

ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD, MEMBER
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SECRETARY
331 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202198
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2198
PHONE: (717) 787-7727
FAX: (717) 772-1313

310 W. CHELTEN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19144
PHONE: (215) 849-6426
FAX: (215) 849-5476



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 20, 2020

Office of Delegate Nick J. Mosby
205 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Mosby:

I would like to offer my support for House Joint Resolution 12, which would establish a commission to rename Negro Mountain.

Negro Mountain is a 30 mile ridge in in both Pennsylvania and Maryland. The mountain's highest peak, Mount Davis, is Pennsylvania's highest point of elevation. I have been working for over a decade to bring attention to this mountain in the hopes of developing support to rename it.

The name Negro Mountain took its name from a battle in 1756 during the French and Indian War between the Native Americans and the volunteer militia. Historical documentation reports that a freed African American slave and frontiersman named Nemesis was mortally wounded during the battle, but instead of taking shelter, he told the remaining members of his party to leave, bravely sacrificing himself so they could retreat to safety.

In 2020, we, as a society, consider the term negro to be at the very least antiquated, if not also offensive. In fact, in the last year both Pennsylvania and Maryland have taken down signage denoting the location of Negro Mountain. Although I appreciate the reasoning behind these actions, it is important not to lose sight of the history. We need to rename Negro Mountain in order to ensure that the African American man who gave his life receives the respect and recognition he deserves.

It is my understanding that in order to change the name of Negro Mountain, both Commonwealths need to agree and work in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey and the United States Board on Geographic Names. That being said, I support House Joint Resolution 12 and your efforts to change the name of Negro Mountain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosita C. Youngblood".

ROSITA C. YOUNGBLOOD
Democratic Caucus Secretary
198th District