

Dr. Ernest Allen Connally

The preservation community lost a leader and visionary with the passing of Dr. Ernest Allen Connally, Hon. AIA, on December 23, 1999 after a long illness. He was an educator and administrator, and served as an Associate Director of the National Park Service and as the Chief Appeals Officer until his retirement in 1992. He helped formulate the policies at the national and international levels that were designed to protect and preserve our rich cultural heritage. He grew up in Texas and was trained as an architect with a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Texas. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in history and fine arts from Harvard University. He had a strong interest and knowledge of architecture and wrote extensively both on preservation and architectural history. In addition to an extensive career with the federal government, he held numerous distinguished positions, such as chair and Secretary General of the U.S. Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). He was instrumental in the passage of the World Heritage Convention which calls on all citizens and governments to protect and maintain their natural and cultural heritage.

His career with the National Park Service began in the 1950s, when as a recent graduate he served on recording teams with the Historic American Buildings Survey. While serving on these various summer teams and into the 1960s, he was also teaching architectural history at Miami University in Ohio, Washington University in St. Louis, and at the University of Illinois. In 1967, after the passage of the landmark National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Dr. Connally was appointed as the first head of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation in the National Park Service. He, in effect, started at the top as the head of the office that would establish the preservation programs of the National Park Service. He went on to become an Associate Director of the National Park Service and later served for 10 years as the Chief Appeals Officer for review of controversial rehabilitation projects seeking federal tax credits. He applied the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and wrote extensively explaining the principles of preservation philosophy and treatments in hundreds of appeal decisions.

Dr. Connally was a champion of preservation and had a strong conviction that legislation was necessary to protect historic resources from damage, particularly that caused by the government itself through urban renewal and other federally funded undertakings. He was the recipient of numerous awards, the most notable ones being the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Louise duPont Cowninshield Award, the French government's Ordre des Arts et Lettres, and in 1996 he was awarded the Guzzola Prize by ICOMOS. He had served in the Army Air Force during World War II and retired from the Air Force Reserves in 1958 as a Lieutenant Colonel. At his funeral, his coffin was draped in the American flag as a tribute to his military service.

He was quick-witted, articulate, and well regarded by his colleagues. He served as an extraordinary corporate memory for the history of the preservation programs within the federal government. Up until the end of his life, he enjoyed good conversation and was a wealth of knowledge in many arenas. He is survived by his wife Janice, two children, and a grandchild. He donated a number of his papers to the National Trust for Historic Preservation Library Collection at the University of Maryland, College Park. He will be truly missed and the significance of all his contributions to the historic preservation programs of the United States will only be fully recognized when a comprehensive history of these programs is undertaken in the future. His name will surely head the list as a visionary and leader in establishing the programs by which we measure success today.

For further information about Dr. Connally or his work see the following articles in *CRM*:
Vol. 9, No. 1, 1986. "Origins of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966"
Vol. 9, No. 2, 1986. "Origins of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Part II"
Vol. 10, special issue, 1987. "World Heritage Convention"
Vol. 14, No.7, 1991, "Ernest Allen Connally; Le maitre des bons mots" by John Poppeliers

Sharon C. Park, FAIA
Chief, Technical Preservation Services Branch
National Park Service