

Monday, Apr 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Carter
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carter,

As your constituent, I am writing to urge your support of a National Park for the Rosenwald schools. Julius Rosenwald once said "I do not see how America can go forward if part of its people are left behind." Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington were two men that saw what others would not and could not comprehend. They helped build community in ways that not only helped the people in America but the future America could have. I believe that there should be a national Rosenwald school park for three reasons: it deserves recognition, this collaboration exemplifies people of different races working together for the greater good, and it is a wonderful history that should not be erased.

The first reason that I believe there should be a national park for the schools, is that it deserves recognition. When Booker was a child, he saw school as a paradise, where a kid could build his head, heart and hands. When he got the opportunity to go to school he did all he could to do his very best. Helping kids like him get an education, became his passion. Together, they built almost 5,000 schools all over the south, filling them with hard-working, loving educators that changed the landscape of education for those who were formerly enslaved. After integration, many of those schools, were taken down. Those that are left should be saved to remind people of the great, amazing, and wonderful work that was done.

My second reason that I believe there should be a national park for the schools, is that it shows two different races working together for the greater good. Booker T. Washington, who was born into slavery, and Julius Rosenwald, who was born in a Jewish immigrant community, found a pathway to work together and do monumental work. This is a story not often told. It's a great example to show that African Americans were not alone in this. They should be honored with a national park in their name to remember the great work that can be done when people work together across differences for the greater good.

My last but not least reason for there to be Rosenwald schools national park, is for its wonderful history to not be erased. Learning what Booker T. and Julius did would be like opening a new chapter in history, by turning the next page. My mothers family members built a Rosenwald school in Fairfax, VA and many of the people in our community were educated there. That legacy of valuing the education of the head, hearts, and hands still lives in me three generations later and I think this story would be

echoed across the country. A national park preserves the natural and cultural resources of America. I believe that memorializing this history is a part of our culture as Americans that we need to remember.

Thank you for your time,

N. Victoria
8th grade student
New Orleans, LA