

Biography for 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 an Expert Member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). He was appointed to the ACHP by President Barack Obama in October 2014. 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 2009 to 2014, 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's and the President's goals for Interior. From 2009-2010, before assuming the Senior Advisor position in the immediate office of the Secretary, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Management.

From 2001 to 2009, Stanton was a consultant in conservation management and served as a visiting professor at Yale, Howard and Texas A&M Universities. During this period 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.

Stanton's Federal service included a 35-year career with the National Park Service from 1966-2001. An experienced public administrator, Stanton, nominated by President Bill Clinton, was unanimously confirmed by the U. S. Senate in 1997 as the 15th Director of the National Park Service. He served in this position from 1997 to 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 seasonal appointment by Interior Secretary Stewart Udall in 1962 as a park 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. During the course of his career, he held increasingly responsible positions including park management assistant, park superintendent, deputy regional director, regional director and at the national office level assistant director for park operations, associate director for park management and operations, and director. As the director, he had policy, planning and management responsibility for the 83-million acre National Park System which included 384 natural, cultural and recreational park areas. He also had responsibility for a wide range of partnership programs with governmental and non-governmental organizations. He managed a workforce of 20,000 permanent, temporary and seasonal employees and an annual budget of \$2.3 million. The parks attracted 228 million visitors each year. Under his leadership, the NPS budget increased by 28 percent and major resource preservation, facility rehabilitation, visitor services, employee development and cooperative resource stewardship programs were inaugurated.

Stanton is active in professional and civic affairs. He has been nationally recognized through awards and citations for outstanding public service and leadership in conservation, historic preservation, youth programs, government relations and diversity in employment and public programs. Among the awards Stanton received are the U. S. Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Federal Executive Service, U. S. Department of the Interior Distinguished Service Award, National Council of Negro Women Distinguished Service Award, Student Conservation Founder's Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award and the Association for the Study of African American History Living Legend Award. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson University and did his graduate work at Boston University. He has been awarded five honorary doctorate degrees.

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas Stanton, in the era of "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. He and his wife Janet currently make their home in Fairfax Station, Virginia.