

# Monday, May 19, 2008

## 4.30/5.00 - 9.30 pm

Mount Rushmore - Carver's  
Cafe

## Dinner at Mount Rushmore

- 4.30 pm **First departure to Mount Rushmore** (travel time is approximately one hour): Grayline bus will be parked outside of hotel lobby
- 5.00 pm **Second departure to Mount Rushmore:** Grayline bus will be parked outside of hotel lobby
- 5.30 pm First arrival from Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn  
Drinks and light appetizers
- 6.00 pm Second arrival from Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
- 6.15 pm Dinner
- 6.45 pm Presentation by Gerard Baker, park superintendent
- 7.30-8.00 pm Lighting of the memorial  
(approx.)
- 9.00-9.30 pm Departure from Mount Rushmore

Under the direction of sculptor Gutzon Borglum, nearly 400 men worked to create Mount Rushmore National Memorial from October 4, 1927, to October 31, 1941. Ninety percent of the carving on the mountain was completed using dynamite, and though the work was extremely dangerous, there were no fatalities during the creation of the memorial. Borglum chose Mount Rushmore as the site of the memorial for its 5,725-foot wall of granite and southeast exposure, which provided direct sunlight for most of the day. The Washington figure was dedicated in 1930, followed by President Jefferson in 1936, President Lincoln in 1937, and President Roosevelt in 1939.

Enjoy an evening on the memorial grounds with dinner and a presentation by Gerard Baker, Mount Rushmore park superintendent. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the memorial.

## Biographical Information on the Speaker

**Gerard A. Baker** is the superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, responsible for over 1,200 acres and a monument that hosts some 3 million visitors per year. He has been with the federal government for 30 years: 27 with the National Park Service and three with the United States Forest Service. Baker is a full blood member of the Mandan-Hidatsa Tribe of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in Mandaree, ND. He grew up on the reservation, on his father's cattle ranch in western North Dakota. Baker received his doctorate degree of public service from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is a graduate of Southern Oregon State University in Ashland, with degrees in criminology and sociology. Baker began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1979 as a park technician at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in North Dakota. He served as the historian at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site for two years before assuming the north unit district ranger job

at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In 1990 Baker transferred to the U.S. Forest Service as assistant district ranger for the Little Missouri National Grasslands in North Dakota. He spent the following year as assistant district ranger for the Beartooth District in Red Lodge, MT, and acting district ranger on the Ashland District in Ashland, MT, before returning to the NPS as superintendent of Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency, MT. In 1997 Baker received the NPS Intermountain Regional Director's Award for Cultural Resource Management and a team performance award for this work with the Indian Memorial at Little Bighorn Battlefield. In 1998 he became superintendent of Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma and received the U.S. Department of the Interior's Honor Award for Superior Service. As Superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from 2000 to 2004, he was responsible for trail management and the establishment of the traveling exhibit, "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future," which follows the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.