

## **Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative**

Nominee: Michael T. Reynolds

Nominee's Address: National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240 (until 2/23)

Superintendent's Office, PO Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389 (after 3/2)

Phone: 202-302-6051 (office, until 2/23)  
209-372-0200 (office, after 3/2)  
703-615-4316 (personal cell, anytime)

Nominator: Mark A. Focht, FASLA

Please describe the nominee's achievements of national or international significance or influence and how they have benefited the profession of landscape architecture (no more than two pages, single-spaced, typed).

It is my pleasure to nominate Michael T. (Mike) Reynolds for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have had the honor and privilege of knowing Mike for over twenty years. He has a deep passion for, and commitment to, land management, environmental stewardship and landscape architecture.

Mike Reynolds was recently appointed Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, one of the nation's oldest and most iconic national parks. Earlier in his career, Mike served as the park's resource manager, planner and division chief. He is a 32-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS).

In 2017 Mike was tasked to serve as NPS Acting Director, leading a Federal agency with more than 20,000 employees, a nearly \$3 billion budget, and 417 national parks. These national parks attract more than 300 million visitors every year who generate over \$30 billion in economic benefit across the nation.

From August 2016 until his appointment as Acting Director, Reynolds served as the NPS Deputy Director of Operations. In this capacity, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the seven regions and parks nation-wide, as well as program areas in Washington, DC. These programs serve communities and NPS stakeholders in many facets including natural, cultural, and recreation resources; facilities, planning, and lands; visitor and resource protection, fire, safety, and interpretation and education programs and partnerships; and community-based programs such as rivers and trails and National Historic Landmarks.

In April 2014, Reynolds was assigned to the NPS headquarters in Washington, DC, as the Associate Director for Workforce, Relevancy, and Inclusion, overseeing the NPS' human capital, training, relevancy, youth, and recruitment programs nationwide. His leadership focus was on changing systems and processes for Workforce and Inclusion to have an employee-focused program ready to support the NPS and its people.

Reynolds served as Director of the Midwest Region from 2011 to 2014 during which he positioned programs and parks to take maximum advantage of the Service's centennial in 2016.

Prior to his appointment as the Midwest Regional Director, Reynolds served as Deputy Regional Director of the Northeast Region in Philadelphia for four years. Earlier in his career, when he was Superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, Reynolds created innovative ways to work with the local community and park partners. Mike's NPS career also includes his prior positions at Yosemite National Park and roles at the Mojave National Preserve, Cape Cod National Seashore, Curecanti National Recreation Area, and the NPS Denver Service Center.

Mike is the third generation of his family to work for the NPS. He grew up in Yosemite National Park, where his grandparents served as 40-year concession employees. His father, John J. Reynolds, FASLA, is a retired 39-year NPS employee, who served as NPS Deputy Director, Regional Director, Director of the Denver Service Center, Superintendent North Cascades National Park; Assistant Superintendent Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and as a park planner/landscape architect in various parks and locations.

Mike earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MBA from Regis University in Denver. He was a senior executive Fellow at Harvard University in the spring of 2011.

In his roles with the NPS over 30 years, Mike has focused on what is best for people and the land. He has regularly engaged landscape architects to plan, design and construct exemplary public places and develop innovative management plans. As Acting Director, Mike oversaw one of the largest staff of landscape architects in the world.

Mike has consistently supported landscape architecture. He has worked to engage a broad spectrum of NPS users, employees and consultants to gain the widest input and best results.

Michael T. (Mike) Reynolds exemplifies the description of an ASLA Honorary Member as a "person other than landscape architects whose achievements of national or international significance or influence have provided notable service to the profession of landscape architecture."

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND

1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3199  
(703) 525-6300 Fax: (703) 525-4610  
[www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)

January 31, 2018

American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Through: Mark A. Focht, FASLA

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Michael T. Reynolds for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

During Mike's career in the National Park Service he has been a consistent, principled and enthusiastic supporter of the efforts of the National Park Service in protection and enjoyment of the nationally significant resources and special places of the United States.

His support of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the creation of Fort Monroe National Monument, VA and Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, MD, creation of the large landscape conservation approach to the watershed of the Bay and to the National Park Service involvement in the multi-state and federal efforts to improve the water quality of and access to the Chesapeake Bay are emblematic of his highly principled approach to park management and partnership and cooperation in achieving of both site specific and landscape scale conservation objectives.

Mike's style combines the best of both traditional and modern approaches to conservation, historic preservation and land use management for the benefit of both local and national audiences. He embraces partnership as a preferred management style, recognizing that respect for a variety of viewpoints and expertise creates longer lasting and more widely acceptable results. His effect on protection of important landscapes and historical sites and contexts broadly across the nation during his career is exemplary.

The Conservation Fund is deeply appreciative of his leadership, his principled and inclusive leadership style, and his continued commitment to the land and history of the United States.

His leadership within the National Park Service in positions "from sea to shining sea" makes him richly deserving of honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,



Patrick F. Noonan  
Chairman Emeritus





United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 1, 2018

American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this recommendation in support of nominating Michael T. (Mike) Reynolds for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The National Park Service has a deep connection with landscape architecture, starting when famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. wrote the key language of the 1916 Organic Act that established the National Park Service. For more than 30 years, Mike Reynolds has followed in these well-worn footsteps, engaging with other government agencies and partners across the country to ensure that our nation's remarkable public lands are protected and shared with the American people.

Throughout Mike's career, his commitment to cultivating the people, as well as the places, of the National Park Service is a constant and consistent value that has earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the country. Having worked in parks, regional offices and the Washington, D.C. offices of the National Park Service, Mike has a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the agency at every level. When change and challenging circumstances confront the NPS, Mike is a positive and flexible leader who brings out the best in the people around him. He faces difficult situations with an honest and upfront approach, and he is most comfortable when he can engage with community members to find solutions and innovative ideas for the National Park Service's programs and parks.

During his tenure as NPS Acting Director from January 2017-January 2018, Mr. Reynolds provided wise counsel and directed the development of well-crafted briefing materials that supported the Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and his leadership team in their understanding of and engagement with important NPS issues, including the response and recovery efforts following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; prioritizing NPS deferred maintenance projects, including the successful funding for repairs of Arlington Memorial Bridge; expanding revenue opportunities to invest in national park infrastructure; and engaging more Americans in recreational activities in national parks.

As Deputy Director for Operations from August 2017-January 2017, and continuing through his service as acting director, Mr. Reynolds provided much needed leadership and direction on the

National Park Service's response to sexual harassment and workplace environment problems. Thanks to his leadership, during his tenure, the National Park Service made significant progress in the establishment of consistent policies and processes that hold employees and supervisors accountable when harassment is found in the workplace. Mike is a leader who "walks his talk".

Prior to his selection as Deputy Director, in his role as Associate Director for Workforce and Inclusion, Mr. Reynolds championed NPS efforts to expand recruitment and bring new talent into the Service, and to improve employee engagement through innovative initiatives that empowered affinity groups and front-line employees. As acting director and deputy director, he has integrated this focus on employee engagement into efforts to ensure that every NPS employee has a safe and respectful work environment.

Mr. Reynolds' honest and engaging approach to collaboration earned him great respect from NPS employees; from the leadership of other agencies, partner groups and cooperating associations; and from Capitol Hill, where he testified and briefed Congress many times on highly controversial and important NPS issues.

In recognition of Mike's broad and remarkable accomplishments, as well as his potential to continue to lead the National Park Service, I strongly endorse the nomination for Mike's honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sue E. Masica  
Regional Director, Intermountain

1608D Beekman Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-4021  
January 30, 2018

ASLA Honorary Membership Nomination  
c/o Terry Poltrack  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Letter of Support for Honorary Membership Nomination of Michael T. Reynolds

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Michael (Mike) T. Reynolds to be selected as an Honorary Member of ASLA.

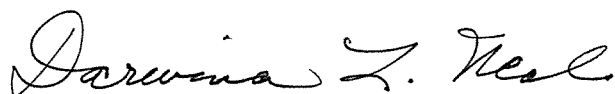
Although I have known Mike less than 20 years, I have known his father John J. Reynolds, FASLA for over 50 years, because we started working as landscape architects for the National Park Service at almost the same time, and I have known his spouse, Amy Schneckenburger, FASLA, since 1984, when she graduated from Penn State as a landscape architect and started working for me in the National Capital Region, NPS.

Although Mike had already been working for the NPS, I first met him when Amy introduced us. I attended their wedding and have spent time with him and his family at various times over the succeeding years. Consequently, although Mike was not educated as a landscape architect, he has grown up and lived with landscape architecture his entire life, as well as working as an environmental planner and advocate throughout his career in the NPS.

In his increasingly responsible positions with the NPS – from park planner to manager of people, park resources, and parks, then to park regions and service centers, culminating with serving as Acting Director of the NPS - Mike has demonstrated not only the highest standards of ethics and stewardship of both parks and the people who care for them, but also for the principles of our profession of landscape architecture. This has been especially important in his serving as Acting NPS Director in recent challenging times, when he has gained increased respect from both employees and allied organizations.

ASLA could not have a better advocate for our profession than Mike Reynolds; now it is time for ASLA to give this support due recognition by making him an Honorary Member of the Society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darwina L. Neal". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Darwina L. Neal, FASLA  
Past President, ASLA

ROLF DIAMANT  
P.O. Box 787  
Woodstock, VT 05091

January 30, 2018

Honorary Membership Nomination  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
636 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001-3736

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Michael T. Reynolds as an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Dating back to the founding years of the society, ASLA has been a clear and consistent voice advocating the highest standards of professional and ethical stewardship for our national parks. When discussing how a professional parks bureau might be staffed, I think the early leaders of ASLA, including Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., had in mind people like Mike Reynolds.

Mike is someone who is equally at ease in the field or in a conferences room, a quick study who can cut to the heart of an issue with a natural soft-spoken charisma that commands attention and respect. He is also a thoughtful intellect who can handle complexity and political nuance—always thinking strategically. Most importantly, as much as Mike cares about people, he is a steadfast champion of professional resource management and the stewardship of national park system's vast array of resources and landscapes. He is a strong believer in planning and has continued to encourage the NPS to partner in larger landscape collaborations and community assistance projects — work that is primarily staffed by NPS landscape architects.

Coming up through the ranks as a resource manager and later superintendent at a number of challenging parks, Mike cares deeply about place and has always relied on resource stewardship strategies based on the best science and scholarship. Make no mistake, however, Mike can also be extraordinarily savvy and diplomatic as a coalition builder and skilled negotiator. He recently needed to draw on this skill set during his extended tenure as Acting Director of the National Park Service (NPS). During this period of considerable transition, Mike was able to keep the agency focused on its mission, sustain employee confidence, and maintain trusting and functioning relationships with key NPS partners, constituents and communities, and allied organizations and friends groups across the country.

In the spirit of many of the early NPS leader such as Stephen Mather, Roger Toll and George Melendez Wright, Mike is at heart a reformer, always willing to embrace constructive change to make the NPS nimbler in responding to shifting demographics and emerging resource challenges. From his energetic support of the National Park Second Century Commission to his work on the major themes of the 2016 NPS Centennial Celebration, Mike has championed transformative initiatives that advance youth engagement and relevancy, inclusion and diversity,

education and lifelong learning, and resource management resiliency in the face of continuous environmental change. As Acting Director, Mike provided critical leadership in standing up a number of new national park units that are making the park system as a whole more welcoming, inclusive, and representative of all Americans. These units include Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, Stonewall National Monument, Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, Freedom Riders National Monument, and Reconstruction Era National Monument.

Most importantly, throughout his career, through many difficult circumstances, Mike has lead in a manner that retained the respect, and indeed the affection, of NPS colleagues and partners. Without a doubt his professional achievements are of national significance, and it would enrich the American Society of Landscape Architects to count Michael T. Reynolds as an honorary member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rolf Diamant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Rolf Diamant

University of Vermont

Adjunct Associate Professor  
Historic Preservation Program  
Department of History

Adjunct Associate Professor  
Rubenstein School of Environment  
and Natural Resources





# City of Hampton

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January 31, 2018

American Society of Landscape Architects

Washington, DC

Through: Mark A. Focht, FASLA

This letter is in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Michael T. Reynolds for Honorary Member, American Society of Landscape Architects.

During Mike's tenure as Deputy Regional Director, Northeast Region, Deputy Director and Acting Director, National Park Service Mike has been a consistent, principled and enthusiastic supporter of the efforts of the National Park Service in protection and enjoyment of the nationally significant resources and places of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

His support of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the creation of Fort Monroe National Monument, the creation of the large landscape conservation approach to the watershed of the Bay and to the National Park Service involvement in the multi-state and federal efforts to improve the water quality of and access to the Chesapeake Bay have served to greatly enhance the Commonwealth of Virginia's goals of preserving its history and environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mike embraces partnership as a preferred management style, recognizing that respect for a variety of viewpoints and expertise creates longer lasting and more widely acceptable solutions to important initiatives regarding landscape, environment, history and education than even well-intended unilateral actions.

His leadership within the National Park Service as it has affected the City of Hampton and the Commonwealth of Virginia makes him richly deserving of honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

Molly Joseph Ward

Treasurer, City of Hampton, VA

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia 2014-2018