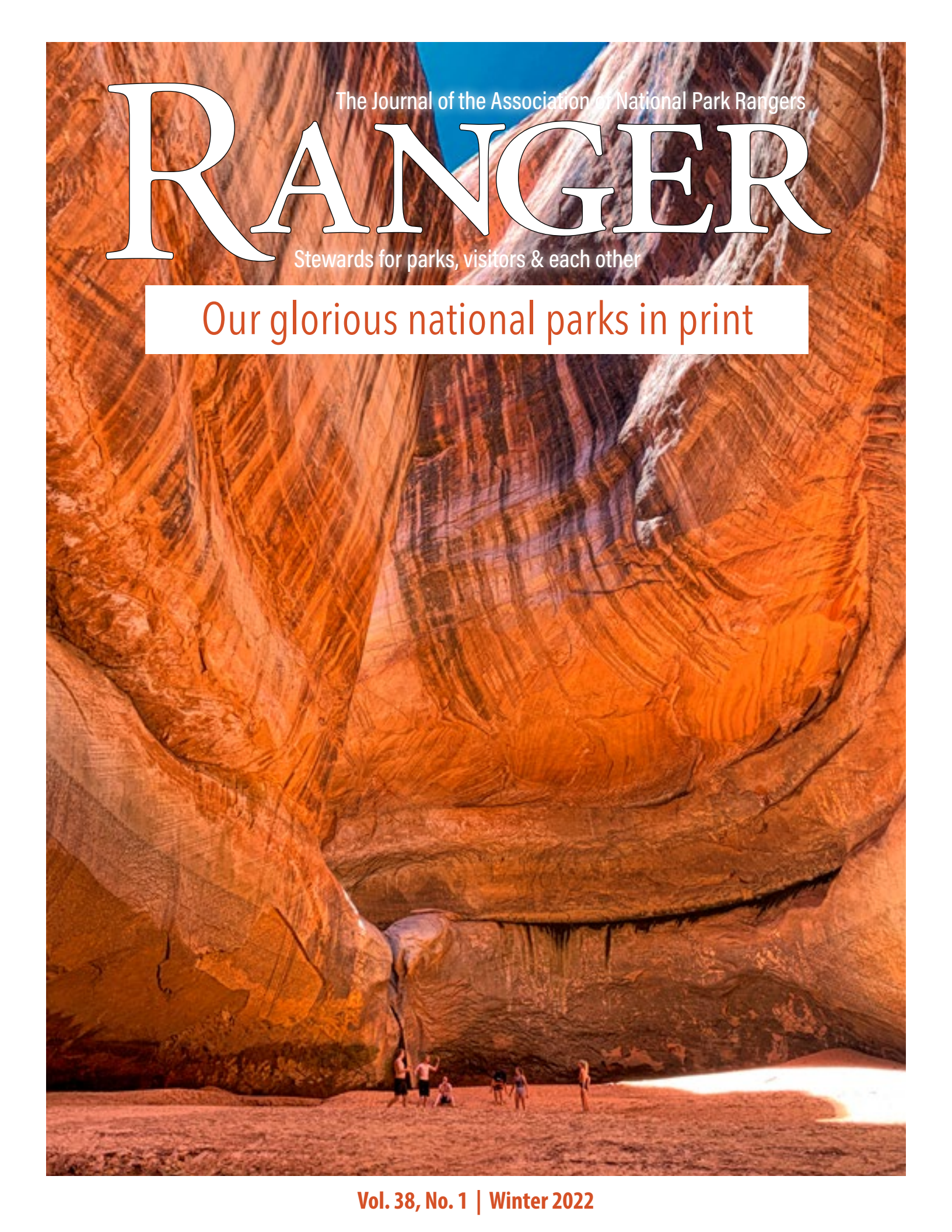




The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

RANGER

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Our glorious national parks in print

Vol. 38, No. 1 | Winter 2022

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Winter
2022

When everyday life creates a lasting legacy

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On the cover: This fun image captures visitors at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area enjoying our public lands. The photo, captured by ANPR member Greg Galloway, won both People in the Parks and Best of Show categories in ANPR's annual photo contest. Photo: Greg Galloway

I HAVE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF 30 YEARS AS A JOURNALIST, WRITER, EDITOR and designer, tackling topics ranging from backpacking to building, hiking to hospice, travel to teaching, and more. These wide-reaching assignments are always an opportunity to learn. The research involved, the interviews, the organization of the stories – they all come together like a sort of puzzle, and after the work is done, I feel just that much more informed about the world. It's immensely satisfying.

These past few months, I've gotten to know Bill Halainen and Jack Morehead, two retired National Park Service standouts who were awarded the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award last October. The last such award came in 2007, so it's been awhile, and these two men join an elite class of only eight to achieve this honor.

It was after all the interviews were complete, the words written and the stories designed onto the pages of this magazine that I've been able to further reflect on these two men.

What constitutes greatness in one's work? In the moment, I'd bet that most of us simply strive to be productive, well-regarded and impactful in what we do. We go about that work day in, day out, not outwardly measuring our progress, rather tackling the challenges right in front of us. It's not until our careers are at their end that we can look at that work as a whole – what it meant and who it impacted. At what point does that 30,000-foot view gain the attention of our peers, that it is regarded as exceptional, and even instrumental in creating a better work environment for those who follow in our footsteps?

In talking with Jack and Bill, I sensed that neither of them gave this much thought when in the middle of their careers. They weren't expecting accolades; they just did what felt right.

Now, here they are, in retirement and revered by every single person I called to talk to about them, all of whom say that the National Park Service is better because of Bill Halainen and Jack Morehead.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic limiting travel options and necessitating the cancellation of the in-person Ranger Rendezvous scheduled for Jacksonville, Fla., last October, ANPR had to rethink the presentation of these awards. So, turning an almost-canceled event into the highlight of a "Regional Rendezvous" format, ANPR moved the presentation of the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award from Jacksonville to Yellowstone National Park, where ANPR President Paul Anderson and Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly bestowed the honor on these two men in person. They were applauded by accompanying friends, family and park service staff. Read all about the award, and these two deserving individuals, beginning on Page 4.

And, read more about the "Regional Rendezvous" concept, on Page 15, which has inspired ANPR's board to consider more of these location-centric get-togethers in the future.

Finally, take a few moments to appreciate the talents of the winners of our annual photo contest, which this year was held online, using Facebook as the voting platform. See the winners of the contest – including Greg Galloway's stunning image on the cover – beginning on Page 12.

Happy 2022: Here's to a prosperous, safe and memorable year with ANPR.

— Melissa DeVaughn
Ranger magazine editor

RANGER

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK RANGERS
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In meeting these purposes, the Association provides education and other training to develop and/or improve the knowledge and skills of park professionals and those interested in the stewardship of national parks; provides a forum for discussion of common concerns of all employees; and provides information to the public.

The membership of ANPR is comprised of individuals who are entrusted with and committed to the care, study, explanation and/or protection of those natural, cultural and recreational resources included in the National Park System, and persons who support these efforts.

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A new year brings change and optimism

President's message

— Paul R. Anderson

WELCOME TO 2022! AS WE LOOK BACK OVER 2021, ONE of the most challenging years in our history, we can share a collective sigh of relief that things are looking up for the national parks, the National Park Service, and all of our employees. I hope that 2022 will be a year of positive organizational growth – both in our staffing levels and budget, and in our capabilities to protect our parks and care for our visitors.

What happened in 2021? We started the year focused on transitioning to a new administration, and ended it with a much-anticipated confirmation of a permanent NPS director for the first time in five years. Charles Sams was nominated by President Biden and achieved full Senate confirmation in December.

We worked diligently to develop plans and implement much needed infrastructure improvement projects under the newly passed Great American Outdoors Act. That implementation is underway in parks across the national park system.

Congress, recognizing that the NPS has lost more than 3,000 positions over the past 10 years, and can no longer keep up with the burgeoning visitation provoked by reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, appropriated funds to fill 1,000 new positions. The budget for next year appears to include a similar funding increase for more new positions, all of which are sorely needed.

While seasonal hiring has been a frustrating and counterproductive experience for many of our members, aspiring seasonals and supervisors alike, NPS has recognized this and is working to improve and streamline the process. There is a long way to go to resolve all of the problems, modernize and simplify the recruitment and hiring process, and ANPR will continue to be a forum and sounding board for our members, and a link to NPS Human Resources professionals.

And closer to home, ANPR voted in its newest board members, President-elect Rick Mossman and Board Member for Membership Services Shannon Wilson in October. Congratulation to them, as well as current board member Jeanette Meleen, who will extend her Fundraising position for one more year.

Unfortunately, we were, once again, unable to host an in-person Ranger Rendezvous this year. In its place several of your Board of Directors members coordinated regional “get-togethers” for small groups of members around the country. All of the feedback I’ve received has been positive, and I want to thank the members who hosted these gatherings, and the folks who attended.

In October, I had the honor and pleasure of traveling to Yellowstone National Park to present the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the art and science of rangers to two extremely deserving individuals. You can read all about these deserving recipients on pages 5-9. Thank you to Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly, Deputy Superintendent Mike Tranel, Chief Ranger Sarah Davis, Management Assistant Bethany Gassman, and their staff for providing the venue for the award ceremony and participating in the presentation. Their involvement made this event an experience of a lifetime for the recipients and their families. Thanks, too, to Yellowstone Forever, who donated their classrooms for the ceremony. The Yellowstone event wouldn’t have been possible without the generous donations of many ANPR members. Thanks to all of you for your generosity!

To our members on the front line, thank you all for your hard work this past year in protecting our national park areas and serving our visitors under very difficult conditions! I wish you the very best in the coming year!

Stay safe and stay healthy!

— Paul Anderson
ANPR President



EXAMPLES *in* EXCELLENCE

THE *Harry Yount* LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD *a new chapter*

Stories by Melissa DeVaughn

A photograph of two men, Jack Morehead and Bill Halainen, standing in front of the stone entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The entrance features a large stone archway with a wooden door. The men are dressed in winter clothing; Jack is wearing a blue puffer jacket and khaki pants, while Bill is wearing a green jacket, black pants, and a grey beanie. The background shows a snowy landscape.

Jack Morehead and Bill Halainen gather by the Yellowstone NP entrance to celebrate their Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award during a special ANPR ceremony held there in October 2021. Photo: NPS / Jim Peaco

Last fall, retired rangers Bill Halainen and Jack Morehead became just the seventh and eighth recipients of the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award, joining a very select few whose contributions to rangers, “rangering,” and the National Park Service have left an indelible mark.

Named for Harry Yount, generally regarded as the first park ranger, who patrolled Yellowstone National Park in the 1880s as its gamekeeper, the Yount Award recognizes not who the recipients are, but what they have contributed – to the service, to rangers, and to “rangering.”

The Yount Award is recognized two ways. The peer-nominated annual Servicewide Award honors a ranger who consistently excels in the performance of duties that serve and protect visitors

and the natural, historical and cultural resources of parks. It is considered, “the highest honor that can be bestowed on a park ranger,” and “the agency’s most prestigious ranger honor,” according to John Townsend, retired ranger who was on the original committee that established the award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors those who, throughout and beyond their career, have served as role models and provided consistent leadership to the service, and the ranger profession. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the pinnacle of recognition in “rangering,” and honorees represent the quintessential ranger in the eyes of their peers.

THE PRESENTATION

The Yount Lifetime Achievement Award presentation held renewed significance as it took place Oct.

14, 2021, at Yount’s own Yellowstone. Forced indoors by winter weather, Morehead and Halainen stood before a small group of Park Service elite there to watch them receive their awards. The event was made possible through a cooperative effort by Association of National Park Rangers President Paul Anderson and Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly and his staff.

“I had the honor and pleasure of traveling to Yellowstone to present the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the art and science of rangering to these two extremely deserving individuals,” Anderson said. “Both Jack and Bill have demonstrated time after time during their long and illustrious careers, a special dedication and commitment to advancing the quality and professionalism of the national park ranger, and the ranger profession.”

THE FUTURE OF THE YOUNT AWARD

This year marks a potential change in the Harry Yount award program as the National Park Service is considering re-vamping the award to “better reflect (the) current workforce and the work that they do today.”

Anderson said while ANPR supports the park service’s efforts to recognize these important cultural shifts, it also felt strongly that the Lifetime Achievement Award should live on in Yount’s name. The work Yount accomplished during his tenure in the 1880s was indicative of the times and spoke to his commitment to the assignments with which he was tasked. His 1881 “Report of Gamekeeper” virtually defined the role of the ranger then and today.

“ANPR is pleased to take over the lifetime achievement award for the park service and continue the tradition of recognizing those who perform excellence in rangering,” Anderson said. “We certainly support the park service continuing to issue the annual servicewide Harry Yount Award, too.”

Nearly 30 years ago, the original Harry Yount award was envisioned as a regional honor, a peer recognition designed for people in mid-career who were actively demonstrating the art and science of rangering.

But two years later at a White House gala celebrating the first ever National Parks Week, President Bill Clinton presented Richard T. “Rick” Gale with the first-ever Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award, setting in motion a tradition to not only honor outstanding rangers as they are in the making with the annual Servicewide Harry Yount Award, but also recognize an entire career’s contribution to the service, to rangers, and to rangering with the Lifetime Achievement Award. It is a tradition that, thanks to ANPR’s support, will endure today, and into the foreseeable future.



Yellowstone NP Superintendent Cam Sholly, with a bust of the park’s first ranger Harry Yount in the background, speaks during a special ceremony hosted in October 2021 to honor retired rangers Bill Halainen and Jack Morehead. They are just the seventh and eighth retired NPS employees to receive the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award for “excellence in the art and science of rangering.”

Photo: NPS / Jim Peaco

The honorees

HARRY YOUNT HALL OF FAME

- 1994** Richard T. “Rick” Gale – White House gala
- 1994** John H. “Jack” Davis – Re-dedication Ceremony marking the 75th Anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park
- 1997** James M. “Jim” Brady – White House, Oval Office
- 2000** Charles R. “Butch” Farabee – 25th Association of National Park Rangers Ranger Rendezvous, at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyo.
- 2005** Walter D. “Walt” Dabney – National Association of State Park Directors meeting in Semiahmoo, Wash.
- 2007** Richard “Dick” Martin – 31st Association of National Park Rangers Ranger Rendezvous, at the LaFonda Hotel in Santa Fe, N.M.
- 2021** William J. “Bill” Halainen – Association of National Park Rangers special ceremony at Yellowstone National Park.
- 2021** John M. “Jack” Morehead – Association of National Park Rangers special ceremony at Yellowstone National Park.



Bill Halainen at Yellowstone National Park, after receiving the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2021. Photo: NPS / Jim Peaco

Bill Halainen

'THE MORNING REPORT'

WHEN BILL HALAINEN WORKED IN WASO, HE lived just a few miles from his office in Arlington, Va. And the way Dick Martin tells the story, Halainen would walk to work every morning, arriving between 5 and 6 a.m., while most NPS staffers were just waking up. During those wee hours, Halainen was working on a self-appointed project that today is his legacy: "The Morning Report."

"He'd start punching out The Morning Report, and he'd get that whole thing done and out and in everybody's hands about the time they'd come to work," said Martin, who worked alongside Halainen for years.

The several-page document was a daily electronic and print newsletter to all employees, containing information on major incidents occurring in the parks, and other topics that he thought would be of interest to NPS staff. To winnow the information down, he combed through events from across the country and then decided which stories to include. Consider this for a moment: With parks spanning from Alaska to Florida to the Far Pacific, he had literal mountains of information to condense each day.

And Halainen, a one-man operation, was responsible for it all. In a special recognition ceremony held in October 2021 at Yel-

lowstone National Park, Halainen received the 2021 Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in rangering, in large part because of his work on The Morning Report. He single-handedly wrote The Morning Report from 1986 until 2014, producing some 7,000 reports total and setting the gold standard for communications excellence in unbiased and comprehensive coverage of park service activities.

"To me, Bill was a communications miracle worker, and I hardly think that's an exaggeration," said Martin, a Yount Award winner himself, in 2007. "I don't know anyone in the NPS who had the communication talent that Bill had. It wasn't just a skill, it wasn't just his knowledge, it was Bill himself. He had the drive, enthusiasm, energy, and intelligence to make him a talented communicator."

MERGING INTERESTS

Now retired and living in Milford, Penn., Halainen and one of his former supervisors Jack Morehead were both honored with the award, an occasion that has only happened six other times since the award's inception in 1994. They join an elite class of National Park Service professionals for whom rangering is at their core.

"There is a raft of awards you can get in the park service, but this one is at the top of the pile for the ranger profession," Halainen

said. "I still call myself a ranger. It's a validation from your peers and that is about the highest award you can get."

Halainen began his NPS career in 1974 as a seasonal park ranger at Little Big Horn National Battlefield Park and Mesa Verde National Park. A recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts, it was a good match for his dual degrees in history and journalism/English, tracking with interests he had growing up outdoors, exploring the woods or motoring around the lake where his family had a cottage.

"I was intoxicated by fresh air, wild storms, open waters, etc. Much of this came from my father, who was the son of Finnish immigrants and passionate about all forms of skiing," he said.

He was also hooked on history, no doubt influenced by his mother who had a degree in history.

He spent four summers as an interpretive ranger at both parks, giving presentations on the Battle of the Little Big Horn and third-person living history as a member of the 7th Cavalry.

"I was just totally taken by the high plains of Montana," he said. "We had housing that was on the battlefield, not far from the visitor center, which gave you a great view of the mountains and the valley. At night the skies were incredible."

At Mesa Verde, he gave talks on the 1,200-year-long history of Anasazi occupation of the mesa and evening astronomy programs.

Those early rangers years shaped Halainen's career, even as he advanced in the ranks. In 1978 he was hired at Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, where he was a park dispatcher, then law enforcement ranger, and in 1980 he moved to the smaller Minute Man National Historical Park, performing similar duties.

MAKING HIS MARK

"After I had been there for two years, though, I could see I wasn't going anywhere, so I started looking for other opportunities," Halainen said. "I sent a letter to Rick Gale (then editor of ANPR's newsletter) and said, 'I see you're the editor of the newsletter, I'd be happy to help.'"

A week later, Halainen said, Gale called: "He said, 'Congratulations, on your new position.' Rick was a masterful delegator."

Empowered by Gale's trust and excited by the challenge, Halainen attended his first ANPR Ranger Rendezvous at Fontana Lake in 1982 and made valuable connections with influential NPS rangers



Bill Halainen, shown here in one of his first rangers jobs, in period cavalry dress at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument during the summer of 1974 Photo: Courtesy Bill Halainen

and retirees. He changed the newsletter to *Ranger* magazine in 1984.

"I had carte blanche to go forward and do the work, and I started the quarterly magazine with contributions from the field," he said.

The volunteer effort got the attention of Chief Ranger Dan Sholly, who wanted to improve communications in the field. He recruited Halainen to the Washington D.C., office headquarters in 1985.

"In taking the position, I would be a GS-7 with two young children and an unemployed spouse, which would be an economic challenge," he said. "But Dan Sholly and others in his office were of the same mind in terms of editorial freedom. I was actively encouraged to find better ways to communicate, so I did."

Soon Halainen's name would become known throughout the NPS.

In WASO, Halainen's official title was program manager for the Ranger Activities Division, and his primary duty was managing the NPS uniform program, overseeing a \$7 million contract which provided uniforms to approximately 12,000 people.

"When I got asked to be on the committee, I had been selectively disobedient for how I was wearing the uniform," said Ginny Rousseau, who at the time was one just a few female rangers. "The uniform was nowhere near practical, and Bill was instrumental in helping get us better uniforms."

Still, Halainen never lost sight of his original communications directive, and he continued developing strategies to improve how information was delivered.

"At the same time, he is running the uniform program, and totally on his own, Bill creates *The Morning Report*," said John Townsend, a retired ranger who was on the original committee that created the Yount Award. "Everybody from congressional staffers to people in the media started their morning reading *The Morning Report*."

Even after retirement, Halainen continued to have an impact on the NPS.

"He spent many years producing the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks' weekly newsletter," noted ANPR President Paul Anderson. "In addition, he was a founder and charter member of the International Ranger Federation."

Martin, who along with all the living past Yount Award winners, was behind Halainen's nomination, said he could think of no more deserving recipient for lifetime achievement recognition.

"Folks like Jack (Morehead) and Bill do what they do because they enjoy it, they feel like they're making a difference and they're working to make a positive difference," he said. "Nobody can over-emphasize his dedication – it's beyond comparison."



Yellowstone Deputy Superintendent Mike Tranel, Chief Ranger Sarah Davis, Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly and ANPR President Paul Anderson present Bill Halainen with a Yount Award certificate.

Photo: NPS / Jim Peaco



Jack Morehead at Yellowstone National Park, after receiving the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2021. Photo: NPS / Jim Peaco

Jack Morehead

‘WALKING THE TALK’

JACK MOREHEAD’S NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CAREER started more than 70 years ago, and he’s been retired since 1994. Most new rangers today were born at about that time. And while they may not personally know Morehead’s name, the impact of his long and storied career as a ranger, superintendent and regional director has set the standard for excellence in rangership.

That’s why Morehead, now 89, joins an elite class of individuals as a Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award winner. He is among only eight rangers to be recognized with the award since it first was presented in 1994.

“I’m just totally blown away,” said Morehead, from his home in Morro Bay, Calif. “When (ANPR president Paul Anderson) called me one morning, and told me, I could hardly talk. It was so unexpected. I’ve been retired now for 27 years, so just for people to remember me that long ago is amazing.”

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Morehead was chief ranger at Yosemite National Park when Ginny Rousseau arrived there, a brand-new ranger, 27 years old, and one of a handful of female rangers in the park. It was 1973.

“From Day 1, he certainly set a standard that I looked up to throughout my career,” Rousseau said. While she didn’t report directly to Morehead, his leadership style trickled down through the ranks, she said, making for an overall positive working environment.

“I was a GS-5 ranger, I was new at it, and trying to do the best job I could in a highly competitive world of male rangers,” she said. “I figured I stepped into that puddle knowingly and I better not have too thin of a skin, but Jack never treated me any different. He was level, he never overreacted; he was a silver-tongued devil. He could schmooze and talk with any group, and he did so very effectively. He took care of his people.”

Rousseau's husband, Dennis Burnett, was among a group of retired rangers who nominated Morehead for the Yount honor. Burnett worked in 13 parks over his 35-year NPS career, and his favorite postings were those where he got to work alongside Morehead. Burnett first got to know him when he arrived at Isle Royale National Park in 1973. Morehead would become superintendent there two years later, a post he held until April of 1980.

"I worked with him there for two years," Burnett said. "His management style was that you go in a park and watch the operations for a year, then the second year make the changes you need, and the third year hope it was successful. I just totally respect him and his management style, because it works."

BUILDING THE BASE

Speaking to Morehead on the phone from his home in California, he sounds humbled, and appreciative. He speaks in a cadence that suggests not much can rattle him, which is not surprising, considering his background. Growing up in the shadow of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, Morehead was introduced to rangers from an early age. In grade school he would listen to park naturalist Raymond Gregg on the radio, squirreling away knowledge that would help him complete his degree in forest recreation at what is now Colorado State University.

"I started in 1951 as a trail crew laborer with my pay at \$1.25 an hour," he said of that first job at Rocky Mountain NP. He retired as regional director of the Alaska region in September of 1994.

His abilities as an outdoorsman – skills he learned for fun as a teenager growing up in the wilds of Colorado – helped set the trajectory of his career. He was an expert alpine and cross-country skier, climber, kayaker and commercial river runner. He became one of the first scuba divers in the park service, a sport he enjoyed until 2016, when his doctor raised a fit and he agreed to give it up at age 84.

"My ranger skills I am totally proud of," he said. "I think that really got me started, especially in Yosemite. Morehead took his first Yosemite seasonal position in the spring of 1954, buoyed by a \$3,175 annual salary.

"They asked if I knew what a piton was and what a carabiner



Jack Morehead, at center with the carabiner on his belt, taught mountain rescue to trainees at the Horace M. Albright Training Center in Grand Canyon NP from 1963 to 1965. Photo: Courtesy Jack Morehead

was, and said, 'Do you know how to rappel?' and when I said, 'Yes,' they said, 'Good. You are on the mountain rescue team.' "

THE REAL DEAL

Perhaps most notable about Morehead, his admirers say, is the fact that, as Rousseau points out, "he walked the talk."

"Because of his background and experience in skiing and climbing, he had the skills to back up his leadership," she said. "And he pushed for all of the rangers to get as many skills as they could. He knew it was important."

"From his early career, Jack related to and strived to help those he saw with potential," Burnett added. "We are proud to have served with him."

Morehead's skills came in especially handy at Yosemite, where after his 1954 seasonal ranger assignment, he worked as a ski instructor at Badger Pass for the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. He went on to become a permanent ranger, chief ranger and, ultimately, superintendent of that park.

It was his leadership, though, that launched him into some of the most challenging jobs ahead of him – particularly his time as superintendent at Everglades National Park.

"I guess one of the major accomplishments I had was getting rid of commercial fishing in the Everglades," he said of the process that was just getting underway when he arrived in April of 1980. "It was really rough."

Commercial fishing for crab, lobster and mullet was happening throughout the park, creating damage and imbalance, Morehead said. Ending it was highly political, because the fishing industry was entrenched in the region. He received many threats during that tumultuous time, and almost lost his job over it.

"Getting rid of commercial fishing was the right thing to do, though," he said. "It really helped the natural ecosystem. That was definitely a major accomplishment; a rough time in my career, but also very rewarding."

For those efforts, Morehead received the 1986 Steven T. Mather Award from the National Parks Conservation Association, bestowed upon "a federal employee who has risked his/her career for the principles and practices of good stewardship of the national parks." He received that recognition at the 1986 Ranger Rendezvous, in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

— Melissa DeV Vaughn is editor of *Ranger* magazine.



ANPR President Paul Anderson presents Jack Morehead with the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award on Oct. 14, 2021, as Yellowstone NP Superintendent Cam Sholly looks on. Photo: NPS: Jim Peaco



Collateral damage

How an ailing planet is harming human health

By Capt. Sara Newman & Cmdr. Danielle Buttke



A lightning storm caused the Sprague fire of 2017 at Glacier National Park. Photo: NPS

HOW WAS YOUR SUMMER? HOT? SMOKY? DIVERTED by a mudslide or floods? Whether it was the record-breaking temperatures and fires or the release of the sixth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which shows climate change is happening even faster than previously predicted, or even the more recent international gathering of world leaders in Glasgow, Scotland, pledging to cut planet-warming emissions, the past few months have seen greater conversations and media coverage about climate change than at any other time. One (of numerous) key findings from the 13-chapter, 4,000 page IPCC report is that “each of the last four decades has been successively warmer than any decade that preceded it since 1850” (IPCC, 2021). But as this report, the global conference, and the constant stream of news these past several months reflect, the real issue that has captured public attention isn’t the certainty of prediction or number of degrees of warming, it is that climate change is increasingly recognized as a threat to our health and safety.

As public land caretakers, we are aware of the harmful impacts a changing climate has had and will continue to have on the fragile resources we are committed to protecting. What we may be less inclined to consider are the impacts on our personal health and wellbeing. Climate change has long been portrayed as a phenomenon happening somewhere else and, in the future, but recent events highlight just how much climate change is happening here, happening now, and threatening our health. The good news is, studies show that when people recognize climate change as a threat to human health, they are more likely to act compared to when climate change is seen as an impact to the natural world alone (Kotcher et al, 2019). So, the more people understand the immediate health impacts of climate change, the swifter and more significant action we will see

to address the human causes of climate change.

Climate change’s impacts on health are much more widespread than just heat and wildfires. Air pollution is the leading environmental cause of death. Human burning of fossil fuels kills 300,000 Americans every year and is the fifth leading cause of premature death globally. Air pollution is getting worse with the increasing wildfire frequency and intensity that climate change is causing as temperatures increase and precipitation decreases. This worsening

air quality is also leading to higher rates of asthma, heart attacks, strokes, and lung disease, conditions that will worsen with greater ozone formation under hotter, drier conditions, and is also linked to greater risks from COVID-19 (Cohen et al. 2017). Many vector-borne, diarrheal, and waterborne diseases are also increasing in frequency and geographic range, with both water scarcity and flooding impacting wastewater and drinking water resources and infrastructure even in affluent communities. Diseases that can spread between humans and animals are also occurring more frequently and evolving into new forms as disruptions to

wildlife habitats and increased utilization of bushmeat stress wildlife populations and bring humans and animals into closer and more frequent contact. Allergies are also worsening as pollen seasons lengthen and pollen production increases. And while the occurrence of super pollen might lead you to think plants will do well under a warmer and more carbon dioxide-rich environment, laboratory studies and observational data from the last several decades have found that both crop productivity and the nutritional value of those crops will decline significantly as the climate crisis worsens. Further hampering the production and safety of our food are the more frequent and devastating impacts of flood, drought, and severe weather on our agricultural systems. In many parts of



the world, the impacts of climate change are already associated with staple food shortages, malnutrition, and food contamination.

History has shown us that threats to food security have resounding impacts far beyond the community where the food is lost. The impacts to agricultural production already seen have been linked to a potentially greater and even more unpredictable impact on human health: forced migration and civil unrest. Climate change is cited as the foremost security threat as civil unrest, food scarcity, sea-level rise and failing civil services are anticipated to create 1 billion climate migrants and have been linked to significant civil unrest in Syria and other countries (UNHCR 2014; Lancet 2019). Even an affluent country such as the US is expected to see 13 million current residents migrate within our borders by the end of the century because of climate change, which has already contributed heavily to the surge in migrants at the US-Mexico border (Hauer 2017).

And the direct impacts of extreme climate, such as geographic displacement of populations, food scarcity, damage to property, loss of loved ones, air pollution, and chronic stress and even the indirect experience of reading and hearing about these hardships, has staggering impacts on mental health, with likely greater but still unquantified impacts to be seen (Berry et al. 2018, APA, Mental Health and Our Changing Climate: Impacts, Inequities, Responses, 2021).

What is also clear is that these health

“The consequences of climate change for human health are frightening and hard to face, but there is tremendous opportunity and hope, particularly for those of us that wear or support the green and gray.”

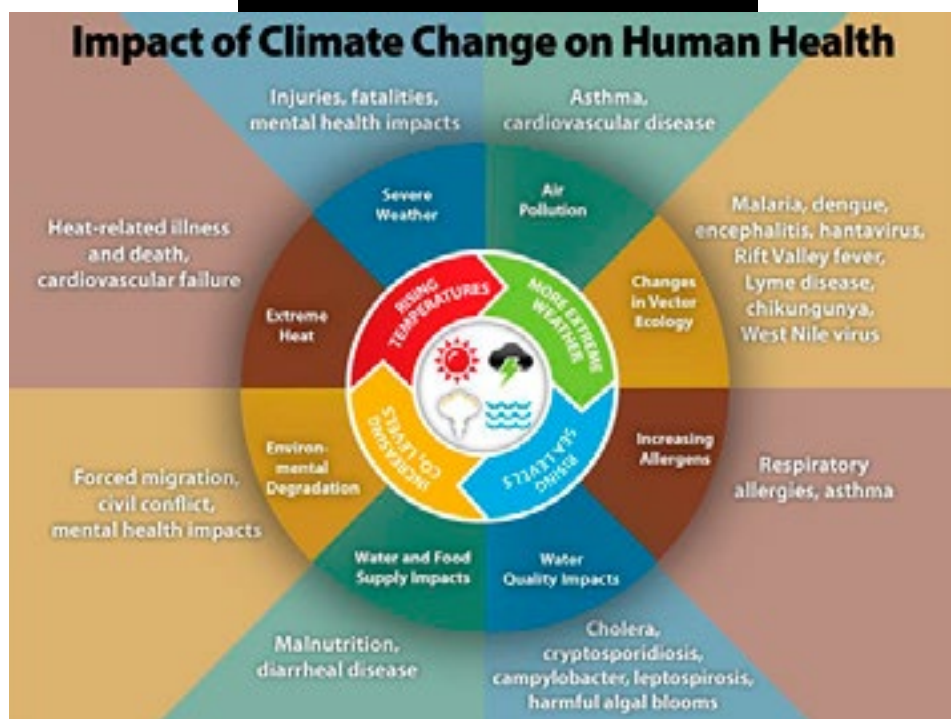
burdens fall disproportionately on underserved populations because they are more likely to live and work in communities and industries more directly impacted by climate change and because they lack access to mitigation and adaptation resources. Those with the fewest resources to adapt will continue to be hit the hardest.

The consequences of climate change for human health are frightening and hard to face, but there is tremendous opportunity and hope, particularly for those of us that wear or support the green and gray. We have all witnessed the power of parks for health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The record-breaking visitation in many places even during COVID lockdowns in the spring of 2020 is a testament to the critical role public lands play as health resources. But the power of parks for health goes much deeper than mental health and wellbeing. Whether it is urban trees filtering air to reduce air pollution and urban heat islands, coastal marshes and mangroves reducing storm surges, open space and forests as flood mitigation, or trees, prairies, and healthy, living soil as carbon sinks, natural resources are both climate and equity solu-

tions. Shade trees are valuable to everyone but can save the lives of those that cannot afford air conditioning or asthma medication. Nature-based climate solutions have immediate public health benefits in addition to economic benefits, making natural infrastructure an easier sell to policy makers and governments than physical infrastructure such as levees, shade structures, and carbon capture and storage technology, which are more expensive and rarely increase neighboring property values the way that open space and urban trees can. Nature-based climate solutions are also some of the only solutions that help us both reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change and reduce atmospheric carbon at the same time as providing critical habitat and resources for the conservation of other species. So, in our work to protect our parks and encourage a spirit of conservation, we are all a part of the climate solution.

While the problem feels overwhelming, which can make our individual actions feel insignificant there is much we can do to be a part of the solution. Our individual actions to reduce emissions do matter, not only because of the direct impacts they have, but more importantly because of how our actions influence others. The more we do to educate about the importance of natural climate solutions and the importance of natural resource conservation to combat climate change, both by modeling the behaviors in our homes and communities as well as by teaching our own colleagues and visitors about these solutions, making changes in our workplaces to reduce emissions, and bolstering climate-friendly practices in our facilities, the bigger the impact we will have. You can make a difference, and by highlighting the power of parks for health to prevent climate change impacts, you will have a bigger difference for the health of all species and the parks that they share.

Capt. Sara Newman is director of the NPS Office of Public Health and NPS Scientific Integrity Officer. Cmdr. Danielle Buttke leads the One Health Program for the National Park Service, a joint effort between the Office of Public Health and Wildlife Health Branch.



ANPR photo contest showcases America's most beautiful spaces



**People in the Parks
and Best in Show**

by Greg Galloway
Glen Canyon NRA



It's in the Details

by Claire Schuler, Shark Valley, Everglades NP



Historical & Cultural Resources

by Matthew Enderle, Glacier Bay NP

THE 2021 ANPR PHOTO CONTEST ATTRACTED DOZENS OF ENTRIES from photographers in parks around the country, and the results are in! Photos were put on Facebook for a public vote, and those with the most “likes” were deemed the winners.

The competition was tough, too! Winners from each category received a \$25 Amazon gift card, and the best overall photo received an additional \$100 gift card. Many thanks to board member Elsa Hansen for mangling this fun annual event.

Here are your 2021 winners. Start keeping an eye out for the perfect photo to be ready to enter this fall, when the next contest will kick off. Stay tuned for details!

Best in Show: Greg Galloway

Landscapes: Kendra Balazs and Julie Kierstine (tie)

Our Changing World: Kendra Balazs

Wildlife: Janvier Smith

Historical/Cultural Resources: Matthew Enderle

People in the Parks: Greg Galloway

It's in the Details: Claire Schuler



Our Changing World

by Kendra Balazs, North Rim, Grand Canyon NP



Landscape

by Julie Kierstine,
Glacier NP

Landscape

by Kendra Balazs,
Bryce Canyon NP





Wildlife

by Janvier Smith,
Yosemite NP

Regional Rendezvous bring together the membership

DESPITE THE IMPACTS OF THE ONGOING COVID-19 pandemic, ANPR persevered in 2021 with a modified version of its annual Ranger Rendezvous. These “Regional Rendezvous,” as they came to be called, were celebrated following the annual membership meeting on Oct. 16, 2021, with small, in-person gatherings of ANPR members and guests in Minneapolis; Washington, D.C.; Tucson, Ariz.; San Francisco; Moab, Utah; and Asheville, N.C.

“My husband and I seize every opportunity we can to go to Asheville, so when I had the pleasure of co-hosting ANPR’s 2021 “Regional Rendezvous” with Jeanette Meleen, Board Member for Fundraising, we loaded up our dog and drove there,” said Reghan Tank, outgoing Board Member for Membership Services.

Tank said she and Meleen weren’t sure how many people would show up to the open-invite event – they had reached out to local NPS sites, universities, and members living in nearby cities and states, but they didn’t require RSVPs for a headcount.

“Right after we got there, we actually had a patron come up to us and ask, ‘Where’d you get the hat?’ pointing to our flat hat resting on the table,” she said. “He and his wife were former VUA and Interp seasonals at Yellowstone, and just so happened to be there at the same time as us, which was a neat way to start out the night and get us talking about ANPR.”

In total, 15 people showed up for the Regional Rendezvous that evening, Tank said. In Tucson, where a large number of retired NPS retirees live, more than 30 showed up; and in Washington, D.C., a small group of seven showed up, but “enjoyed lively conversation, frosty drinks, and great food from a nearby taco truck,” according to host and Board Member for Strategic Planning Jonathan Shafer.

“Discussion ranged from career progression and supervision to the kinds of social opportunities we enjoy in parks and in cities,” Shafer said.

As ANPR considers future get-togethers, the consensus is that occasional meetings such as these are untapped opportunities to draw in new audiences that, as Tank put it, “ANPR can help guide, teach, and mentor as the next stewards of our public lands.”



Washington, D.C., Regional Rendezvous participants gather at MetroBar on Oct. 16, 2021, following ANPR’s annual membership meeting. Photo: Jonathan Shafer



Lessons from the general

Gen. Colin Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pauses during his speech at the Sunset Ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivors at the Arizona Memorial Visitors Center on Dec. 7, 1991. Photo: JOC Gloria Montgomery / Department of Defense / National Archives

A nod to great leaders who uplifted the park service

By Bill Pierce

I MET GEN. COLIN POWELL ON DEC. 7, 1991, AT THE *USS Arizona* Memorial, where he was the keynote speaker for the 50th anniversary of the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. I was the operations chief on the National Park Service All Risk Incident Management Team commanded by Rick Gale, and we were assigned to manage the five-day event at the memorial site.

Gen. Powell struck me as a sharp and outgoing military officer, and I admired how he made time for everyone he encountered. He was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time, and always on a tight schedule. His security detail wanted to move him as a quickly as possible to the stage for his speech, but he wanted to meet the survivors and their families in the audience. He spent almost an hour meeting every survivor and family and talking to each of them about their experiences. His speech and the playing of “Taps” at sunset on that day were the most import-

ant remembrance of the five days of events.

On Oct. 18, 2021, nearly 80 years since that attack on Pearl Harbor, the country lost a great general. Powell, who had been battling cancer, ultimately succumbed to COVID-19. He was 84. We salute his contributions to the country, and to the NPS.

Gen. Colin Luther Powell is the story of America, born in Harlem to Jamaican immigrants, he went to public schools and graduated from the City College of New York with a degree in geology and a commission as a U.S. Army second lieutenant (ROTC). He served in the Army for 35 years, tackling each assignment with leadership and teamwork, and rose to the rank of a four-star general. He and his wife, Alma, of 59 years also raised three children and have many friends around the world.

Gen. Powell so impressed me with his compassion and leadership that I studied and taught the lessons he learned in his life and career. Here are the lessons he passed on to all of us:

PICKING TEAM MEMBERS

Look for intelligence and judgment and, most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. Also look for loyalty, integrity, a high energy drive, a balanced ego and the drive to get things done. Rick Gale assembled the first NPS All Risk Management Team by following this principle assiduously, and all of us on the team had these characteristics along with great team skills. No one exemplified this more than our finance section chief, Marcia Blaszak, with her ability to get things done and support all the team members whenever they needed help or guidance.

EMBRACE TRUST

The soldier (ranger) in the field is always right; the rear echelon wrong, unless proven otherwise. Rick believed in hearing and seeing what the “front line” was up against and using that input in planning for the next operational period. Our planning section chief, Bill Gabbert, stressed front line data and analysis for his planning process and kept in constant contact with me, as operations chief.

HAVE FUN

Don't always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you have earned it. Spend time with your families. Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, folks who work hard and play hard. At a meeting with the Honolulu Symphony manager, we were asked if we knew a Mezzo-Soprano who would be singing at the event. Rick looked the manager in the eye and asked him if he knew Willie Nelson. The ice was broken and we had no communications problems after that.

CHECK THE EGO

Never let your ego get so close to your position that when your position goes, your ego goes with it. Effective leaders create a climate in which employees' worth is determined by their willingness to learn new skills and grab new responsibilities. The workload for the public information officer and staff at Pearl Harbor was enormous, with more than 1,800 credentialed media from around the world scheduled to be present. Since this tied directly to operations, we decided that this staff would report to the operations chief rather than the incident commander. This worked well, and our success was due to folks like Mallory Smith, Blanca Stransky, Jim Harpster, Dwayne Collier and many others.

BE TRUE TO YOURSELF

Fit no stereotypes, don't chase the latest fads. The situation dictates which approach best accomplishes the team's mission. Leaders honor their core values but are flexible in how they execute them. Our logistics section chief, Steve Holder, demonstrated this at Pearl Harbor where he worked for weeks to get the State of Hawaii and the Honolulu symphony to agree on the stage flowers for the main event. The evening before the event he had one last meeting with the group leaders and reminded them that they had to come to an agreement right then or *he* would, as “he owned the stage.”

THINK POSITIVELY

Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier. The ripple effect of a leader's enthusiasm is awesome. Rick was both a “heat shield” for the team on outside pressures and a can do, “get 'er done” optimist even when issues were “coming in weak and stupid.”

HONOR THE TEAM

Organization charts and fancy titles count for little. Instead, create an environment where the best and brightest are attracted, retained and unleashed to accomplish their goals. Inspire through drive, expertise and caring for teammates and results. I once saw Rick throw in the “bullshit” red flag at a meeting of the Secretary of the Interior and agency heads from the park service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management *and* Bureau of Indian Affairs. He was expressing his expertise on fire to prevent poor decisions by people who did not know the issues.

MIND THE DETAILS

When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted, the leader must be doubly vigilant. Good leaders delegate and empower others liberally, but also pay attention to details every day. Rick was a master at this: His yellow sticky notes lined up at 0600 were all checked off by the end of each day on the incident.

BE A GOOD LISTENER

The day employees stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Leaders show concern for the efforts and challenges faced by employees even as they demand high standards. Accordingly, they are more likely to create an environment in which problem-solving replaces blame.

BE WILLING TO MAKE THE TOUGH CALL

Being responsible means you will upset some people. Good leadership involves responsibility to the team; that means some people will get angry at your actions and decisions. Trying to get everyone to like you, and avoiding the tough decisions, keeps you from confronting the people who need to be confronted most, and alienates the most productive people on the team. Be assertive.

Gen. Colin Powell and Rick Gale were true leaders throughout their lives. They optimistically inspired excellence in people and teams, all the time. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can only be repaid by doing our best to seek and communicate the truth as we work to solve today's issues facing our country and the world.

Bill Pierce was a ranger and superintendent in his 40 years with the NPS, and an incident commander and operations chief on many interagency fires and all risk incidents.



Honorees at the USS Arizona Memorial. Photo: Bill Pierce



Welcome to the ANPR family

(Updated 12/12/2021)

Mark Glowacky	<i>Grand Canyon, AZ</i>
James Jensen	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
Sami King	<i>Moab, UT</i>
David Leiferman	<i>Brookings, SD</i>
Courtney Mackay	<i>Toquerville, UT</i>
Jim Milestone	
Janvier Smith	<i>Topsam, ME</i>
William Zimmer	<i>Vernon, WA</i>
John Chapman	<i>Littleton, CO</i>
Michael Durnin	<i>Jacksonville, FL</i>
Gaylene Eisner	<i>Redwood Estates, CA</i>
Maridy Gamoso	<i>Hillsborough, NJ</i>
Eric Hamren	<i>Hilo, HI</i>
Claire Miller	<i>Surprise, AZ</i>
Emma North	<i>Irwin, PA</i>
Elizabeth Runbom	<i>Galesburg, IL</i>
Kip Shaw	<i>Squaw Valley, CA</i>
Gregory Wallace	<i>Baltimore, MD</i>
Lucas Westcott	<i>Port Alsworth, AK</i>
Kathryn Williamson	<i>Rancho Cucamonga, CA</i>
Shannon Wilson	<i>Forney, TX</i>
Leroy Olson	<i>Custer, SD</i>
Chad Johnson	<i>Seattle, WA</i>



Branching out

If you, or someone you know, has moved within the NPS or on to new adventures, let us know so we can share the good news! Email mdevaughn@anpr.org.

Jamie Richards has recently moved from Yosemite to Rocky Mountain National Park. Jamie has served as a public affairs specialist at Yosemite National Park for the past five years. She has taken on the role as a public affairs specialist serving as the new digital lead at ROMO. Jamie is a former ANPR board member for Professional Issues and has served on the Ranger Rendezvous Planning Committee for the past several years. She is looking forward to being back in Colorado and exploring all that the Rocky Mountains has to offer (FOSU (SCA intern) 2007, JOTR 2009-10, ROMO 2010, JOTR 2010-11, ROMO 2011, JOTR 2011-16, YOSE 2016-21, ROMO-Present).

Jonathan Shafer, moved to Zion National Park in November 2021 to serve as the park's public affairs specialist. Since you saw him last, Jonathan has been working in communications in the National Capital Area Office (former NCRO), serving on the ANPR board, and *finally* finished up with grad school. He's looking forward to seeing western (and eastern) friends for visits around the park. (SHEN 2012, WRBR 2013, ISRO 2014, DEVA 2014-15, DENA 2015, YELL 2017, NCAO 2018-21, ZION-Present)



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Life members who contribute \$125 to ANPR are recognized in the Second Century Club. Once you are a Second Century Club member, each additional \$250 donation will increase your life level by one century. If you are a life member, please consider raising your contribution to the next level.

Updated yearly in print; quarterly online

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(Updated 12/12/2021)

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Kudos List

These people have either given someone a gift membership to ANPR or recruited a new member. Thanks for your help and support!

(Updated 12/8/21)

- Greg Galloway
- Sierra McDaniel
- Caleb Waters
- Kat Grubb
- Bill Wade

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The nature of work keeps changing

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC APPEARS TO HAVE permanently altered the way that some of us work. A short two years ago (in the *Before Times*), working from home was the purview of the privileged few or those who were forced to take reductions in pay and opportunities for advancement to gain more flexibility to accommodate personal needs.

Now, 18 months into the pandemic, remote work has become a living, breathing, and functional reality for many of us. The traditional role of the office has been diminished and some companies are considering the adoption of policies ranging from remote work to a four-day work week to ensure the greater flexibility that many COVID-era employees now demand.

Just how permanent some of these changes might become remains to be seen. Suffice to say that as the employment landscape shifts beneath our feet that this is not the first time in our history that the nature of work has been fundamentally altered. Take for example the history of weapons production at the Harpers Ferry armory.

The Harpers Ferry armory had as its mission the production of weapons for the defense of the nation. For a fledgling country that liked to pick fights with superpowers, this was critically important work.

Historian Merritt Roe Smith writes in “Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology: The Challenge of Change,” that weapons manufacturing at the Harpers Ferry armory in the early 19th century was divided into six separate “branches of labor.” The process included barrel making, lock forging, lock filing, brazing, stocking, and finishing, with each section requiring different skills. Even though one gun might be produced by six or more armorers and gunsmiths, the weapons, according to Smith, “remained essentially a handcrafted product.”

The craftsmen (and they were all men) producing these weapons regarded themselves as artisans with special skills, not supernumeraries. And they demanded their supervisors treat them with the respect and the flexibility their abilities warranted. According to Smith, the armorers and gunsmiths at Harpers Ferry, at least the more experienced ones, worked in ways “that were highly individualized and subject to few managerial constraints.”

A workday might start late, end early, or cease altogether so that the worker could visit the pub or watch a boxing match or a dogfight in the armory yard. A skilled employee might fulfill his monthly production quota in three weeks then use the remaining days of the month to pursue other interests. That first generation of employees at the armory did not control the means of production, but they did exert a powerful influence over the process of production.

The weapons produced under this system were of high quality but while they were similar, they were not interchangeable. It also was difficult to determine exactly how many weapons would be



This artist's rendering depicts workmen crafting muskets at the Harpers Ferry armory in the early 1800s. As skilled craftsmen, it is said that these workers set their own hours, demanding respect and flexibility in their work schedules. Could a similar workplace revolution, spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, be following?
Credit: Artist Carol Stuart Watson/ Harpers Ferry Center Commissioned Art Collection

produced over a given year. This was a problem for an emerging nation with an uncertain future and a need to quell perceived threats both foreign and domestic.

By the 1820s, technological innovations driven in part by the Industrial Revolution were making it possible to mass produce interchangeable weapons on which locks, stocks, and barrels for any one model, crafted to system-wide standards, could be fitted on any gun. Such innovation helped to spur the modernization of weapons production in the United States, but it was not warmly greeted by the workers at Harpers Ferry. For they recognized in the mechanization of their industry the imposition of the quota and the clock over their lives and the death of the artisan armorer and gunsmith and the freedom and power such status had provided them.

A Washington Post article from October 2021 (*The Great Resignation: What it means for workers and the U.S.*, by Taylor Telford and Aaron Gregg, Oct. 14, 2021) cited a survey of executives by the Society for Human Resource Management in which half of the respondents reported elevated employee turnover in the past six months. The Post concluded that “Flexibility in when and where work is done now outweighs compensation as a concern for many employees.” What’s new is old ...

Predicting the future of work in a soon-to-be (I hope) post-pandemic world is an enchanting but fruitless exercise. One wonders though if the power lost by workers to mechanization and standardization throughout the 19th and 20th centuries might just be making a limited but long-overdue comeback.

— Alan Spears

National Parks Conservation Association

IN PRINT

Ranger-paramedic captures perils of the parks

By Rick Smith

PEOPLE VISIT NATIONAL PARK AREAS FROM A VARIETY OF locations – cities, suburbs, rural areas, and others. Given the amazing diversity of these people, most have one thing in common, particularly those who visit our great Western national park areas: They are entering a world for which where they live does not prepare them. The animals they see are not in zoos. The roads upon which they drive aren't designated with an "I," and the maximum allowable speed is usually 45. The environment they are entering looks nothing like New York, Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, or areas in between. If they decide to scramble on rocks, they probably don't know that it's harder to climb down than up. Some may not be prepared for the swift-flowing rivers of the West. If they decide to hike, they need to remember to tell someone where they are going and when they plan to return. As a visitor once said to me as we were immobilizing his broken leg: "Parks ain't nothing like home."

He got that right.

The three parks in which Kevin Grange worked as a seasonal ranger-paramedic perfectly demonstrate the above: Yellowstone, Yosemite and Grand Teton. Yellowstone's 2.25-million acres hold an amazing array of wildlife, thermal features and a limitless trail system. All those things present a danger to the unprepared visitor. I once saw a mother from Europe spread jelly on her daughter's face so the father could take a photo of a black bear licking the jelly off. Yikes!

Yosemite presents its own challenges to a visitor. The rocks above a waterfall are extremely slick, and what looks like an easy walk across the stream above the falls can quickly carry someone over the edge. The trail systems are extensive, and as a rock-climbing mecca, there are the commensurate accidents. The same is true for the Tetons. And both the Tetons and Yellowstone are home to grizzlies. While injuries are rare, every encounter is scary.

Almost every incident Grange recounts in the book can be tied back to one of these factors. He responded to an unresponsive scuba diver in Yellowstone's Firehole River, various rock-climbing falls throughout both parks, and multiple search-and-rescue missions. Then there were the other emergencies – drug overdoses, stroke patients, a heart victim near Old Faithful, just to name a few.



"Wild Rescues," by Kevin Grange, Chicago Review Press

What struck me most while reading this book is how much rangers of my generation were medical novices. Some of us were EMT 1s or 2s. None of us was capable of performing the life-saving techniques that Grange describes. In 31 years with the NPS, I never started an IV, never put on a cervical collar. Their ambulances are well equipped. We put our patients in the back of the patrol station wagon using the old "throw and go" system, and headed to the nearest medical facility. No doubt, we saved some patients with CPR, but there's also no doubt that some visitors suffered more than they would have had we had Grange's training.

I recognize that as with all professions, each generation of rangers refines their skills, and has improved equipment available to them. I suspect this is particularly true in the medical field. Remember that rangers didn't go to FLETC until after the 1970 Stoneman Meadow riot, and interpretive training has improved dramatically. It is no longer a novelty to have ranger-paramedics on park staffs.

As one of the back cover blurbs reads, "There are thousands of ways to die in the Great Outdoors, but an elite group of park rangers and paramedics mind the gap." Grange was one of them.

The NPS is always lucky to have people of his skill level to help in emergency. In Grange's prologue, he describes helping an elderly person who had fallen from a boulder into the water near the base of Lower Yosemite Falls. After stabilizing him, the ambulance headed toward the Ahwahnee Meadow to meet an incoming helicopter. During that short ride, the patient "coded" twice. Each time, the ambulance had to stop while Grange and the other rangers and paramedics fought to bring him back to life. Grange does not say whether the patient survived the flight to Fresno. Let's hope so.

Rick Smith worked in six parks, two regional offices and WASO, and ended his career as the Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone.



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PROTECTION

Be strong, be fast

In work, *and* life, fitness matters

THE COLUMN I WROTE FOR THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF **RANGER** magazine highlighted how so many disciplines that we as park rangers might perform during any given shift are reflected in the Olympic Games. The Olympics, of course, require athletes to perform at their very best, both physically and mentally, in order to bring home a medal. As I wrote that piece, I spent much time reflecting on the importance of physical, mental, and emotional fitness — so much so that I'm devoting this column to physical fitness and what an important role it should play in our lives.

Notice I said "lives," not just "jobs." To be sure, we need to be physically fit for countless demands our ranger jobs place upon us—wrestling some thug who doesn't want to go to jail; carrying a heavy litter over miles of rugged trail; backcountry patrols through magnificent, but punishing terrain; fighting fire and all the rigors it carries with it, such as digging line, chain-sawing for hours, packing out endless rolls of hose, breathing smoke all day; paddling — and sometimes swimming — whitewater rivers; shoveling a stuck snowmobile out of a deep drift; for some extra-lucky souls, mountain bike and mountaineering patrols; this list can go on and on. The rangers profession certainly piles on the hard labor at times, so rangers have to be strong and fast for a thousand reasons.

However, our need to maintain a high degree of physical fitness extends well beyond work-related reasons. We owe it to our loved ones to stay physically healthy. We should be making and honoring a lifelong commitment to physical fitness for our family's sake. My two young sons, ages 5 and 7, get the biggest kick out of some of my workouts: They'll hopscotch over my legs while I'm doing burpees, do push-ups alongside of me, and sometimes they'll grab the lightest dumbbells on our rack and do their best to mimic whatever exercise I'm doing at the moment. This is some silly stuff, but it warms my daddy heart. If they happen to stick with it for a few minutes and actually start breathing heavily, they say to me, "Daddy, working out is hard! Why do you do it?" I look them in the eye and answer, "I do it for you boys, and your sisters and Mommy. I owe it to you to be as strong and as fast as I can be."

Think about this: How many times in a given day do you need to accomplish a physical task that is either pretty easy or maybe kind of hard because of where your level of physical fitness happens to be? For me, I can count dozens of such tasks: Carrying my kids up and down our staircase; dragging our beach wagon though soft sand on vacations; portaging a canoe; moving furniture around the house; running alongside my boys as they learn how to ride their bikes; yardwork; splitting firewood and carrying it into the house; building a snowman, sledding, and snowball fights; heck, even loosening lug nuts while changing a flat tire can be strenuous if the dude at the garage used a pneumatic wrench to tighten them last time! The bottom line is this: Hard work is easier when one is strong and fast.



A couple of fast movers getting strong so they can help Daddy build their treehouse. Photo: Kevin Moses

There are other reasons I'm dedicated to staying fit for my family, too; reasons I don't like to think of, but to which I cannot allow myself to turn a blind eye. Evil exists in our world. I wish it didn't, but it does. If evil ever rears its ugly head and tries to hurt my family, I pray that I will be there to protect them, and if I am, I pray that I'll be strong enough and fast enough to defeat that evil, whatever that may take. This line of thinking falls within the same vein as our commitment to be armed at all times, on and off-duty. Evil won't fight fair, and I guarantee the "bad guys" take time to work out, so it's up to us to achieve victory through superior firepower, superior strength, superior speed. There will always be someone who's stronger and faster than we are, so we have to bring our very best to the fight. We must be strong, and we must be fast, for our family's sake!

Sometimes when I call in-service over the radio and advise Dispatch that I'll be "on PT beginning of shift," I wonder if certain personalities out there in radioland roll their eyes and think, "Sure, sure, on PT again, whatever." Maybe they don't, but sometimes I wonder. Let's face it, we all know rangers who unfortunately say they utilize PT (physical training) time on the clock, but their PEB scores don't reflect it. That behavior is pathetic, and I won't belabor it here. What I will say is this: We're given three precious hours (though we should get five, but that's fodder for another column) of on-duty PT time per week, and there is zero reason for not using it. As a supervisor, I don't simply allow rangers to use PT time on the clock, I encourage it. I look them in the eye and say, "Be strong. Be fast. Do it for your family!" Scores of studies have also proven that good physical fitness has direct links to our mental fitness. Make time for it — it's one of the most important things we can do.

I'm building an epic treehouse with my boys as I write this, and though I'm having a blast doing it, the physical demands of that endeavor are seemingly endless — safe to say it's a labor of love. And on that note, I have to get back to it. Today's agenda: multiple trips shouldering 60-pound bundles of shingles up an extension ladder.

— Kevin Moses
*Central District Ranger,
 Shenandoah National Park*

ANPR support aids families of fallen Costa Rica rangers

Thanks to the generous support of ANPR, two U.S. \$500 grants were approved for the families of rangers in Costa Rica who died from COVID-19. The \$500 grants can equal a month's ranger pay or more for the recipient families in Latin America, said Mike Lynch, president of the International Ranger Foundation, which distributed the grants.

The rangers from Costa Rica who perished due to COVID-19 are Miguel Angel Ballesterero Mejia and Yamid Bolaños Quesada.

This makes 20 grants that have been made by the Ranger Foundation to families of Latin American rangers who died of COVID-19, Lynch added.



Miguel Angel Ballesterero Mejia



Yamid Bolaños Quesada

Senate confirms new NPS director

The Association happily welcomes Mr. Charles "Chuck" F. Sams III as our new director. Mr. Sams comes to the National Park Service with more than 25 years of conservation/environmental policy experience, most recently as the executive director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon. As an enrolled member of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes, Mr. Sams will be the first Native American to hold this position. ANPR congratulates Mr. Sams on his historic and long overdue appointment. We look forward to working with him on a variety of issues facing the National Park Service in support of our mission and employees.

— Rebecca Harriett, ANPR board member for government affairs

In remembrance

The ANPR family lost two of its own last year, and sends a grateful farewell to them.

Robert Eugene Sellers, known as Bob by friends and family, died April 1, 2021, at his care facility in Boise. He was 92 years old. A full obituary was not posted, but his family wrote, "He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who know and love him."



John O'Dea

John Edward O'Dea passed away July 1, 2021, surrounded by family and CareTeam members who provided comfort, joy and companionship the past eight years at home. John was born May 1923 on the Koch family farm near Sumatra, Mont., and grew up through the Depression. He was a seasonal law enforcement ranger at Yellowstone National Park from 1951 through 1979. His full obituary can be viewed at newspress.com/odea-john-edward/



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