The designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument preserves a piece of history that is critical for us all to acknowledge. Its designation gives us hope that we can work more fully towards racial reconciliation. Emmett Till's life and tragic death was not in vain. For in his mother's steadfast advocacy to have his abduction, torture and killing told, his life helped propel the Civil Rights Movement.

Our responsibility to care for Creation is coupled with our duty to preserve the stories of all Americans, particularly those stories that are unheard and unsung. In using the Antiquities Act, an important tool to protect the special pieces of God's creation, President Biden ensured that Black history was rightfully honored as America's history. National Monuments can remind us of our legacy, can play host to memorable family vacations, embody sacred sights, and, in the case of the National Monument dedicated to Emmett Till's life and death, educate us and hopefully drive us towards a more just world.

Bishop Silvester Scott Beaman African Methodist Episcopal Church 15th District