

Quaker Testimony Regarding Renaming Geographic Landmarks Currently Having Names Offensive to Indigenous Peoples

On Sunday, November 13, 2022, at its regular Meeting for Worship for Business, the Boulder Meeting of Friends approved the following Minute in Support of Renaming Mount Evans to Mount Blue Sky. The Minute was brought forth by the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee

John Evans, Colorado's second territorial governor, facilitated the Sand Creek massacre, in which hundreds of Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women and children were slaughtered. Today, more than a century and a half after he was forced to resign in disgrace, Mt. Evans still bears Evans' name. The Mestaa'ehehe Coalition, led by the Southern Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes and the Wilderness Society, have proposed renaming Mt. Evans as Mount Blue Sky, a name that honors the cultures and traditions of both the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Renaming is currently being considered by the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

The Mestaa'ehehe Coalition is asking faith organizations to make a statement of support for renaming the mountain. By doing so, Boulder Friends would be agreeing to be listed on the Mount Blue Sky website as a supporter (mountbluesky.info/supporters), to be listed in a Mount Blue Sky Support Book, and to be contacted by the Mestaa'ehehe Coalition regarding the Meeting's interest in signing official letters of support that will be submitted to the county, state, and federal naming boards. Such support is consistent with taking next steps to support Indigenous peoples as embodied in our Meeting's Land Acknowledgement. Given this, Boulder Meeting of Friends approves making a statement of support as requested by the Mestaa'ehehe Coalition.