

BEFORE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In re Special Regulations, Areas of the National)	
Park System, National Capital Region, Special)	Regulation Identifier Number
Events and Demonstrations, 83 Fed. Reg. 40,460)	1024-AE45
(proposed Aug. 15, 2018))	
)	

AFFIDAVIT OF CLEVE JONES

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and am competent to testify on the matters set forth herein.
2. I was the organizer behind the concept and the display of the AIDS Quilt which was first displayed in Washington, D.C on October 11, 1987.
3. While the Quilt is widely seen as a memorial it was created as a weapon against HIV AIDS and against the politics that were allowing the disease to spread.
4. It was conceived and taken to Washington, D.C. to be spread out on the National Mall as evidence of the consequences of the government’s failure to address the epidemic in a scientific and compassionate way.
5. It was conceived as well to provide a way for families and loved ones to grieve together for the people who had been killed.
6. The political content of the quilt was evident from the beginning as condemnation of government inaction and hatred. It was a call to action. It provided evidence of the government’s failure. It was also used as the backdrop for other overt forms of protest, as it was presented during the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights that took place at the same time in 1987, and during subsequent marches.
7. The AIDS Quilt was displayed on the grassy park land of the National Mall. No other location would have been equally suitable for the message we sought to convey. The National Mall represents the country. It represents the people’s place within the capital and historically it is the scene for all manners of protests. The National Mall is where we go when we wish to speak to those who rule us.
8. Had they been in place at the time, the NPS’ proposed regulations including the Turf Management and Operations Guide for the Mall would have effectively prohibited the political expression of the AIDS Quilt. All that flowed from the historic and consequential display would have been lost.

9. Had they been in place at the time, the NPS' proposed regulations that appear to authorize government officials to deconstruct free speech activities and deem that the content contains "special event" elements, such as non-spoken word political expression and "exhibits" such as the AIDS Quilt, and then assess fees, costs and different processing, would have effectively prohibited the political expression of the AIDS Quilt.
10. I also helped organized the 2009 National Equality March. This was carried out almost entirely by volunteers and with a minimal budget. If we had been required to pay a significant amount of money for that important expression of free speech, we wouldn't have been able to do it.
11. The National Park Service is proposing regulations that treat demonstrations as if they are inconsistent with, or a burden upon, resources, including natural resources and parkland.
12. My understanding of the history of that space, the parklands of Washington, D.C. including the National Mall, is that the grass was put there for the people to walk upon it. That space exists for people to gather upon it. Its highest purpose is served where it functions as the national space of the people, to express themselves, to be seen, to be engaged in democracy, to be influencing our society and effecting change. The NPS' proposed rules and the increased restrictions and costs on expressive activity undermines the purposes these national spaces are to serve.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 15, 2018.



Cleve Jones