



Artwork Title: Restoring a Name to Grate American Honor (2025)

Artist: Garrett Lynch IRL

Statement:

In 2025 U.S. president Donald Trump signed executive order 14172, Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness. The order contained two sections instructing federal agencies to rename two natural landmarks: section 3 ordering the name of Denali, the highest mountain in North America named by the Koyukon people who inhabit the area of Alaska around the mountain and have referred to the peak as Denali for centuries, to be renamed Mount McKinley; and section 4 ordering the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico, which refers to the ethnonym Mexica and the Nahuatl-speaking people or Aztecs of the Valley of Mexico, as the Gulf of America.

The executive order is not binding on U.S. state governments or the private sector. It simply directs federal agencies to employ the new names. On February 10th 2025, Google, the American corporation, choose to change the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America on Google Maps. This Google Chrome extension subverts Google's own browser extension system to correct this change. It intervenes in Google Maps, masks the new name with the original and rightful name of the Gulf of Mexico, correcting the imperialistic action taken by the U.S. president and validated by corporate power. The work/extension is named to 'grate', to aggravate and exasperate, the alleged "American Greatness" that president Trump aims to honor.

Download Link: <https://www.asquare.org/work/restoring-a-name-to-grate-american-honor/restoring-a-name-to-grate-american-honor.zip>

To install in Google Chrome:

Download the Restoring a Name to Grate American Honor extension by clicking the link above. Once downloaded, unzip the extension to a folder.

1. Open Google Chrome's extensions by selecting "Window > Extensions" in the browser or by navigating to "chrome://extensions/".
2. Make sure Developer Mode is enabled by toggling the slider to on.
3. Drag and drop the downloaded extension folder into the Extensions window – if this fails to work refresh the extensions page first.
4. The extension should now be active.

Biography:

Garrett Lynch IRL (<http://www.asquare.org/>) is an artist, lecturer and theorist. His work explores networks (in their most open sense) within an artistic context; the spaces between artist, artworks and audience as a means, site and context for artistic initiation, creation and discourse. Recently most active in performance Garrett's networked practice spans online art, installation, performance and writing. He has previously exhibited internationally at venues such as the European Media Art Festival (EMAF), Osnabrück; Filmwinter Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart; Kreuzberg Pavillon, Berlin; 319 Scholes, New York; Victoria and Albert Museum, Watermans and Furtherfield, London; Tate, St. Ives; NeMe Arts Centre, Limassol; Madatac X, Madrid and Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul.