

Harry Myers

(1950 – 2010)



Harry C. Myers was born in Pontiac, IL, on June 6, 1950. Harry served honorably in the United States Army from 1969 to 1972, and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. After discharge from the Army, he received his degree from Western Illinois University, and began a long career with the National Park Service. His first two assignments were at Fort Scott National Historic Site and Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. In 1988, Harry was appointed Superintendent of Fort Union National Monument on the Santa Fe Trail, and his final assignment before retirement was with the National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe, where he was project manager for development of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the study of the Long Walk. It was during this time that Harry developed a passion for the southwest and specifically, the Santa Fe Trail. Over the years, Harry became a scholar and expert on the Santa Fe Trail, devoting hours to researching and visiting sites.

Harry was devoted to the Santa Fe Trail and the history of the Southwest and during his lifetime played a huge part in the preservation, promotion, and education about the Santa Fe Trail. Harry provided significant input for the creation of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the development of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Management & Use Policy. He organized several conferences related to the Santa Fe Trail. During the years 1994-1997, Harry spearheaded the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. He researched and published numerous articles in *Wagon Tracks*, and was a well-known, and entertaining, speaker on a variety of Santa Fe Trail related topics. In 1990, Harry was a co-founder of the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter of the SFTA. He received a SFTA Award of Merit in 1993 for his discovery of the military diary of Don Pedro Ignacio Gallego which chronicled the Gallegos meeting in 1821 with William Becknell and his party near present day Las Vegas, NM. He received SFTA's Rittenhouse Award in 1999 for his research, writing and publication of his work and in 1997, Harry was recognized as a SFTA Ambassador. Following his retirement from the National Park Service, Harry was employed as the Manager for the Santa Fe Trail Association and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death on Aug. 31, 2010.