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U.S. PARK RANGERS F.O.P. LODGE BACKS US PARK POLICE CHIEF.

REINSTATEMENT OF CHIEF TERESA CHAMBERS URGED

The United States Park Ranger Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is strongly opposed to the suspension and pending punishment of the current head of the US Park Police, Chief Teresa Chambers", said Executive Director Randall Kendrick.

"What Chief Chambers has stated is common knowledge throughout the National Park Service. The US Park Police, as well as the commissioned US Park Rangers are woefully understaffed for the job they are called upon to perform, especially after 9/11", he continued.

As a matter of fact, several recent professional studies of law enforcement in the NPS, such as Booz-Allen, the IACP, and the Hon. Earl Devaney, Inspector General of the Dept of Interior, and others have time and again pointed out the misplaced priorities of this agency.

Despite an identified shortage of 615 commissioned US Park Rangers in the 2000 IACP study, the NPS has failed to place a priority on law enforcement funding and staffing. Other federal law enforcement agencies have openly expressed a preference for recruiting from the US Park Ranger ranks leading to the recent loss of approximately 175 commissioned rangers to other law enforcement agencies.

Randall Kendrick went on to say, "The NPS has two law enforcement units: the US Park Police, and the commissioned park rangers. The US Park Police at least has a professional command structure while the commissioned US park rangers are often managed by non-law enforcement personnel who lack the credentials to manage a law enforcement program.

According to the DEPT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF STATISTICS, the NPS suffers by far the worst record of having its officers killed or injured by assaults in the line of duty of any federal law enforcement agency.

Press Release - Chambers Decision

Chambers' sin is in having pointed out the truth as is experienced by field level officers, the US Park Police in this instance.

As the Hon. Earl Devaney noted in his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, he was forced to meet eight whistle blowing park rangers at an airport as far from a national park as possible in order to minimize the risk of agency retribution on these courageous rangers who put their moral and ethical standards above their jobs."

"We think suspending Ms Chambers is a disgrace and should be reversed with her returning to her position. If Ms Mainella and her deputy, Don Murphy, put as much effort into implementing the reform recommendations in the Inspector General's investigative report as they do in persecuting officers who speak the truth, then the United States could have a National Park Service capable of safeguarding the public and the nation's cultural and natural resources for future generations", said Mr. Kendrick

The US Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is the largest organization that represents the views of commissioned park rangers. We are proud to serve with our brothers and sisters of the United States Park Police and hope their leader is returned to duty.

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