

## Farewell from John Doerner

The time has now come for me to say farewell to all of my friends as I work my final day as Chief Historian at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. I will now prepare for a new chapter in my life and retirement from NPS-LIBI after almost 21 years.

As I write this I want to let each and everyone know that I am so very grateful for your friendship, kindness, prayers, and support that you have given me all these years. I am truly fortunate and blessed to have worked at this very special place. A place that is dear to my heart and soul, and unlike any other place on this earth. A place that bonds all of us to a common story of epic struggle here on 25-26 June 1876 during the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

An all powerful cultural landscape that witnessed a horrific battle of supreme sacrifice, bravery and courage under fire; a place of selflessness, of sacrifice of ones life for what one believed in and to protect their women and children and elders; bravery to fight for their fellow brother in arms; a place where two cultures met and fought for what they felt was right and just, to protect their culture and their way of life, knowing that in doing so, they may forfeit theirs. For that and for future generations who visit here, that must never be forgotten.

The battlefield is a place that must be preserved and protected. It is a place that one can reflect back on the events that took place here and return again and again with their family, especially their children and remember with great pride and with great sadness what occurred here on these peaceful ridges in 1876.

I will treasure the fond memories that I experienced here for the rest of my life and hope that people will remember me in a good way and that I did my utmost to interpret the battle better for all visitors and for future generations to recognize Cheyenne and Sioux, and 7th Cavalry and Arikara scouts, and 7th Cavalry Horse casualties with fitting markers so that they are honored and remembered by all that visit this special place.

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