



Representative Jason Crow  
Washington DC Office  
1229 Longworth Hob  
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2022

Re: Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor and Education Center

Dear Rep. Crow,

The Defense Council of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been a key supporter of the members of our Armed Services for more than 50 years. Crucial to this support is recognition of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and recognition of the shared history of those who have served so gallantly before. The Colorado Freedom Memorial provides this recognition, a magnificent tribute to those men and women from Colorado who gave their all. But with such a memorial should come an appropriate facility where this remarkable history can be shared.

A Visitor and Education Center, co-located with the Memorial would fill this need. It would serve as a focal point for not only visiting families but could host presentations by military historians and veterans and serve as an exhibition hall for artifacts and memorabilia that can enrich the experience of the Freedom Memorial. Additionally, we know it would serve as a base for Gold Star Families and support the Colorado National Guard and Buckley Space Force Base by providing a badly needed facility to host off-base meetings providing a needed space for presentations about their missions, greatly benefiting public understanding and support.

We would anticipate this center would also enhance the already established relationships with History Colorado, the National WWI Doughboy Foundation, and the American Battle Monuments Commission providing an outlet to create education programs for visitors of all stripes—from students to Scouts; from researchers to Rotarians.

In short, the vision of the CFM founder and executive director Rick Crandall is best realized with a complimentary Visitor and Education Center that will not only augment the Memorial itself but serve as a point of pride for the State of Colorado, and we endorse it 100%.

Sincerely,

The Defense Council of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.



April 22~~4~~, 2022

[Representative Jason Crow](#)  
[Washington DC Office](#)  
[1229 Longworth Hob](#)  
[Washington, DC 20515](#)  
[Senator John Hickenlooper](#)  
[Byron Rogers Federal Building](#)  
[1961 Stout Street](#)  
[Suite 12-300](#)  
[Denver, CO 80294](#)

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Re: Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor Center

Dear [Rep. Crow](#)[Senator Hickenlooper](#),

As Aurora's convention and visitor's bureau, we support efforts to build the new Visitor Center of the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Dedicated in 2013, the Colorado Freedom Memorial provides a place of beauty and reverence where family and comrades can find peace in the memory of lost Colorado loved ones who served our country. It also educates visitors about the magnitude of those sacrifices in the name of freedom.

The impact of the Colorado Freedom Memorial is felt in many ways, both in Aurora and Colorado. The memorial's influence is present in our city and state, from welcoming over 70,000 visitors annually to various community events that connect and build our community. And all of this has been done without a visitor center. Concurrently, Executive Director Rick Crandall has continually served as a great ambassador for the city of Aurora and is deeply rooted in and committed to the community. His passion and dedication led to having this memorial founded and erected, and his commitment continues to benefit Aurora and Colorado alike. Along with the new visitor center building, there will also be a welcome kiosk for visitors entering Aurora from E-470 and Buckley Space Force Base visitors. This will further increase the awareness of the memorial and help connect visitors to an essential memorial for our state.

For these reasons, Visit Aurora is pleased to support the Colorado Freedom Memorial in its endeavor for a new Visitor Center. We can't wait to have the Visitor Center entirely welcome, educate, and increase the impact of this memorial in our city and state.

Sincerely,

**BRUCE DALTON**



President | CEO



Mayor  
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April 25, 2022

Representative Jason Crow  
Washington DC Office  
1229 Longworth Hob  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor and Education Center

Dear Rep. Crow;

The City of Aurora has a long history of support of the American military. Places from the past are part of our DNA: Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, Lowry Air Force Base, and, of course, Lowry Auxiliary Field. Today we proudly host one of America's newest Services at what is now Buckley Space Force Base. Perhaps what we are most proud of, however, is the fact that so many of those who have served here chose to call Aurora, and by extension, Colorado, home. And so many of those Coloradans went on to make the ultimate sacrifice, something we will not and cannot forget. In honor of those brave and selfless men and women, Aurora supported a local veteran, Rick Crandall, to build a monument to them. Thus was born the Colorado Freedom Memorial, dedicated to the more than 6000 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who served their country to their very last breath.

But our job is not done.

While the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation has given us an unforgettable monument, visited by thousands each year, what would complete this project is a co-located Visitor-Education Center. It would serve as a focal point for not only visiting families but could host presentations by military historians and veterans and serve as an exhibition hall for artifacts and memorabilia that can enrich the experience of the Freedom Memorial. Additionally, we know it would serve as a base for Gold Star Families and support the Colorado National Guard and Buckley Space Force Base by providing a badly needed facility to host off-base meetings providing a needed space for presentations about their missions, greatly benefiting public understanding and support.

As the mayor of this great city and a Marine Corps veteran who truly understands the importance of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, I strongly endorse completing the vision of those who built the CFM with the building of a Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor and Education Center. It will honor our fallen, honor our city and honor the great State of Colorado. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Michael Coffman  
Mayor  
City of Aurora, Colorado



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOHN KELLNER, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

SERVING ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT AND LINCOLN COUNTIES

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Representative Jason Crow  
6th Congressional District of Colorado  
Washington DC Office  
1229 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor Center

Dear Representative Crow,

As a fellow veteran who has attended ceremonies at the Colorado Freedom Memorial, I am sure you understand its significance to our community. Thousands of citizens have experienced feelings of awe and reverence as they toured those remarkable glass panels. Rick Crandall and countless supporters have created a stirring experience where each of the Coloradans who have given "the last full measure" is recognized for their sacrifice.

I strongly support the next phase of the memorial. The Visitor-Education Center will provide a theater that will be shared with Buckley Space Force Base and a classroom for local school students and people conducting research. Most importantly, it will feature an exhibition hall where the feats of those memorialized will be highlighted.

The Colorado Freedom Memorial is important to our region. It recognizes the strong military heritage of Aurora and Denver. It speaks to our large veteran community and demonstrates our commitment to honoring and supporting those who served in the Armed Forces.

I ask that you support a Congressional Discretionary Spending request to provide funding for this important asset. This investment will go a long way in ensuring this legacy project moves forward.

Respectfully,

John E. Kellner  
District Attorney