



Amache National Historic Site Act

Quotes of Support:

Tracy Coppola, Colorado Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association:

“As America’s storyteller, what the National Park Service chooses to preserve and the stories it chooses to tell reflects our values as a nation. The Amache story deserves to be told in its fullest form—before, during, and after the war, resonating to this day. The Amache National Historic Site Act brings the hope of preserving and protecting this story, while challenging us all to reflect, heal, and act toward a better future where justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are our nation’s top priority. Amid today’s, and yesterday’s, scourge of Anti-Asian Pacific Islander hate crimes, we need this more than ever. I call on Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act.”

John Hopper, Amache Preservation Society and Granada School District: “The Amache Preservation Society has always wanted to do what was best for the Japanese American families that had to endure Amache. It is for this reason that we feel that it needs to become a part of the National Park System. For the sake of our country and the future of our children, I urge Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act.” -

Derek Okubo, Amache descendant: “Preserving and protecting the Amache site is a key opportunity toward the critical goal of enhancing the goal to interpret and investigate our past by telling a more complete story of Colorado and our nation. In doing so, we will ensure that this stain on our nation’s history is never repeated. I call on Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act.”

Bob Fuchigami, Amache survivor: “I urge Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act. The time is not only right; it is long overdue.”

Mitch Homma, Amache descendant: “My great-grandparents were from samurai families, college educated, and started churches for the American Baptist in Japan and the U.S. Grandfather was a dentist with movie stars as patients. My family was educated, devoted to their Christian church leaders, and full of professionals serving their community. But none of that mattered—three generations of my family were detained behind barbed wire at Amache because they had Japanese faces and names. Amache is a story we cannot forget—with the Amache National Historic Site Act we have a chance to preserve, honor, and protect it—because it is very much a story that is alive today.”

Mike Honda, former Member of Congress and Amache survivor: “I hope that Congress will pass the Amache legislation to build on Congress’s bipartisan leadership to acknowledge that

what happened to Japanese Americans was wrong and to help us live as one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Argie Thrall, Jr. Mayor and Board of Trustees for the Town of Granada: “The Town of Granada is pleased to support the Amache National Historic Site Act to designate and promote the Amache Internment Camp to a national park. The preservation effort has been vital in honoring its survivors and descendants. The benefits of a national park site designation would have major effects at our local and county level, bringing more tourism to the area which can have a large economic benefit to rural America and increase access to funding for the restoration of the site.”

Calvin Taro Hada, President, The Japanese Association of Colorado, dba The Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado: “We strongly support the Amache National Historic Site Act. This legislation will preserve and memorialize a site that has the power to shed light upon a mistake we must remember, recall the service and sacrifice of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and celebrate the Constitutional vision of Colorado Governor Ralph Carr. All these things are worthy of doing and doing so will make us better American Citizens.”

Dr. Dylan Mori, Mile High Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) President: “Japanese American incarceration was part of the U.S. government's racist and xenophobic policies throughout history. By acknowledging this part of our past, we can continue the process of healing and reconciliation. The passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act will help to ensure that the history of Amache in Colorado is not forgotten.”

Adrian Miller, Executive Director, Colorado Council of Churches: “Preserving Colorado’s Amache incarceration site is an important step towards acknowledging the grave injustice perpetrated towards thousands of people, primarily Japanese Americans, during the World War II era. Too often, such travesties fade from our collective memory, leaving the possibility of terrible things happening again in the future . . . even though the context and the supporting rationale may differ. We must always remind people of what happened at Amache in order to protect everyone’s freedom in the future.”

Scott Levin, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League Mountain States Region: “Our generation and future generations have a moral responsibility to remember the shameful act of forcibly interning Japanese Americans and people of Japanese ancestry on American soil. The creation of a National Historic Site at Amache not only helps us remember, it provides an opportunity to confront our past to help dismantle the lingering xenophobia that allowed for internment and to nurture reconciliation and healing.”

Ann Burroughs, Chair of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium: “The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium is proud to support the Amache National Historic Site Act, which reaffirms the National Park Service’s commitment to preserving and interpreting sites that convey difficult chapters in our nation’s history. The Japanese American story illustrates the rich cultural heritage of the nation spanning generations, while the incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in violation of their civil liberties provides lessons today in learning from history and correcting our mistakes to prevent them from happening again. We look forward to building upon a legacy of government and community

partnerships in protecting Japanese American confinement sites with the designation of Amache National Historic Site.”

Janet Ito, President of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans: “Only in America, we are able to correct the mistakes of the historical past by learning from it, standing together and making a commitment not to repeat it again. The tragic story of wholesale internment of 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, without Constitutionally guaranteed due process, solely based on ethnicity, must be told. No doubt, one effective way to keep this history alive and to teach humanity and morality is to preserve all internment sites to help educate and instill the correct spirit of “doing what’s right” so unique to this country. Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, therefore, clearly and strongly supports the Amache National Historic Site Act to preserve the Amache site. It is timely and very much needed as America again suffers from ugly incidents of anti-Asian acts.”

Bonnie J. Clark, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, Curator for Archaeology, University of Denver (DU) & Director, DU Amache Project: “In more than thirty years as a working archaeologist, I have never encountered a site with such a devoted and connected community of stakeholders, from camp survivors and their descendants to local residents to students of all ages. I have spoken to audiences from coast to coast about what Amache can teach us about this critical national moment, and all are eager to better understand this history. Amache’s location on the High Plains connects the American Heartland to Asian American Pacific Islander history. Even more, Amache connects the citizens of this country, across race and ethnicity, through its legacy—a legacy of conflict and the efforts to forge ties despite it. I strongly support passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act to establish Amache as a unit of the National Park System.”

Steve W. Turner, Executive Director, History Colorado & State Historic Preservation Officer: “In the spirit of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion that we embrace, History Colorado strongly supports the Amache National Historic Site Act. Preserving and protecting the Amache site is a key opportunity to interpret and interrogate our past and tell a more complete story of Colorado and our nation.”

Phil Francis, Chair, Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks: “We applaud Representative Neguse and Representative Buck’s legislation to establish the Amache National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System. This is truly a site of national significance and a cultural resource that will contribute greatly to our National Park System. The unique features and interpretive themes found at the Amache site will help the National Park Service to more fully interpret America’s stories, including those of racial prejudice, the violations of civil liberties, and the failures of our democratic institutions during World War II. Building on this work is especially important today as our nation seeks to better understand prejudice and to advance racial healing. We strongly support the Amache National Historic Site Act and believe the site’s inclusion in our National Park System will help to provide the American public with more opportunities to better understand and appreciate one of the most difficult chapters in our nation’s diverse history.”

Tom Thomas, Ph.D., Sand Creek Massacre Foundation Board of Directors: “The history of Colorado mirrors the larger context of the United States to a remarkable degree, and the Amache site is a critical resource that offers an unsparing insight into the gulf that divides the nation’s

ideals from the implementation of public policies that shredded the promises guaranteed in the Constitution. Along with the nearby Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site, the site of Amache reminds us that the American experience has been and remains a work in progress. Passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act will be a compelling statement that the nation remains committed to coming to terms with its often-contradictory history.”

Dr. Michelle Magalong, president of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation: “We commend Congressman Neguse and Congressman Buck’s leadership in introducing this bill to establish the Amache National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System. This bill is a capstone of many years of dedicated efforts by descendants of the Japanese Americans incarcerated at Amache during World War II, community groups, preservation partners, governmental agencies, and other stakeholders. In addition to extensive strategic planning and community engagement by the National Park Service with these stakeholders, in the past decade there have been numerous educational and preservation projects spearheaded by community groups, universities, and preservation partners funded by the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grants that demonstrate the importance of honoring and preserving this place for future generations.”

Baca County Commissioners Glen R. Ausmus, Shiloh Freed, and Rick Butler: “Amache becoming a National Park will preserve this historic location for years to come and would enhance tourist development efforts in Southeast Colorado where economic development is needed. Your support in designating Amache as a National Park through the Amache National Historic Site Act is greatly appreciated.”

Karen Korematsu, Founder and Executive Director, The Fred T. Korematsu Institute: “My father, Fred Korematsu, was an American civil rights hero who bravely resisted the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and dedicated his life to protecting the civil liberties of all people. His story resonates today as a critical example of the lifelong impacts of losing one's fundamental rights and freedoms. Now, more than ever, the lessons of history need to be learned. I urge Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act.”

Stacey Shigaya, Program Director, Sakura Foundation: “As the daughter of Japanese Americans who were forced into concentration camps during WWII, my family has been witness to racism, injustice, and generational trauma. The passage of the Amache National Historic Site Act is critical to accurately defining the past and honoring those who were interned by sharing their experiences. The stories of Amache, Governor Ralph Carr, and many Amache internees who still reside in Colorado are important elements for the growth of our state, country, and generations to come.”

Dr William Wei, Professor of History, University of Colorado Boulder and Member, Re-envisioning Denver's Historic Chinatown Project: “Protecting Amache is needed more than ever as the American government has once again engaged in unconstitutional imprisonment and carried out prejudicial policies and practices based on race and national origin. I urge Congress to pass the Amache National Historic Site Act. Making Amache a national park site will be one of the best investments the country can make in its future.”

Jane Daniels, Director of Preservation Programs, Colorado Preservation, Inc.: “Colorado Preservation, Inc. wholeheartedly supports the Amache National Historic Site Act. Nationwide hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have highlighted the need for greater justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the larger historic preservation movement for which the National Park Service plays a key and leading role. Preserving and protecting Amache as part of the National Parks presents a vital opportunity to tell a more complete story of Colorado and our nation, and we urge Congress to pass this bill.”

Rick Wallner, President, Board of Directors, Canyons & Plains of Southeast Colorado Regional Heritage Taskforce: “Canyons & Plains supports the Amache National Historic Site Act. We believe the addition of Amache as a unit of the National Park System will be of great benefit to our region. In a struggling area, even pre-pandemic, having another attraction for visitors will only add to the potential for economic development and tourist dollars to help our local economies. But even more important than that, such a designation will ensure that a vital tale is told so that we may not forget both the transgressions and the will to overcome that define the story of America.”

Outdoor Asian Colorado Chapter: “Camp Amache is a living history, offering stories of survivors’ incredible resilience. Presently, our AAPI communities are experiencing acts of hate, physical assault, and even murder in the United States due to racist beliefs about the COVID-19 pandemic. We must not forget the story of Amache, and the horrific mental, social, emotional, and physical repercussions of systemic racism and hatred directed towards Japanese Americans. Children of the Amache internment are now in their 80s and 90s; we must ensure that their stories are preserved in American history. If given a National Park Service (NPS) designation, Camp Amache will be a transformative space to preserve their experiences and those of their families. With this opportunity, surviving communities can reclaim and transform a space with a horrendous history into one of education, healing, and sharing. We urge Congress to act now to preserve this vital piece of AAPI history. We thank Congressman Neguse for championing our history and stories, and urge Congress to grant Amache a much-deserved National Historic Site status.”

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