

From: "Director, NPS" <nps_director@nps.gov>
Date: December 23, 2016 at 6:07:30 AM PST
To: NPS All Employees <nps_all_employees@nps.gov>
Subject: Retirement

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From: Director /s/ Jonathan B. Jarvis

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On January 3, 2017, I retire from the National Park Service after 40 years of public service to the American people and this extraordinary institution. Little did I suspect in 1976, while working as a GS-4 Park Technician on the National Mall during our Nation's Bicentennial, that 40 years later I would be serving as the Director during the National Park Service's Centennial. The time has gone by quickly, though I have a lifetime of amazing experiences and no regrets. I could rattle off a long list of accomplishments, but instead I will let history be the judge.

I will leave you with my assessment of the NPS as we enter our second century. The National Park Service is not perfect, but it is strong, resilient and beloved by the American people. The NPS fearlessly addresses some of the most complex issues of our society from climate change to civil rights and stands as a beacon to those who work to achieve the highest aspirations of the nation. I could not be more proud of the 22,000 employees who keep that beacon bright everyday in our parks and programs across the country. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, whose story we interpret in parks Atlanta and in DC, said that "the arc of the universe bends toward justice". The collective weight of the National Park Service pulls that bend closer to environmental and social justice for all those who call this planet home. Keep pulling, be safe and I will see you in the parks.

Jonathan B. Jarvis

18th Director, NPS

December, 2016