

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We write to bring your attention to a letter we received from our constituents regarding their efforts to establish a permanent memorial as a tribute to the victims of the January 8, 2011 shooting in Tucson, Arizona. On this day, a gunman targeted an event being hosted by Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. The attack took the lives of six innocent people, including Chief Judge John Roll, and wounded 13 individuals, including Rep. Giffords, while impacting countless others across the country. As this letter so accurately describes, the spontaneous memorials that sprang up in the wake of the tragedy, and the future permanent memorial, convey the spirit of solidarity of this community in the face of this horrific event.

Given the impact this tragedy has had on the community of Tucson, the state of Arizona, and the nation as a whole, we believe the attached request is worthy of your consideration. Please carefully consider this request, consistent with existing rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff if you have any further questions.

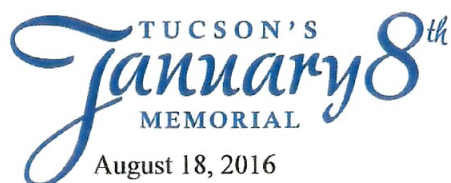
Sincerely,



John McCain
U.S. Senator



Jeff Flake
U.S. Senator



Together We Thrive.

Senator John McCain
Senator Jeff Flake
United States Senate
Washington, DC.

Dear Senators McCain and Flake,

On January 8, 2011, events in Tucson shook our city, our state and the country at large as a gunman targeted a sitting Member of Congress and constituents she was meeting with at a local grocery store. Six people lost their lives that day, and 13 more – including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords – were wounded in a barrage of gunfire.

That attack laid bare the darkest depths of mental illness and gun violence in our nation, but it also brought out signs of our shared humanity that are rarely visible in our national discourse. Less than three weeks after the shooting, at the President's annual State of the Union address, Members of the House and Senate departed from the longstanding practice of sitting with fellow partisans, instead spending the evening side-by-side with someone from their opposing party. The Arizona delegation – itself divided with passionate members of both parties – sat together in a show of unity. Throughout the House chamber, black and white lapel ribbons honored the victims of the worst political attack since the Kennedy assassination.

In Tucson, the desert community came together in a spirit of solidarity as three spontaneous memorial sites honored the lives we had lost and the victims struggling to recover. Since then the community has come together to provide strategic planning and financial support for a permanent memorial. Over the past four years, community leaders, civic organizations, local governments and shooting survivors have worked to select a site and design firm. The plan envisions a memorial that is not only a tribute to the fallen, but to the local and national response to a heartbreaking tragedy. It will be a place where visitors young and old can learn not only about one horrific event, but about the resilience of a community and the durability of American democracy.

As your constituents personally impacted by this tragedy, we ask that you work with federal departments and agencies to help identify and secure federal support to assist the community with their goal of a permanent memorial that will pay tribute to the victims of the January 8, 2011 shooting. We would also ask that you create legislation to designate the January 8th Memorial as a National Memorial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crystal Kasnoff".

Crystal Kasnoff
Executive Director

TUCSON'S JANUARY 8TH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

177 North Church Avenue, Suite 200

Tucson, Arizona 85701

(520) 393-8317

www.tucsonsmemorial.org