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**JEFFERSON  
NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION**

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### ***Jefferson National Parks Association Board Members Receive Honorary Park Ranger Designation***

St. Louis, MO September 19, 2007: Two board members of Jefferson National Parks Association (JNPA), a public land non-profit based in St. Louis, were awarded one of the country's top honors for their dedication and commitment to Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. Jeannine Cook and Jack Goldman received their Honorary Park Ranger designations during the grand opening event of the new visitor center at the National Historic Site earlier this year.

Jeannine Cook is a leader in the historic preservation community in the St. Louis area. Her involvement with local and state historical societies, commissions, and preservation agencies has led to many successful community preservation projects. Her connection to the National Park Service began with her interest in the preservation of White Haven, Ulysses S. Grant's home in St. Louis. Mrs. Cook heavily advocated for the preservation of White Haven and was instrumental in the site receiving National Historic Landmark status. She served as chair for Save Grant's White Haven, Inc. and was one of the key individuals driving the grassroots involvement in the community to save the home. After serving as vice chair for five years, Mrs. Cook was chairperson during the transfer of White Haven to the National Park Service. She remained the institutional caretaker of Save Grant's White Haven, Inc. until they dissolved at the end of 2006. Mrs. Cook is credited as being the force behind Save Grant's White Haven's only major fundraiser, which proved to be instrumental in saving the site. Mrs. Cook's involvement with the National Park Service did not end with her support of Grant's White Haven. In 1991 she continued to serve the mission of the National Park Service when she joined the Board of Directors of the Jefferson National Parks Association, which serves four national parks in the Midwest Region. Mrs. Cook has served as board secretary and long-standing board member and continues to serve today. In addition Mrs. Cook volunteers hundreds of hours at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in a variety of ways.

Jack Goldman played a key role in the preservation and development of the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site through his untiring efforts. As a founding member of an ad hoc group called "Save Grant's White Haven, Inc., Mr. Goldman was instrumental in saving the home which once belonged to Ulysses S. Grant. Membership for this group mushroomed from 75 to 1,000 under Mr. Goldman's leadership as president. In 1979 concerned citizens led by Mr. Goldman were fearful that the property would be sold to the highest bidder after the owner died. Efforts by Mr. Goldman through Save Grant's White Haven led to the preservation and purchase of White Haven. In December 1986, the signed sale of property was transferred from private owners to St. Louis County and the State of Missouri. While under St. Louis County/State jurisdiction, officials decided because of its presidential ties, White Haven should be run by the National Park Service to preserve it as Julia Dent's childhood home and the home of a former president. In 1990 White Haven was turned over to the National Park Service which opened the site to the public the next year. Mr. Goldman was recognized in May 1988 by the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission for his work leading Save Grant's White Haven, Inc in the preservation of the property. During his tenure as Missouri State Representative, Mr. Goldman was successful in the preservation of White Haven and gained the support of local and national leaders in bringing the site into the National Park System. Mr. Goldman continued his support of the mission of the National Park Service though his work with Jefferson National Park Association. He has served on their executive committee, as vice-chair and finally as chair. In 2005 he held the ex officio position of the immediate past chair and rejoined the board as a regular member in 2006.

*Jefferson National Parks Association provides quality educational products and related services that enrich public understanding and appreciation of America's national parks, public lands and historic places.*

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