



IN REPLY REFER TO:

November 15, 2005

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Honorable Robert J. Dole, Special Counsel  
Alston & Bird LLP  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, North Building, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2601

## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Fort Larned National Historic Site  
Nicodemus National Historic Site  
Route 3, Box 69  
Larned, Kansas 67550-9321

**FILE COPY**

Dear Mr. Dole:

We invite you to be our guest of honor at the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Emancipation/Homecoming Celebration at Nicodemus, Kansas on Saturday July 29, 2006. The Homecoming Committee, the Nicodemus Historical Society, and other community partners are collaborating with the National Park Service to recognize the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of Nicodemus National Historic Site, as well as the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of the town as a National Historic Landmark.

As the primary sponsor of the enabling legislation for this Historic Site (P.L. 104-333, Nov. 12, 1996), we felt this coming Homecoming is an appropriate occasion to publicly thank you for your long-time support. We ask that you speak on why it was important to include Nicodemus as part of the National Park System in 1996. Your participation will confirm and enhance the importance of this designation for the residents and descendents of a place that represents such a significant aspect of American history.

Other invitees to this 129<sup>th</sup> Emancipation/Homecoming Celebration will include a keynote speaker, Mr. Robert Stanton, the former Director of the National Park Service. We are asking Mr. Stanton to compliment your remarks by speaking about progress made in preserving and interpreting African American history over the past 10 years. Mr. Stanton is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Park Foundation's African American Experience Fund, a foundation that supports National Park sites that focus on African American history. We are also asking members of our current Kansas Congressional Delegation for their presence at this event.

You are also welcome to attend a pancake breakfast and parade on the morning of July 29. The afternoon program—during which you will be honored—starts at 1:00pm. However, the Committee will accommodate your schedule as needed. The National Park Service and our community partners are also willing to assist you and your staff in preparing for this event. If you, or your staff, have any questions or concerns, please call me at 785-839-4321.

We hope that your schedule will allow you to join us in celebrating this most important accomplishment! Your presence will enrich the connections and pride that residents, descendents, and citizens of Kansas feel towards this special place. We look forward to publicly thanking you for your continual support of Nicodemus National Historic Site and the historic community of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Sincerely,

Sherda K. Williams, Superintendent  
Nicodemus National Historic Site