

REFERENCE TITLE: Grand Canyon; monuments; rename

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SCM 1003

Introduced by
Senators Boyer: Borrelli, Bowie, Gonzales, Hatathlie, Steele;
Representatives Blackwater-Nygren, Jermaine, Nguyen, Tsosie

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME THE
GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN THE GRAND CANYON WITH NATIVE AMERICAN NAMES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the United States Board on Geographic Names:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, since John Wesley Powell's three-month exploratory river
4 trip through the Grand Canyon in 1869, this natural wonder has become a
5 cherished national treasure as more people have visited and settled in the
6 area. President Theodore Roosevelt declared the Grand Canyon a national
7 monument in 1908, and the Grand Canyon achieved national park status
8 eleven years later, in 1919. In 1979, Grand Canyon National Park was
9 designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational,
10 Scientific and Cultural Organization; and

11 Whereas, the Grand Canyon is Arizona's most famous natural landmark,
12 one of the seven wonders of the natural world and a tourism destination
13 that attracts approximately five million visitors from around the world
14 each year, including outdoor recreationists who seek out the challenges,
15 inspirations and life-altering experiences that the Grand Canyon
16 wilderness provides; and

17 Whereas, the Grand Canyon's exposed geologic layers span nearly half
18 of Earth's history and record past environments ranging from erupting
19 volcanoes to quiet seas; and

20 Whereas, this natural wonder has been continuously inhabited by
21 indigenous groups for almost 12,000 years, and six Native American tribes
22 still live in and around the canyon, including the Hualapai, the "people
23 of the pines," who make their home atop the West Rim, and the Havasupai,
24 the "people of the blue-green waters," who live on the canyon floor; and

25 Whereas, a push is underway to rename the Grand Canyon's incredible
26 geographic features and natural monuments with Native American names in
27 recognition of the centuries-long association of Native American tribes
28 with the canyon. Such a renaming is a fitting and appropriate tribute that
29 will promote an understanding of and an appreciation for the unique and
30 significant cultures and heritage of the Grand Canyon's tribal peoples.

31 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House
32 of Representatives concurring, prays:

33 1. That the United States Board on Geographic Names rename the
34 geographic features in the Grand Canyon with traditional Native American
35 names.

36 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
37 copies of this Memorial to the Chairperson of the United States Board on
38 Geographic Names.