

# Creating the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park



"All the other pleasures of life seem to wear out, but the pleasure of helping others in distress never does."

JULIUS ROSENWALD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Team Rosenwald continues to gain momentum. The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act is gaining significant support in Congress. Campaign representatives have visited 34 Rosenwald Schools nominated for possible inclusion in the planned National Historical Park, as well as a number of sites in Chicago relevant to Julius Rosenwald's life and legacy. We will be preparing reports on both sets of facilities this year. The Campaign helped fund a historic marker honoring Rosenwald. We are sponsoring friend-raising events in multiple cities to raise the national awareness of the Campaign. And articles are appearing in the local and national media that mention Rosenwald Schools and the Campaign. An innovative philanthropist and modest person, Julius Rosenwald invested in people, and those investments are still paying dividends. Together we will succeed in preserving his story by creating the National Historical Park.



Dorothy Canter, President, Rosenwald Park Campaign

## LEGISLATION UPDATE

Introduced in June 2019, [The Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Act](#) now has 41 cosponsors in the House ([H.R. 3250](#)) and seven in the Senate (S. 1863). Both Bills have bipartisan support. The cosponsors represent 17 states and the District of Columbia, signifying the national support for the legislation.



The legislation directs the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of Julius Rosenwald with special emphasis on the Rosenwald Schools. That study will be a key step leading to the ultimate legislation creating the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

A subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3250 on October 29, 2019, at which Bob Stanton, Vice President of the Campaign Board, testified. (see his profile below). A markup of the Bill is expected to be released soon. The National Parks Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on March 4. The National Parks Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are partnering with the Campaign to help get the legislation passed, hopefully later this year. If you would like to write to your Representative and Senators, kindly contact [info@rosenwaldpark.org](mailto:info@rosenwaldpark.org).

Many thanks to those of you who have already requested their Members of Congress to become cosponsors.

## JULIUS ROSENWALD HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATED

On February 12, the National Park Service (NPS) dedicated a historic marker honoring Julius Rosenwald in front of his boyhood home in Springfield, Illinois. Located across the street from Abraham Lincoln's home, it is a part of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.



Tim Good, Superintendent of Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and Dorothy Canter stand behind the newly dedicated historic marker.

The NPS, Rosenwald Park Campaign and Jewish Federation of Springfield shared the cost of the marker. Previously known as the Lyon House, the NPS officially changed the name of the building to the Rosenwald House. The annual Looking for Lincoln Lecture at the park visitor center that morning was devoted to Julius Rosenwald and his contributions to our nation. The presenters included a woman who attended a Rosenwald School in Kentucky and a freedom rider who became a US Attorney. Dorothy Canter gave a summary of the Campaign's mission and activities. The NPS also issued a pamphlet on the life and legacy of Rosenwald. The Campaign will coordinate with the NPS and the Springfield Rosenwald Initiative on future accomplishments to tell the story of Julius Rosenwald's life and its important, ongoing legacy.

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

### The Honorable Robert G. Stanton, Former Director of the National Park Service

By Stephanie Deutsch

Bob Stanton is an ideal person to help promote the Campaign to establish a National Historical Park honoring Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Schools. As a former director of the National Park Service (NPS), as the first African American to head that agency, and as a passionate advocate for the preservation of our country's treasures, cultural as well as natural, he is a powerful spokesman.

Educational opportunity is a subject dear to the heart of Bob Stanton. "I grew up in Mosier Valley, one of the oldest communities in Texas, founded by African Americans shortly after the civil war," he explains.



Robert G. Stanton

**"I experienced the pain and stain of segregation under the 'separate but equal' doctrine, attending a dilapidated two-room elementary school."**

With support from the NAACP, my parents and others filed suit in Federal District Court in 1949 to have a new school built in the community and eventually won the case. They were committed to quality education for their children, as were African American parents throughout the rural south. We children also possessed what Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune called a 'thirst for education.'"

As a junior at Huston-Tillotson College (now University) in Austin, Bob met a recruiter, sent from the new Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, as part of a conscious effort to attract a more diverse workforce to the NPS. Bob was intrigued by this unexpected opportunity to spend a summer in a National Park. The college president recommended him to the recruiter, he applied and was selected to be a seasonal park ranger at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Having never been out of Texas, he was thrilled by the natural beauty of the place and favorably impressed by the quality of the professional staff. When Bob graduated from college in 1963, he was the first person in his family to achieve that milestone. That summer he returned to Grand Teton Park and three years later, following a brief period working for his college as Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs, Bob joined the NPS in 1966.

In his 35-year career with the Park Service Bob held many key management and executive positions including superintendent of the Virgin Islands National Park; Associate Director for Operations; Regional Director for the National Capital Region with its 40 park units; and from 1997 to 2001 NPS Director with its 384 sites and a wide range of partnership programs. Bob focused on increasing youth programs and staff diversity and maintaining their high-caliber. He also supported the establishment of new park areas and programs to better commemorate "the full face of America" in the development of the nation. Bob continues to be a strong advocate for emphasizing the cultural legacy being preserved in addition to sites of natural beauty and grandeur like the Grand Teton National Park. "There is a perception that the National Park Service manages primarily large natural areas," Bob says, "but we have so much more." Preserving sites that tell the American story, in all its complexity, is a crucial part of the NPS mission.

Bob is particularly committed to the creation of the National Historical Park for two reasons. He notes "Rosenwald Schools gave many African American children access to educational opportunities that they would not otherwise have had." Also, it will be the first site to tell the story of a Jewish American. "To appreciate what it means when we say, 'I'm an American,'" he says. "I need to understand the full dimensions of my history. And it should make me a stronger person. Being a stronger person, I can contribute to a stronger 'we the people.'"

The eloquence and energy of Robert G. Stanton will go far towards making the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park a reality.

Stephanie Deutsch, a member of the Campaign Board, is the author of "You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South."

## DONATE

**We need your support to continue.**

Donate to the Campaign by mailing a tax-deductible check to :

Rosenwald Park Campaign  
19 Maplewood Park Court  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Or make an online contribution on the Campaign's website <https://www.rosenwaldpark.org>.