

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **ROBERT G. STANTON**

Robert G. Stanton, former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and former Director of the National Park Service, is a consultant in natural and cultural resources preservation and management. Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2014, he also serves as an Expert Member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the educational, economic, and cultural values of historic preservation and advises the president and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties.

As Senior Advisor to the Interior Secretary from 2010-2014, Mr. Stanton served as a key senior analyst and provided executive level advice and support to the Secretary on a wide range of environmental, educational, organizational and management challenges, and opportunities and worked closely with the bureaus and offices in advancing the Secretary and the President's goals for Interior. He also represented the Secretary and the Department on Presidential Policy Review Committees, Boards and Commissions. From 2009-2010 before assuming the Senior Advisor position in the immediate office of the Secretary, Mr. Stanton served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Management.

Mr. Stanton, prior to returning to Federal service in 2009, served as an Executive Professor at Texas A&M University in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences; Visiting Professor at Howard University in the Department of History (Public History Program); Visiting Fellow at Yale University in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; board member and consultant to a number of national conservation organizations. From 2001-2003, he also served as the International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN) Ambassador for the Fifth World Parks Congress held in 2003 in Durban, South Africa.

An experienced public administrator, Mr. Stanton was unanimously confirmed in 1997 as the 15<sup>th</sup> Director of the National Park Service and served as the Director until the end of the Clinton Administration. He was the first Director to undergo confirmation hearings before the U.S. Senate and the first African American to serve in this position since the National Park Service was established by Congressional legislation in 1916. Beginning with his appointment by Interior Secretary Stewart Lee Udall in 1962 as a National Park Service Ranger at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, he has dedicated his life work to improving the preservation and management of the Nation's rich and diverse natural and cultural resources. He worked consistently to increase park and staff diversity and supported programs that recognized the struggles, courage, leadership, and contributions of women and minorities in our collective history and development of the United States. He has held key management and executive positions, including Park Management Assistant, Park Superintendent, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Director, Assistant Director, Associate Director, and Director. Immediately prior to his appointment as the Director he served for eight years as the Regional Director for the National Capital Region where he was responsible for 40 natural, cultural and recreational areas located in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. These areas included the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Catoctin Mountain Park, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Frederick Douglass National

Historic Site, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Clara Barton National Historic Site, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park.

As Director of the National Park Service, Mr. Stanton had policy, planning and management responsibility for the National Park System's 384 natural, cultural and recreational areas and partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations. The 83-million acre National Park System attracted 228 million visits each year. He managed a workforce of 20,000 permanent, temporary and seasonal employees and an annual budget of \$2.3 billion. He was responsible for the National Park Service areas programs and offices located in 49 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam and ' the U.S. Virgin Islands.

His bipartisan and inclusive approach to problem solving and cooperative resource stewardship earned him respect and admiration, enabling him to build effective relations with the U. S. Congress, Federal, Tribal, state and local agencies, diverse organizations, leaders and citizens. Under his leadership and through the work of an outstanding staff, volunteers and wide range of partners, the National Park Service budget increased by 28 percent and major park preservation and visitor service programs were inaugurated, including the Natural Resource Challenge (a plan to revise and expand the National Park Service's natural resource programs), Connecting People to Parks (education and interpretation), Public Lands Corps, Action Plan for Diversity in Workforce and Public Programs, Co-sponsorship of the Save America's Treasures Program, Restructuring of the National Park Service's Construction program, Visitor Transportation Systems, Cultural Resources Diversity Intern Program, International Cooperative Agreements for Resource Conservation and the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Program. Major presidential and legislative initiatives were enacted throughout his tenure, including the authorization of eleven new park areas, six national heritage areas, the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and Special Resource Studies for 22 possible new areas to the National Park System.

Cited in a wide range of news media, professional and technical publications and a frequent public speaker, Mr. Stanton has participated in major national and international conferences, including the Fifth World Parks Congress, Durban, South Africa, 2003; World Protected Areas Leadership Forum in Australia, 2002, in Spain, 2001, and in Virginia, 2000; First World Conference on Cultural Parks, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, 1984, and the Second World Congress on National Parks, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 1972. He is a co-founder of the World Protected Areas Leadership Forum.

He is active in professional and civic affairs. Current and past board and advisory council membership includes the Chesapeake Conservancy, Park Institute of America, Rosenwald Park Campaign, Coalition for Endangered Species, Institute for Parks at Clemson University, National Parks Conservation Association, Environmental Law Institute, African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation. Environmental Law Institute, Grand Teton National Park Foundation, Advisory Council of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, Guest Services, Inc., and the Student Conservation Association.

Mr. Stanton has been nationally recognized through awards and citations for outstanding public service and leadership in conservation, historic preservation, youth programs, public and government relations and diversity in employment and public programs. Recognition includes the U.S. Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Federal Executive Service; Department of

the Interior's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award; the National Council of Negro Women's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award; the Cornelius Pugsley Gold Medal of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; the IUCN's Fred M. Packard International Parks Merit Award; the Student Conservation Association Founder's Award; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, National Ethnic Coalition Organizations ; the Colonel Charles Young Diversity Recognition Award, the National Park Foundation; the Living Legacy Award, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Louise du Pont Award Crowinshield Award, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's highest award. Two awards and one joint award have been established in his name.

Mr. Stanton earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Texas, and did his graduate work at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts. He has been awarded five honorary doctorate degrees: Doctor of Letters, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas; Doctor of Science, Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Texas; Doctor of Environmental Stewardship, Unity College, Unity, Maine; Doctor of Public Policy, Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Doctor of Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, Mr. Stanton, in the era of the doctrine "separate but equal," grew up in Mosier Valley, one of the oldest communities in Texas founded by African Americans shortly after the U.S. Civil War.