

**TED GONG: COMMENTS ON THE TRR AND SUMMIT TUNNEL  
AT JUDY CHU EVENT  
TRANSCRIPT**

**TED GONG:** That 1,200 Chinese died while building this railroad, there were up to 12 thousand to 20 thousand workers building this railroad. We went to [unintelligible] those stories of construction and how it fits into our national story of a larger stature. We want to make people aware of it if we can. So one of the things we want to do at this Symposium is introduce the idea, not introduce the idea, reinforce the idea that Summit Tunnel is what we want marked as a National Monument. It's interesting APA inherited sites and places are actually very few on the list of National Monuments and places. But this place should be one of those things that we nominate. [unintelligible] tunnels 6, 7, and 8, and a couple of places along the area.

So beyond the May 10, 2019, what we want to do? Our Symposium wants to say we finally establish that site as an historic place, an area, site, location, trail, mine--that's for us to decide and should elevate it to a national stature. We want to register it as a national Summit Tunnel something with interpretive research center to tell people what actually happened here, and research and understand the story. And to do that we need some appropriated money and so we're hoping that we have some funding and annual incorporations for the center, public education programs, [unintelligible] all three years. [unintelligible] That's how much we allocate each year for [unintelligible]

Now if we don't do that [unintelligible], this is what's happening to that site. All this [unintelligible]. I was reading a blog about a couple of parents that so happened to bring their kids to this site and explain "Oh [unintelligible] so colorful, and we were able to follow all of the blue dragons in that tunnel," you know. So what are we talking about? These guys built this thing. 12 hundred people we think died, one in ten out of the work force of 12 thousand to 20 thousand [unintelligible].

I wanted to very quickly show you [unintelligible] expressed this idea.

[playing video]

[train noises]

[train station noises]

[train noises and music]

[train noises]

[train noises with "Home of the Brave" playing]

**VIDEO  
NARRATOR:**

[unintelligible] Pacific Railroad [unintelligible] 86 miles west  
[unintelligible] and 690 miles east of Sacramento City,  
California [unintelligible] of Central Pacific Railroad,  
[unintelligible] Union Pacific Railroad.

[music playing]

**TED:**

1,200 Chinese lost their lives building this railroad. On this particular station [unintelligible] you can see that the labor and the structure is logged in this place, and the significance of this--not just for the Chinese but for the Americans and even our British ancestors--and we believe that the Summit Tunnel [unintelligible] should be designated in some way. We want to elevate that term, Summit Tunnel, so that it is as evocative of our American consciousness as is when we say Underground Railroad, when we say the Trail of Tears, Route 66, or the Oregon Trail. That's our goal [unintelligible]

And we can not do that without [unintelligible] support and support [unintelligible].

At the end of the day, Chinese Americans and Asian Americans, it is the idea to get us out from behind that stage door so that we're not invisible [unintelligible].

So many of us are now stepping forth [unintelligible] visible, and that's our aim for this year--from invisible to visible. Thank you so much for being [unintelligible] I hope that some of these ideas are things that generate [unintelligible] and you discuss it [unintelligible]. Again thank you so much and I want to thank you again so much for [unintelligible].