

RUSTY LUCAS
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February 9, 2004

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
13000 Highway 244
Bldg 31, Suite 1
Keystone, SD 57751-0268

Dear Mount Rushmore:

I am thinking about circulating a petition to put the face of Jimmy Carter on your mountain. I have never been there, but I have seen photographs of the mountain and I think that you have plenty of room. But if not, maybe we could dig down to the rock someplace nearby and carve Jimmy's face. My friend Seymour has some hammers and chisels, plus a few M-80 firecrackers. And I am taking a wood carving class at my local vocation school this summer, so Seymour and I have all the angles covered. We wouldn't need any payment for our services except for lodging and food for lunches.

Ho cold does it get at night there?

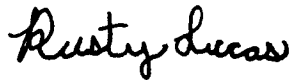
Jimmy Carter is a perfect addition to your mountain because he is involved building houses for poor people and he has done more for our country than many people on Mount Rushmore. I understand the need for history and I would not want Jimmy Carter to take the place of anyone else up there, except for maybe Abe Lincoln. (Abe just was not a handsome man -- that's all there is to it).

If you think we should wait until after Jimmy Carter is dead before putting his face up there forever, I will agree. I see that the actual name of your park is Mount Rushmore National MEMORIAL, which sort of implies that it is displayed in memory of something/someone no longer around. Actually that could work out better because I could use the extra practice with Seymour's chisels before doing the real deal.

Actually, my friends, I hope Jimmy Carter lives forever because of all of the good things he is doing for people. And I do not hold him one bit responsible for the delay in getting the Iran hostages released. Let's look at the big picture of the people involved. Ayatollah Khomeini? DEAD. Ronald Reagan, the one who got credit for bringing our people home? Laying in a bed somewhere with drool all over his pillow and not even aware anymore that he used to be a movie star. Jimmy Carter? Still going strong with his hammer and nails making places for the poor people to get inside out of the rain. You tell me who has the best situation in 2004!

So I just wanted to tell you that you should consider this addition -- even if you don't commission me and Seymour for the task. You have a responsibility to the American people and to the many foreign tourists who come annually to see our nations heroes. Adding Jimmy Carter to the stone faces will increase the daily tourism numbers and you will have even more dollars to spend on making us all proud to be Americans, where at least we know we're free. And we won't forget the five Presidents who died (this is AFTER Jimmy dies, remember) who gave those rights to us. People everywhere will stand up next to your park rangers and keep birds away from the stone faces. There is no doubt that we all love this country and all I can say is God Bless Us Everyone!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Lucas". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Rusty" and "Lucas" being capitalized and prominent.

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any park memorial baseball caps that I could have? Maybe Seymour and I could wear them everywhere we go over the next 15 or 20 years until it is time to start carving. People would begin to associate us with the Memorial and we would generate free publicity to your park and your mountain. Please let me know if you can send any baseball caps with the park name or logo on them.