



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Nicodemus National Historic Site
510 Washington Avenue, Apt. 4B
Nicodemus, Kansas 67625

FILE COPY

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815(NICO)

March 10, 2006

Robert G. Stanton
5608 Dogue Run Drive
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

Dear Mr. Stanton:

We met briefly meeting during the MEDLI summit on diversity in Ann Arbor last August. On behalf of Nicodemus National Historic Site, the Nicodemus Historical Society, and the Nicodemus Homecoming Committee, I am extending a formal invitation for your participation in the 128th Annual Homecoming Celebration at Nicodemus, Kansas on Saturday July 29, 2006. Ms. Angela Bates, Executive Director of the Nicodemus Historical Society, mentioned that she had also extended a personal invitation to you while attending The Roundtable Associates award program in Washington in February 2005. I apologize for the lateness in extending this written invitation. We experienced difficulty in locating your address.

The National Park Service is collaborating with the town's Homecoming Committee, the Historical Society, and other community partners to recognize the 10th anniversary of the designation of Nicodemus National Historic Site during this upcoming Homecoming Celebration. As the Director of the National Park Service that dedicated Nicodemus National Historic Site in July 1998, residents and descendents continue to mention how important your presence was at that ceremony. They are excited that you may be able to return to Nicodemus, Kansas. On behalf of the National Historic Site, we feel honored by your interest in helping us celebrate this 10th anniversary!

Other invitees include former Senator Robert J. Dole (our guest of honor) as well as members of our current Congressional delegation. We have asked Senator Dole to speak about why it was important to include Nicodemus as part of the National Park System in 1996. Would you be willing to compliment Senator Dole's remarks by speaking about progress made in preserving and interpreting African American history over the past 10 years? We felt this would be an appropriate and complimentary topic, given your continued involvement with the African American Experience Fund and with recruiting of minority students.

You are also welcome to attend the community pancake breakfast and parade on the morning of July 29. The afternoon program—during which you would be speaking—starts at 1:00pm. We hope that your schedule will allow you to join us in celebrating this most important anniversary! Your presence will enhance the pride that residents and descendents feel towards this special place. We certainly look forward to welcoming you back to Nicodemus National Historic Site and the historic community of Nicodemus, Kansas! My staff and I are available to assist you in preparing for this event. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 785-839-4321.

Sincerely,

Sherda K. Williams, Superintendent
Nicodemus National Historic Site