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Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

News Release

INDIAN MEMORIAL CLOSED DURING ENGRAVING PROJECT

Work has begun on the final phase of the Indian Memorial at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Temporary panels have been in place on the interior walls of the memorial since dedication of the Memorial in 2003. These panels were designed to honor the fallen warriors of all the tribes involved with the “Battle of the Little Bighorn” also known as the “Battle of the Greasy Grass”. The temporary panels were placed to allow time for further dialogue with 17 affiliated tribal groups about appropriate text and images that are consistent with traditional customs and values. These words of respect, imagery, and listings of warrior names will be engraved upon the granite stone of the Indian Memorial to honor their ancestors for future generations.

“This has been a long time coming”, Superintendent Swanke said, “and we are pleased at how both the 7th Cavalry Monument on last Stand Hill, and the Indian Memorial just opposite, complement one another, and respect all veterans of this battle”. For safety reasons, the Indian Memorial will be closed to park visitors while work continues.

Park rangers will be stationed at the Indian Memorial during this time period. Informational handouts about the Indian Memorial, as well as samples of finished black granite showing text and images, are available at the site for visitor to see. Artists from Chevo Studios, headquartered out of Denver, Colorado, and led by Andy Dufford, arrived on Monday, August 26, with plans to complete the project by late September. A rededication or completion ceremony is being planned.

The Indian Memorial was authorized by Congress and signed into law on December 10, 1991, by former President George Bush. Public Law 102-201 renamed Custer Battlefield National Monument as Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and called for the national design competition, construction, and maintenance of a memorial to recognize the Indians who participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 25-26, 1876.

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