



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Honorary Membership Nominations
C/o Honors and Awards
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

February 9, 2024

RE: Nominations of Raymond E. Todd for Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear Members of the Honorary ASLA Membership Committee:

We, John J. Reynolds (FASLA) and Daniel N. Wenk (Landscape Architect), both former Directors of the National Park Service (NPS), Denver Service Center (DSC) along with Jodie Petersen (FASLA), Division Chief of the DSC Design and Construction branch support the nomination of Raymond E. Todd for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Throughout his 41-year professional career with the NPS, Ray has made significant contributions to the agency's mission through excellence in project/program management in federal design and construction throughout the national park system. Ray's commitment to enhancing the visitor experience while preserving the nation's cultural and natural resources continues to be paramount for program/project execution. His expert knowledge of park operations/visitor services and love for the environment contributes to successful project delivery through interdisciplinary team approach. Ray has been the Director of the NPS/DSC since 2016 and currently supervises a staff of more than 300 professionals which includes landscape architects.

The DSC is the central professional planning, design, and construction project management office for the NPS, and contains the largest contracting office within the NPS with expertise in A/E and construction contracting. The office provides cradle-to-grave project management and delivery; park and community planning; design and construction project management, contracting services, transportation planning, and technical information management for parks and regions. Ray's leadership is relied on for managing some of the most nationally significant and challenging park projects and programs through effective leadership, influence, and guidance. With DSC as the primary NPS execution office for the Great American Outdoors Act/Legacy Restoration Fund (GAOA/LRF), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) projects, federally funded Line-Item Construction, Disaster Program work and other fund sources, he currently stewards over 1,400 projects across the country and achieved over \$1.4 billion in contract obligations during Fiscal Year (FY) 23. This was an increase of 121% from FY22 obligations.

Through his leadership, DSC was recognized in the October 2022 Biden-Harris Action Plan for Accelerating Infrastructure document for implementing the BIL. The action plan for accelerating infrastructure projects highlighted "Standardizing Best Practices in Project Management for the Nation's Parks" highlighting how the office developed and distributed electronic Project Management Manuals to ensure that its infrastructure projects are managed to consistent, best-in-practice principles. Under his leadership, DSC is managing the development of the NPS BIL Ecosystem Restoration and Energy Communities Revitalization Program Strategic Framework in collaboration with the NPS Natural Resource Stewardship and Science directorate. This cross-agency effort developed a comprehensive strategic framework for the BIL Ecosystem Restoration program to address shared goals and achieve an integrated/coordinated response for more than \$287 M to be allocated to from FY23-FY26. The DSC-developed manuals include best practices and templates for contract language.

Ray also provides leadership for the development of project database systems and communities of practices to maximize efficiencies and embrace continued learning. He is committed to integrating justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles when delivering programs. This is especially recognized for those projects requiring sensitivity with exploring national significant events such as the Springfield Race Riot Special Resource study and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail study. He championed NPS studies and construction projects to help tell the under-told stories in NPS: Emmet Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, the rehabilitation of the Greyhound Bus Depot, the Mural Building at Freedom Riders National Monument, Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, and others. He serves as Executive Sponsor leading the service-wide organizational goal of managing access for park entry. He guides the senior management

team to help advance the bureau's efforts on managed park access systems to protect resources, provide high quality visitor experiences, and ensure sustainable park operations.

Ray has oversight and responsibility for designing and building with sustainable practices and materials; and incorporating climate change science, adaptation and resiliency strategies into park planning, investment decisions, and construction. Through an interdisciplinary approach - landscape architecture work is delivered from the three divisions: Transportation, Planning, and Design and Construction – each supports programs/projects that advance the NPS mission for future generations. Listed below are three recent significant landscape architecture focused projects:

Transportation Division worked with Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to restore the Watergate Wetland. The restoration of 20 acres of wetlands was accomplished by removing dams/ponds and returning the area to its natural topography. Fifty-eight acres of invasive plants in and surrounding the project area was treated, and native seeds, shrubs and trees were planted in their place. Additional work included gravel road removal to allow the stream's floodplain to once again function naturally. The ecology of the entire project area has been improved; more diverse bird habitat, re-established plant communities, and enhanced native trout habitat. This project was a required compensation for the adverse environmental effects due to the construction of the nearby transmission line.

Planning Division managed the process to revise a backcountry and wilderness management plan for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The plan sets the framework for the NPS to manage the 2.6 million acres of designated Wilderness lands and waters in the park, and outline strategies to respond to current and potential future changing visitor use patterns while providing broad guidance for terrestrial and marine wilderness areas. The purpose of the plan is to provide for the protection of natural and cultural resources and values, wilderness character, and high-quality visitor experiences. Efforts also included recognizing the area is Homeland for the Tlingit people. It is a sacred landscape that supports the enduring connections between past, present, and future generations of the Tlingit. The team worked collaboratively to revise past management approaches related to historic structures with a direct association to Tlingit people, limiting visitor access to cave and karst formations, enhancing backcountry visitors' respect for Homeland, and recognizing traditional territory in appropriate ways. Efforts advanced agencywide conversations about diverse cultural perspectives and values.

Design and Construction Division is currently managing the Rehabilitation of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground (TMC) project was funded by GAOA. It is targeted for completion this year. TMC is located on the eastern portion of Yosemite National Park at an elevation of approximately 8,600 feet as serves 141,000 visitor/seasonally. The project includes improvements consisting of natural resource preservation, protection, and restoration; visitor experience enhancement; and cultural and historical rehabilitation components. Campsites located with 100 feet of the Ordinary High-Water Line of the Tuolumne River will be relocated to a new campground loop allowing for protection and revegetation of the riverbank area. Accessibility improvements will be completed for existing structures and facilities. Roadway changes will improve vehicular circulation, repair stormwater issues, and improve infrastructure systems. Site/ecological restoration includes establishment and harvesting of seed from NPS genetic stocks; cleaning, testing, storing; plant propagation; and planting.

Ray received one of the most prestigious awards in federal civil service, the 2022 Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive Award. Ray was selected by President Biden and the Office of Personnel Management to receive this award, considered the highest honor for career civil servants. To compliment this award, being selected as Honorary Member to American Society of Landscape Architects would truly represent his dedication to the Landscape Architect profession and the importance these individuals have at a national significant level – for the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

JODIE PETERSEN Digitally signed by JODIE PETERSEN
Date: 2024.02.09 10:24:15 -07'00'

Jodie Petersen FASLA
NPS/DSC/D-C Division Chief
Jodie.Petersen@nps.gov 720-603-3465 (work cell)



February 5, 2024

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It is my honor to support the nomination of Ray Todd as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Mr. Todd worked within the National Park Service (NPS) Denver Service Center throughout his 40-year federal career. Ray, a licensed architect, made significant contributions to the NPS through excellence in project and program management in federal design and construction throughout the National Park System. An outstanding manager, accomplished the mission of the NPS by championing a collaborative team approach to project management and ensuring excellent customer service to parks across the country. A highly respected leader and recognized as an expert in all realms of federal design and construction, leading projects in the Park Service's most iconic locations, including the Grand Canyon National Park, the National Mall, Statue of Liberty, Flight 93 as well as many other park areas.

As Director of the Denver Service Center Mr. Todd led the NPS office that provides cradle-to-grave project management and delivery; park and community planning; design and construction project management, contracting services, transportation planning, and technical information management for parks and regions. Ray was Director for this office from January 2016 until his recent retirement. His leadership was relied on for management of some of the most nationally significant and challenging park projects and programs through effective leadership, influence, and guidance. Colleagues both inside and outside NPS relied on Ray's leadership, technical expertise, and wide-ranging institutional knowledge.

In addition, Ray is a Project Management Professional, and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional. He earned a master's degree in architecture from the University of Oregon and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Todd's record of achievement deserves your consideration as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Thank you,


Daniel N. Wenk

Retired, National Park Service Executive / Landscape Architect

February 9, 2024

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Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Nomination of Ray Todd for ASLA Honorary Membership

Dear Members of the ASLA Honorary Membership Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Ray Todd for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Ray Todd, recently retired Director of the National Park Service (NPS) Denver Service Center, has received one of the most prestigious awards in federal civil service, the 2022 Presidential Rank Award, Meritorious Executive Award. Ray was selected by President Biden and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to receive this award, considered the highest honor for a career civil servant. Ray is only one of six National Park Service employees to ever receive this level of recognition.

This award is emblematic of Ray's personal abilities, personality, and contributions to the National Park System and thereby to the American public.

Ray joined the Denver Service Center, National Park Service in 1982 as a historical architect. He has led the Center since 2016. In 2022 the center awarded \$1.4 billion in construction contracts, the largest amount in the Center's history. I first met Ray in 1989, shortly after I was appointed the director of the Service Center, and have followed his career ever since, including during my retirement.

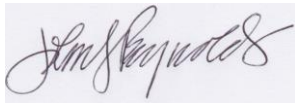
Ever since Ray joined the National Park Service he has embraced the tradition and essence of collaboration among design professionals, especially the Service's historical traditions of the essential contributions of landscape architecture to visitor use, enjoyment and preservation of the parks.

Ray's work included working on renovation of the Main Immigration Building at Ellis Island (where his grandfather arrived in the United States), leading a preservation crew at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, rehabilitation of the iconic historic lodge at Crater Lake National Park, managing the Elwha River Restoration at Olympic National Park which included removal of two dams to restore the riverine ecosystem in a significant part of the park. He has been a champion of sustainable design in the parks. His quiet and deep professional expertise, his ability to effectively merge professionals into excellent teams, and his quiet, calm, open demeanor led him up the ranks of the Service Center to becoming its deputy director and ultimately its director.

Ray is a licensed architect, a Project Management Professional, and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional. He earned a master's degree in architecture from the University of Oregon and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan.

It is my honor to support Ray's nomination to become an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, an honor that fits his warm and inclusive personality and his work ethic exactly and recognizes his deep embrace of landscape architecture in excellence of planning, design, construction and management.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John J. Reynolds", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

John J. Reynolds, FASLA
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February 9, 2024

RE: Nominations of Raymond (Ray) E. Todd for Honorary Membership in ASLA

Dear Members of the Honorary ASLA Membership Committee:

Below is contact information for Ray:

Ray Todd
5298 Chiquita Rd
Indian Hills, CO 80454
United States

Phone: (303) 697-8790

Email: raytodd@comcast.net

Please let me know if you need additional information. I can be reached at [Jodie Petersen@nps.gov](mailto:Jodie.Petersen@nps.gov) or 720-603-3465.

Thank you,

JODIE PETERSEN Digitally signed by JODIE PETERSEN
Date: 2024.02.09 10:24:15 -07'00'

Jodie Petersen PLA, MLA, FASLA, PMP, LEED
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