

I applaud the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. This newest monument is important in that it tells the untenable history of lynching in the United States, a story that some would like to ignore.

The story of Emmet Till, a young boy who was tortured and killed because of the evils of racism, needs to be remembered and told. As a Black church leader, I know that we cannot heal from the sins of the past without a full recounting. The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument honors Emmett Till's life and proclaims his mother's courage for insisting that his story be told. It also offers us a chance to learn, reflect and heal.

I am grateful for President Biden's leadership, knowing that by proclaiming this part of history as worthy of national attention and focus it will offer much hope and healing. Our responsibility to care for Creation is coupled with our duty to preserve and honor the story of us all, and ensure all of our children have equitable access to healthy recreation and the opportunity to find their own story in our park system.

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