



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FAITH AND JUSTICE ANNOUNCES  
MENTOR OF THE YEAR FOR 2016**

**January 8, 2016. (Washington, DC):** In continued recognition of outstanding men and women, **the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ)** is pleased to continue this annual tradition by announcing the selection of **Mr. Robert G. Stanton** as **2016 Mentor of the Year**. The official recognition period began January 1, **National Mentoring Month**, and benchmarks include **Justice Sunday™, January 17, 2016**, to observed in 21 states and internationally as a Day of Mentor Recruitment, as well as key anniversary observances throughout the continuum.

**Mr. Stanton**, former Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and former Director of the National Park Service, was appointed by President Barack Obama on October 30, 2014 to a four-year term on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the educational, economic, and cultural value of historic preservation and advises the president and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties.

An experienced public administrator, Mr. Stanton was unanimously confirmed in 1997 as the 15<sup>th</sup> Director of the National Park Service and served as the Director until the end of the Clinton Administration. He was the first Director to undergo confirmation hearings before the U.S. Senate and the first African American to serve in this position since the National Park Service was established by Congressional legislation in 1916.

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, Mr. Stanton, in the era of “separate but equal,” grew up in Mosier Valley, one of the oldest communities in Texas founded by African Americans shortly after the U.S. Civil War.

*“The traditional model of mentoring is but one configuration within a wide range of possible models that vary in their structure and function, says Addie Richburg, president of NAFJ. From his humble beginnings as child and student navigating through bias and inequity through a lifetime of achievements, Mr. Stanton has been a mentor to the thousands of youth we serve annually through our PEN OR PENCIL™ National Mentoring Initiative. By playing a crucial leadership role in helping to ensure our nation’s valued treasures are preserved, he has fought to help preserve places which give us hope that we can move beyond our difficulties to a more perfect*



*union. Our students are able to correlate the struggles and triumphs of those who lived in other times with their lives today. Mr. Stanton has a passion for youth. He serves as a powerful role model and has earned our highest respect.”*

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### **National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ)**

NAFJ is a 501(c)(3) organization whose core mission is to promote the value of the inclusion of faith in addressing prevention, consequences, and resolutions of crime with emphasis upon the most vulnerable. Learn more at [www.nafj.org](http://www.nafj.org)

### **PEN OR PENCIL™**

**POP** is a trademarked cultural based mentoring curriculum approach, endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies, which utilizes African American history, as a priority in enhancing academic achievement, as an intervention in reducing delinquency, and transforming behavior. **POP** is designed around the struggles and victories of human and civil rights made parallel to the complicated matrix of issues relevant to young lives today. Learn more at [www.penorpencilmovement.org](http://www.penorpencilmovement.org).