



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

143 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

OCT 15 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815

Pastor Todd DuBord  
Chaplain, Top Kick Productions  
380 Main Street, Suite B  
Chester, California 96020

Dear Pastor DuBord:

Thank you for taking the time to comment on your visit to Independence National Historical Park. It is our wish that everyone has a positive experience when visiting, and we appreciate the value of any negative input we receive which allows us to improve our skills.

Independence National Historical Park contains some of the most important sites related to the founding of the United States, and part of our mission is to educate visitors about these sites and ensure that visitors draw inspiration from their time here. The number, scope, and complexity of the stories that could be told on a tour of Independence Hall are enormous. Each guided tour can be only 30 minutes long, which does not afford the opportunity to cover all potential material adequately. Each ranger leads a tour in his or her own way, weaving stories and information around core topics such as the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Our staff is taught to present tours from multiple points of view and allow visitors to draw their own conclusions or, hopefully, be inspired enough to seek out more information on their own.

Park staff receive training in subject matter content, including the historical debates over religious freedom and the significance of religion in 18<sup>th</sup> century life. Park rangers should be able to respond to most questions posed by visitors on a wide variety of topics but may not always have the time to discuss an issue at length before needing to move on to the next program. We regret that your guide may not have handled himself as deftly as we would prefer and that he was not able to get his point across in a clear and successful manner. I have spoken with the ranger involved, who identified himself to me. The upcoming training program for all park interpreters includes refresher training on this subject.

A visit to Independence Hall should reinforce the idea of liberty and respect for all people and we regret that this did not happen during your visit. I hope that your next visit to Philadelphia is a more enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia MacLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Cynthia MacLeod  
Superintendent