R. 1049

National Program legislation was re-introduced by Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Congressman David McKinley (R-WV) in early 2019. Through the monumental advocacy efforts of our members and partners such as National Parks Conservation Association, tremendous progress has been made. On April 30, 2019, the House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), held a hearing on HR 1049, at which Alliance Chair, Sara Capen, testified. The reception was very positive. Since then, the legislation has attracted strong bi-partisan support, with more than 190 House co-sponsors as of January 2020. The goal is to have a House Committee mark-up in early 2020.

WHAT DOES THE HR 1049 DO?

- Establishes a standardized set of criteria for new National Heritage Areas
- Establishes a rigorous process for existing NHAs to ensure accountability
- Modernizes the program to ensure long-term sustainability with an initial program authorization period of 20 years
- Replaces a haphazard system of funding caps with an annual authorization amount of \$700,000 for each and every National Heritage Area
- Clearly defines an oversight structure that will allow these popular public-private partnerships to better preserve the nation's heritage and spur economic growth with basic federal support
- Remains consistent with recommendations of both the Bush and Obama administrations



BI-PARTISAN SENATE COMPANION PROGRAM BILL

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) will be introducing a program bill for National Heritage Areas. They welcome co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. House and Senate staff are working together to align both pieces of legislation. Alliance members will be working with their respective Senators to encourage support for this bill.

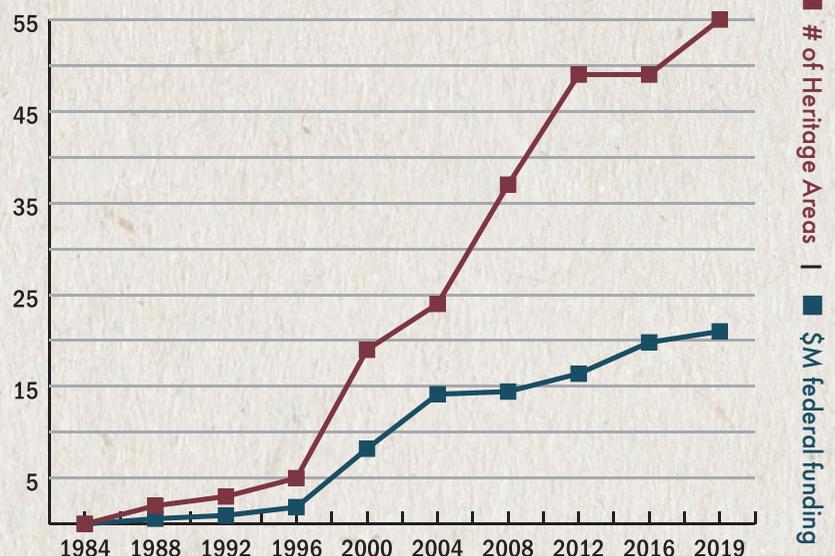


Federal Funding to Meet the Needs of a Growing Program

As demonstrated by this chart, federal funding for National Heritage Areas has lagged far behind the needs and popularity of the program. Despite the Administration's efforts to eliminate all funding for this program, Congress has, on a bi-partisan basis, steadfastly preserved the funding. In FY2020, Congress in fact increased funding to accommodate the six new National Heritage Areas. The

goal is now to increase funding to a level that will allow all NHAs to meet the management plans that the National Park Service originally approved. That would require an increase from \$20.9 million to \$32 million. It should be noted that this small program— which leverages every federal dollar with at least \$5 of local, state, and private funding— represents only 1/2 of 1 percent of the National Park Service budget.

Between 2004 and 2019, the number of National Heritage Areas increased by 129%, while federal funding increased by only 39%.



A Legacy for the Ages



The John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 combined over 100 individual bills into one Omnibus package that protects public lands through the designation of new Wilderness Areas and expansion of several National Parks. The Act also created six new National Heritage Areas (featured in this publication), and extended funding authorizations for two NHAs which were facing sunsets.

Passage of the bill was hailed as a rare bi-partisan victory, with overwhelming support in both the House and the Senate. The Act is named in honor of the late Congressman John Dingell of Michigan, a steadfast supporter of National Heritage Areas.

HERITAGE AREA NEWS

The 2020 fiscal year appropriations bill that passed through the House and Senate in December 2019 provides \$21,944,000 for the Heritage Partnership Program, including \$20,962,000 for Commissions and Grants, which provides stable funding sources for both the newly authorized and existing NHAs.

In addition, the appropriations bill reauthorized National Aviation and Oil Heritage Region, as well as extended the caps for Last Green Valley, Erie Canalway, and South Carolina. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work of these NHAs and their partners.

“National Heritage Areas are considered one of the Department of the Interior’s most cost effective initiatives, relying on a public-private partnership in which every federal dollar is matched with an average of \$5.50 in other public and private financing.”

—Congressmen Paul Tonko (D-NY) & David McKinley (R-WV)

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YOUNG SCIENTISTS *in the* FIELD

STUDENTS OF ALL AGES IN WEST VIRGINIA are learning to be stewards of the land thanks to a citizen science program spearheaded by the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (AFNHA). The AFNHA and their partners, across 18 counties in West Virginia and western Maryland, have come together to provide hands-on non-native invasive species education to encourage students to learn how their actions can help shape the future of conservation.

Throughout the spring of 2019, AFNHA AmeriCorps members and partner educators introduced 200 students, ages 3-18, to the concept of non-native invasive species and how they can help in their own backyards. The students engaged in four interactive, student interest-driven lessons which culminated in a field trip where they put their new knowledge of land management into practice to

remove over 1,725 pounds of non-native invasive plants.

2019 was the 8th year that AFNHA AmeriCorps members provided citizen science classes, which have now reached over 1,000 students in West Virginia. This program works with partners from the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, showing the power of partnerships and how a group of dedicated individuals can create a lifetime of change, not only for our natural resources but also in the lives of the students that they teach.

Citizen science is just one way that AFNHA is helping to create a legacy of conservation and community development through hands-on engagement with community members. We are excited to continue connecting our resources and communities throughout the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area.

BUILDING A
Strong
Foundation
FOR A NEW
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Located between Sacramento, San Francisco, and Stockton, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Carquinez Strait have served as an important region in the development of modern California. The region's location between the Pacific Ocean and inland California has made it an important water highway and strategic naval location throughout history, and its agricultural wealth has long attracted immigrants from around the globe.

In March 2019, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (SSJD-NHA) was designated as California's first National Heritage Area. The SSJDNHA seeks to protect and enhance the Delta and Strait's unique agricultural, cultural, natural resource, and recreational values within an evolving, living landscape.

Recognizing the importance of developing strong and diverse partnerships,



the Delta Protection Commission—the management entity for the SSJDNHA—has held an annual community conference to foster collaboration and share stories of the region's rich heritage. The Delta Heritage Forum took place at the historic Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove in June 2019. The free, all-day event featured panels and presentations about the Delta's history and culture—and ways to actively preserve and share it—including World War II history, agricultural heritage and storytelling through diverse media.

Among the 70+ attendees were representatives from community organizations, cultural institutions, and government agencies, as well as individuals drawn by personal interest in the region's nationally important resources. The Commission hopes the participants in the Forum will serve as a core group of partners in the future development of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA.

■ **SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**
West Sacramento, CA | Delta.CA.gov

Slavery, Resistance & Community

— THE 2018 SLAVE DWELLING CONFERENCE —

The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA) has expanded beyond conventional battlefield history to tell the “whole story” of the Civil War. To that end, we partnered with the Slave Dwelling Project (SDP), which delves into the stories of slavery, emancipation, and resistance that continued long after the fighting ended. Partnering with Joseph McGill and his SDP team, we presented the 5th Annual Slave Dwelling Conference, hosted at Middle Tennessee State University.

The SDP's mission is to identify and preserve extant slave dwellings. By combining the TCWNHA's initiatives to document and preserve Tennessee's diverse Civil War experiences with the SDP's vision, this multi-day conference became a national venue filled with speakers, discussions, and opportunities to connect.

Sessions blended scholarly research with grass-roots projects. Highlights included an art exhibit and a heart-stirring concert by the internationally renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers. We also brought in Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*. Free

and open to the public, Whitehead's keynote address captivated the audience, by turns hilarious, painfully honest, and thought-provoking.

Two full days of sessions culminated at Bradley Academy, an African American historic school and long-term TCWNHA partner, for an overnight experience that forms the foundation of the SDP. Wrapping up with tours at Clover Bottom (a historic home with slave dwellings that houses Tennessee's SHPO), Fort Negley (a Union fort in Nashville built primarily by contraband labor), and the Hermitage, attendees from across the nation experienced the diversity of the TCWNHA's and the SDP's mission firsthand.



■ **TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA** Murfreesboro, TN | TNCivilWar.org



TAKING THE HELM *in* MARITIME HISTORY

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is thrilled to serve as the local coordinating entity of the newly designated Maritime Washington National Heritage Area! Encompassing nearly 3,000 miles of saltwater coastline, the Maritime Washington NHA includes canoe cultures, lighthouses, fishing fleets, and trade routes. It includes the stories handed down over centuries by tribal elders, and stories of exploration and captains, fishing crews and longshoremen, and welders and shipwrights. The nonprofit Sound Experience, a MWNHA partner, shares these stories with more than a thousand teens and hundreds of others each year aboard the 133-foot gaff-rigged schooner *Adventuress*. Built in 1913 for an Arctic voyage, the ship is now one of only two National Historic



Landmark sailing vessels still in USCG-certified operation on the West Coast.

Teens who climb aboard on day and overnight programs raise the sails and take the helm. Programs explore the Salish Sea, present current issues affecting our oceans, and inspire curiosity about marine-science and maritime career opportunities.

Summertime aboard *Adventuress* includes week-long programs in the San Juan Islands bringing grandparents and grandkids together under sail, and teenagers embark on sea-going adventures to climb the rigging and become tall ship sailors. But Sound Experience's most popular program is *Girls at the Helm*. This multi-day voyage for 20 teenage girls can be life-changing, as all crew positions from captain to engineer to galley coordinator are held by women, many of whom bring experience from non-traditional careers in science and maritime fields and engage the girls in activities designed to inspire their own interests. More relevant than ever, *Adventuress* enters its 107th year of service making a difference in the lives of young people and encouraging stewardship of the marine environment.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF *Heritage Stewards* ON CANE RIVER

Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) in northwestern Louisiana is a largely rural, agricultural landscape known for its historic plantations, Creole architecture, and multicultural legacy. The stories of Cane River's people are brimming with the contrasts that comprise our nation's history: conquest and colonialism, militarism and peace, wealth and poverty, slavery and freedom. Here, the interaction of Native Americans, European settlers, and enslaved Africans led to the development of a distinctive Creole culture which cut across racial categories and drew from many traditions but remained grounded in French colonialism and Catholicism.

Today CRNHA works closely with communities, cultural organizations, and subject matter experts to document the stories and traditions of the region in an authentic, accurate, and inclusive manner and connect those stories with the next generation of heritage stewards. Together with their partners at the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, CRNHA has



created two seasonal programs that provide children and families with the opportunity to explore and learn about their national park and heritage area.

The annual Find Your Park Festival and the Cane River Fall Festival are free, day-long festivals that celebrate the cultural heritage of the Cane River community. Held at the Cane River Creole NHP, the festivals showcase traditional foodways, music, and folkways. Events include folk

art and living history demonstrations, musical performances, historic games, and demonstrations of traditional Creole blacksmithing and agriculture techniques. The thousands of families who attend these events, along with strong business support, are a reflection of the events' success.

■ **CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**
Natchitoches, LA | CaneRiverNHA.org

35 YEARS IN THE ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

From Chicago's breathtaking skyline—a scene unimaginable in the 1830s—to Lock 14 in LaSalle, IL, the nation's first National Heritage Area tells the story of life along this canal.

Those who hunted and paddled remain in name as statues and streets. Those who settled along the I&M Canal are buried peacefully along the canal's 96-mile corridor. Those who dreamed big and pushed boundaries are portrayed publicly in buildings, books, maps, or in company logos.

Consider Gurdon Hubbard, first arriving in Chicago in 1818 as a voyageur indentured to John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company for five years at \$120 per year. He once walked for 75 miles in a single night to warn the town of Danville of an impending raid. When questioned about the feat, he challenged a champion walker to a race. Hubbard's challenger lost by several miles, unable to move the next day. Hubbard seemed unaffected.

Travel 100 miles to the western end of the I&M Canal where Elsie Armstrong arrived from Ohio by wagon at Deer Park in 1831 with nine sons, leaving behind her drunken husband. Deer Park near Starved Rock, about half a mile south of the Illinois River, is wild landscape, where prairie meets deep walls of canyon. Today their story is told in steel silhouettes along the canal in Morris, Illinois, where the Armstrongs shaped a town and a canal.

Our Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area reflects the romance, beauty and progress of the area. We celebrate this legacy.

■ **ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**
LaSalle, IL | IandMCanal.org



CONNECTING KIDS & FAMILIES to the Susquehanna River and Its History

THE SUSQUEHANNA National Heritage Area was designated as Pennsylvania's 10th State Heritage Area in 2001 and America's 55th National Heritage Area in early 2019. SNHA works to enhance the quality and appeal of the Susquehanna River's special places and landscapes and increase the area's visibility and readiness as a visitor destination. SNHA's historic home at the Zimmerman Center for

Heritage in York County is Pennsylvania's official Visitor Contact & Passport Station for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. SNHA also manages Columbia Crossing River Trails Center in Lancaster County as the area's premier visitor gateway to river heritage and outdoor experiences. These riverfront visitor centers welcome 30,000+ travelers to the Susquehanna every year.

Land and water programs for kids and families play a key role in SNHA's mission to preserve, interpret, and promote the area's nationally important places and stories. River Discovery Boat Tours hosted 1100 passengers during the 2019 pilot season. Over 60

community education programs are offered yearly, along with workshops and lectures featuring river history and environmental stewardship. SNHA's annual school field trips engage over 1000 local children in river art and heritage exhibits, Native Peoples history hikes, environmental learning, and paddling. SNHA also collaborates with partners to save and enhance important historic sites and natural lands for public benefit.

Through these and other regional initiatives, SNHA is advancing a vision for the Susquehanna River and surrounding landscape of Lancaster and York Counties as a nationally recognized destination for cultural discovery and outdoor adventure.



**LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
CONDUCTS**

23rd Annual “Santa Train”

Lackawanna Heritage Valley celebrated Northeastern Pennsylvania’s proud industrial past in the coal mining and rail industries while fostering a brighter future through their 23rd annual ‘Christmas in a Small Town’ program.

This historical holiday program highlights the region’s ties to the railroad. On December 7, the Santa Train arrived at five local and historic train stations to greet hundreds of families before arriving at Steamtown National Historic Site’s turntable, in Scranton, PA, for a larger event that has become a time-honored family tradition.

The Santa Train is a unique Northeastern Pennsylvania Christmas celebration that brings Santa to each community along the historic D&H railroad line. The train also brings musicians, entertainers, and U.S. Marines to each station. This year, more than 2,500 locals came out to see Santa and to join in the holiday festivities in each



community, with more than 3,000 at the final stop at Steamtown National Historic Site.

Throughout each stop along the day-long voyage, children were encouraged to share in the gift of giving by bringing along an unwrapped, new toy as part of a collection for Toys for Tots. This element of the event aims to teach children the values of compassion and helping others.

Joseph Corcoran, Executive Director of Lackawanna Heritage Valley, commented: “The Santa Train has been rolling since 1996 and has become a local holiday tradition. It allows a piece of our region’s history to live on and be celebrated while encapsulating the magic of the holiday season.”

■ **LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY**
Scranton, PA | LHVA.org

Native Voices on the Northern Plains

On July 6, 2019, Northern Plains National Heritage Area (NPNHA) sponsored a Native Voices panel at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, at which General Custer’s reconstructed home is located.

To reflect on this difficult chapter in U.S. History, NPNHA coordinated with United Tribes Technical College to invite Native historians and traditional knowledge keepers to partake in public dialog. Gerard Baker, an enrolled member of the

Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation), was the panel moderator. Additional panelists included Dakota Goodhouse (Standing Rock Sioux Nation), Donovin Sprague (Cheyenne River Sioux Nation), Loren Yellow Bird, Sr. (MHA Nation), Tamara St. John (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate/Nation), and Calvin Grinnell (MHA Nation).

During the Native Voices panel, tribal participants shared their perspectives on Native history. Loren Yellow Bird, Sr., said, “We do have a culture that’s still vibrant and that people need to know about.” Yellow Bird, also a military veteran, served as a cultural advisor to the 2015 film *The Revenant*, a story about fur trader Hugh Glass.

Baker drove Yellow Bird’s point home. “When George Custer came through here and later on when he took his trip to Little Bighorn, that was difficult times. One thing we have to do as an audience... is we need to learn how to listen...to the stories on both sides.” He asked the audience to “Listen to that wind. Listen to that river. Listen to the voices of the past that were up here. If we do that, we’ll have a lot better future.”

■ **NORTHERN PLAINS NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA** Mandan, ND |
NorthernPlainsHeritage.org



Preserving 1.5 Million Acres

IN THE SEATTLE METRO CORRIDOR

The Mountains to Sound Greenway stretches 100 miles along the Interstate 90 corridor from the Seattle waterfront on Puget Sound, across the wild and rugged Cascade Mountains, to the hayfields and farmlands of Ellensburg in Central Washington. A major metropolis, alpine wilderness, small towns, working farms, forests, and Wild and Scenic Rivers all have their place within the Greenway's 1.5 million acres.

The Greenway is a story of an iconic landscape that has both shaped and been shaped by the people living here. Since time immemorial Native Americans have been sustained by the region's abundant natural resources and continue to steward them today. After Europeans arrived, land grants and railways transformed the landscape as coal and timber trades flourished. The automobile drove another transformation as rails eventually gave way to roads

through Snoqualmie Pass. And now, conservation has largely reassembled the land grant checkerboard. Rail lines and logging roads have been reclaimed as trail corridors and modern roadways are being re-engineered to support fish and wildlife crossings.

For 30 years, a broad coalition of public, private, and nonprofit partners have worked together to conserve and enhance the Greenway by preserving public land, building trails, restoring

habitat, and promoting collaboration and volunteer stewardship. The places that we have chosen to protect help tell the story of the Greenway, connecting the past, present and future. These efforts renew and celebrate the close relationships among people and nature in this region.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway remains a work in progress. National Heritage Area designation renews and invigorates the collaborative efforts that will continue to preserve, enhance and share the story of this place.



Adapting the Valley for Visitors

The Blackstone River Valley, known for biking, kayaking, and its rich history, has opened its borders to visitors previously unable to share in the adventures. Adaptive outdoor programs in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) forged successful partnerships with multiple state, civic, and private organizations. With the help of National Park Service and additional volunteers, these programs help create positive experiences for all.

Rail-trail sections that follow the Blackstone River offer superb recreational opportunities. Adaptive bicycling and kayaking programs in the Heritage Corridor, made possible through a partnership with All Out Adventures and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, have created access for many. Margaret Carroll, a tireless advocate for the Heritage Corridor, was able to enjoy the completed

section of trail, despite her frail health, as she rode on an adaptive tandem bike. For this Heritage Corridor visionary, it was a dream come true.

Adaptive Bicycling events welcome those with visual and cognitive impairments, the aged, and younger adults with paralysis. Participants set out, some with trepidation, and return with wide and infectious smiles.

The “playing field” has been leveled as participants of all abilities explore the riches of the Heritage Corridor. “Birding by Ear,” inspired by visually impaired volunteers; Adaptive kayaking programs that create access to the Blackstone River watershed; and Make Your Own Storybook “Easy Walks,” are but a few of the new programs. Working in consultation with disabled communities, BHC strives to include all who wish to participate at whatever level they are able.

■ **BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR** *Whitinsville, MA | BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org*



Heritage FOODS

The Santa Cruz Valley in southern Arizona is one of our nation’s longest continually cultivated regions, with an agricultural history extending back more than 4,000 years. To showcase this history and better connect the community with it, the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance launched a heritage foods program highlighting locally produced foods tied to the region’s history and cultural identity.

From hosting the region’s first heritage foods symposium and developing a Local & Heritage Foods Directory, to co-sponsoring farm and garden tours and developing a regional food brand, the heritage foods program created new regional partnerships and fostered broader community awareness of the National Heritage Area’s rich agricultural history.

The 2015 designation of Tucson as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy, the

first in the U.S., was a recognition of the phenomenal success of these heritage food programs. With this designation, Tucson joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network—an association of urban areas around the world recognized for their exemplary efforts in using cultural heritage and creativity for sustainable development. The designation increases awareness of the Santa Cruz Valley’s rich agricultural history, food traditions, and culinary distinctiveness. It also provides an international platform to share best practices for cultural and economic development based on the region’s food heritage and culinary assets.

The success and growth of the heritage foods program, and the resulting launch of a new community-driven initiative with the City of Gastronomy, demonstrates the power of the National Heritage Area framework to foster creative collaborations and new regional partnerships.

■ **SANTA CRUZ VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA** *Tucson, AZ | Santacruzheritage.org*

Alliance
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Heart & Soul

HERITAGE CHAMPION AWARD WINNERS

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas and all our members would not be where we are today without the steadfast support of dedicated legislators, partner organizations, and individual citizens who give voice to National Heritage Areas and the important work we do. We thank them for their longstanding support and honor them as our 2020 Heritage Champions.



Representative
Elijah Cummings

Congressman Elijah Cummings (1951-2019) was an icon of the Civil Rights Movement and for the rule of law. He was a steadfast supporter of Baltimore National Heritage Area and of the National Heritage Areas program and was instrumental to Baltimore's designation as an NHA. Congressman Cummings (MD-7) believed anything was possible. His humble, but mighty, character reflected his own beginnings as a share-cropper's son who rose to become a United States Representative. He was a true advocate for young people, seniors, and communities working together to make an impact and preserve our nation's heritage.



Representative
Nita Lowey

Serving as a Representative for New York since 1989, Congresswoman Nita Lowey has enthusiastically supported not only the Hudson River Valley NHA, which is in her district (NY-17), but all four of New York's NHAs. As Ranking Member and now Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Lowey has been in a unique position to help preserve funding for the National Heritage Areas program, benefiting all 55 Congressionally-designated NHAs. Her work reflects her passion for historic preservation and heritage tourism. She has championed our cause, and we thank her for her support.



Representative
Glenn "G.T." Thompson

Representing Pennsylvania's largest geographical district (PA-15), Congressman Glenn "G.T." Thompson has consistently advocated on behalf of Oil Region National Heritage Area and the National Heritage Areas program bill. In April 2019, Congressman Thompson testified strongly for the re-authorization of Oil Region and for national program legislation. A recent member of the House Natural Resources Committee, he defended the cost-effectiveness of the program and reinforced the value of all NHAs. This rural Congressman and Eagle Scout is active in legislative matters ranging from NHAs to agriculture to career and technical education.



National Park Service
Martha Raymond

For 42 years, including 25 with the National Park Service, Martha Raymond has made a difference in the world of historic preservation, cultural resources, and heritage tourism. As the National Coordinator for the Heritage Area Program since 2008, Ms. Raymond has championed National Heritage Areas and helped to raise the profile of NHAs within the NPS and its partners. While advancing the work of NHAs, she also served as co-chair of the National Park Service's Partnership Council and served on the Tourism Council as well. We thank her for her service and friendship and wish her well in her retirement.

To join the Congressional caucus on National Heritage Areas, please contact:

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