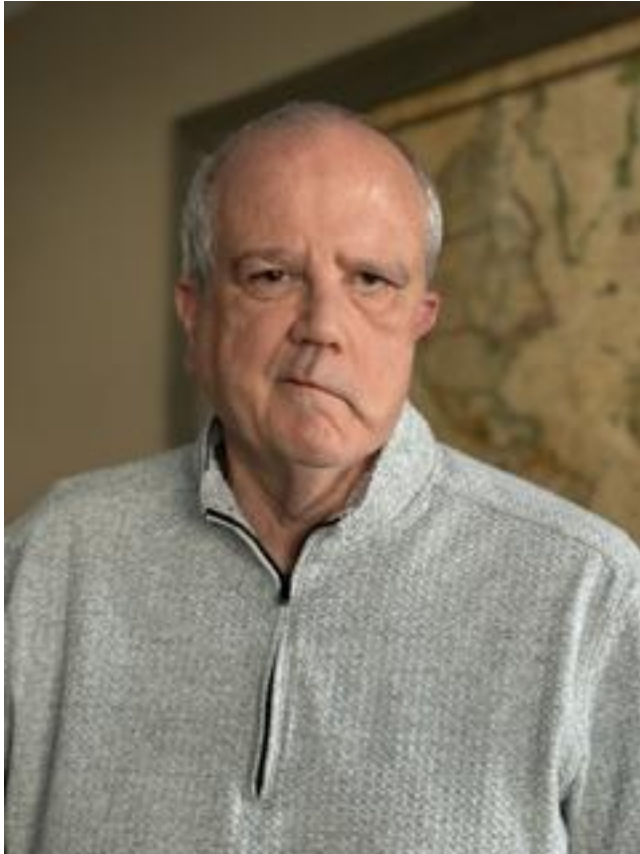




Michael M. (Mike) Ward retired after a nearly 40-year public service career working for the National Park Service (NPS). His position at retirement was the Deputy Regional Director for the Midwest Region of the NPS. In this position responsibilities included oversight of five program areas that supported 66 park units within 13 states. He also supervised the Superintendents of the seven largest parks in the region.

Prior to this position Mike was the Superintendent of three parks, the Gateway Arch National Park, Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota, and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. He held other supervisory roles prior to these and started his career through a youth program at Lincoln Home National

Historic Site in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois.

Some accomplishments include:

- Recently the University of Missouri-St Louis and the University of Missouri Board of Curators conferred upon Ward the degree of Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa* for his collaboration and leadership during his NPS tenure.
- Completion of the major overhaul of the Gateway Arch, a 380-million-dollar partnership project commonly known as City Arch River 2015, which may be the largest NPS private/public partnership to date. The project received numerous awards from organizations and institutions in the St. Louis area and nationally, including an Excellence in Government Award.
- Involved in numerous national and international natural resource and air quality studies in concert with the International Joint Commission on Waterways between Canada and the U.S.
- Co-recipient of the NPS Cultural Resources 2000 award for leadership in restoration and preservation of historic structures, co-recipient of the John Wesley Powell Prize for historic preservation from The Society for History in the Federal Government,

2009 Regional recipient of Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship for international studies at Voyageurs, 2015 national recipient of Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship for air quality work at Voyageurs.

- Mike also completed the Senior Executive Fellows program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Mike currently serves on the Executive Council of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, ensuring the National Parks remain protected for future generations and reminding future administrations that our parks belong to the American people.