



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Lorraine Mintzmyer, 1990. (NPS History Collection Photo).

Lorraine Mintzmyer
Midwest, Southwest, & Rocky Mountain
Regions
1959-1992

- Born Laurretta Lorraine Plowman on July 22, 1935 in Adair, Iowa.
- Married Harvey Dean Mintzmyer on April 4, 1954.
- Studied music at Iowa State Teacher's College and business administration at the University of Nebraska.
- Worked in banking for six years.
- Hired as a GS-4 clerk/typist in the Midwest Regional Office on July 7, 1959.
- In 1967, promoted to program assistant and later became the NPS's first woman regional chief of programming and budget.
- Named superintendent of the Herbert Hoover NHS in 1973.
- Accepted into a 10-month department manager development program in Washington, D.C. in 1975.
- Named superintendent of Buffalo National River in 1976.
- Became NPS' first women deputy regional director when promoted to the Southwest Region in 1979.
- Became NPS' first women regional director when she transferred to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1980.
- Chaired the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee and influenced interagency fire management coordination after the 1988 Yellowstone fires.
- Given a directed reassignment to regional director of the Mid-Atlantic Region in 1991.
- Testified under Congressional subpoena in September 1991 that her reassignment was political retaliation for speaking out about political pressure to ignore environmental concerns at Yellowstone.
- Retired on April 4, 1992 at age 56.
- Received many awards, including DOI Meritorious Service Award (1981) and Distinguished Service Award (1988).
- Her husband died in 1994 and she married Jim Denning.
- Died of cancer on February 4, 2008 in Littleton, CO.

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