



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Interior Region 1 - National Capital Area  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 20, 2021

Catherine Baldau  
Executive Director  
Harpers Ferry Park Association  
P.O. Box 197  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Dear Director Baldau:

For almost a century, cooperating associations have been an integral part of the National Park Service. Providing significant educational and interpretive support through program enhancements and strategic aid to parks, associations across the country continue to strengthen the experience of visitors and improve our ability to connect to the meaning and value of these special places.

Since its founding in 1971, the Harpers Ferry Park Association has stood out as an extraordinary partner, helping to create unique, meaningful experiences for visitors to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Your early involvement with the production and facilitation of access to media through a close relationship with the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center for Media Services ensured that education didn't end when someone left the park. Access to video productions and an expanding collection of park-focused publications kept people across the country engaged and furthered their understanding of the history of this nation.

Your extensive direct and financial support of the living history program has created the signature immersive experience at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. In collaboration with the park, your tours provided by certified guides have increased educational opportunities and fostered a community of practitioners who share a passion for stewardship of national parks. The unique experiences in this place would not have been possible without your enduring partnership and significant financial support of many programs, collections, and exhibits.

The Harpers Ferry Park Association holds a special place in National Park Service and national cooperating association program history because of its close ties to James V. Murfin, who worked for the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry Center and for whom the national James V. Murfin Award is named. Jim Murfin and the Harpers Ferry Park Association revolutionized the partnership between associations and the National Park Service. The Harpers Ferry Park Association was at the vanguard of this change.

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INTERIOR REGION 1 • NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN

CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, KENTUCKY, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT,  
VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA

With deep appreciation for fifty years of dedicated service and commitment to our shared mission. We celebrate your success and our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kym A. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kym A. Hall  
Area Director

cc: H. Tyrone Brandyburg, Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Scott Pardue, Chief of Interpretation, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Justin Monetti, Program Manager for Interpretation and Education, National Capital Area  
Monique VanLandingham, Cooperating Association Coordinator, National Park Service