

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND MOURNS THE LOSS OF CO-FOUNDER AND FORMER WASHINGTON GOVERNOR AND SENATOR DAN EVANS

SEATTLE (September 22, 2024) – Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF), the official philanthropic partner serving Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks, was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Daniel J. Evans on September 20.

Evans ranks as one of the most distinguished leaders in the history of the State of Washington. Perhaps best known for serving as governor from 1965–1977, he has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service and began his political career in the Washington State House of Representatives in 1956.

Evans summited Silver Peak in the Cascades at the age of 12, and held an appreciation for wilderness. He leaves an enduring legacy in the national parks of Washington state, having co-founded WNPF alongside legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker and other prominent community leaders in 1993.

Thanks to these pioneers' dedication to preserving Washington's national parks [more than thirty years ago](#), WNPF has grown over the years, distributing more than \$7.5 million in the last decade – including a [record \\$1.5 million](#) to the parks earlier this year.

“Dan Evans was passionate about Washington's public lands and remained involved as an Honorary Board Member and friend of the Fund until his passing,” said Alex Day, Interim Chief Executive Officer for WNPF. “He will be deeply missed by WNPF and our community.”

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About Washington's National Park Fund

Washington's National Park Fund (WNPF) is the official philanthropic partner to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Founded by former governor and senator Dan Evans and legendary mountaineer Lou Whittaker, WNPF is the only philanthropic organization dedicated solely to Washington's three largest national parks and has awarded more than \$7.5 million to the parks in the last decade. Learn more about how you can play a role in supporting these national parks at wnpf.org.

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Dan Evans was honored at WNPF's Over the Top Society Luncheon in 2023, where he received an original "Lone Ranger" book from Don Striker, Superintendent of North Cascades National Park. Photo courtesy of Kaci Clot.