



SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER®

In Memoriam - Martin Litton
President Sequoia ForestKeeper®
February 13, 1917 - November 30, 2014

The Giant of a Man who Protected Giants of Nature



Martin marvels at the grandeur of the Stagg Tree. Photo courtesy John Blaustein.

Echo Park in Dinosaur National Monument, Redwood National Park, Colorado River undammed through Grand Canyon National Park, Mineral King in Sequoia National Park, and Giant Sequoia National Monument are but a few natural places that remain wild because Martin Litton fought for them. He said; "what I do is worry about the earth and sky, everything that we live on, in and depend on." He walked, rowed, swam, and flew over the natural treasures corporations and politicians were willing to sacrifice in the name of temporary profit. Armed with a skill at writing, a camera, and uncompromising passion, Martin Litton was the champion of the voiceless wilderness that is ever challenged in a world overcrowded with humans.

A lifelong Californian, Martin's family celebrated and spent time in many wild places including Yosemite National Park. Martin was drawn to the granite peaks of the southern Sierra Nevada in 1934 when he first climbed Mount Whitney with a friend and a pack burro. This experience became the catalyst for his lifelong passion to protect all of nature. From that day forward, Martin fought to protect people and nature from the ravages of human folly. In 1935, that effort began with a letter he wrote to the Los Angeles Times decrying the destruction of Mono Lake by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. A few years later his focus shifted to protecting the people of Europe from the atrocities of World War II. In the 50's and 60's he helped prevent the damming of the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument and the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park. His 1960 campaign when he was Travel Editor for Sunset Magazine helped to create Redwood National Park in Northern California. Martin helped many with the creation of Giant Sequoia National Monument in 2000, but the Forest Service found little reason to change their logging agenda just because the land had been declared a national treasure, so in 2001, he became the first and only President of Sequoia ForestKeeper®. For 13-years he remained our leader and mentor in protecting that which takes but a moment for man to destroy. For most of his 97 years Martin fought to protect this great nation from short-sighted greed that has paved over so much of our natural world. He was a man of honor and integrity who never stopped fighting the good fight.

An activist to the very end, we are so very grateful for all he did in his amazing life. We celebrate his life and we are honored to continue his legacy. The board and staff of Sequoia ForestKeeper® express our deep love and appreciation for our hero and leader. May you rest in peace, Martin Litton. We send our condolences to his wife of 72 years, Esther; and children John, Donald, Kathleen and Helen; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

You can read more about Martin on the Sequoia ForestKeeper® website.
http://www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org/martin_litton_president.aspx

Martin Litton was the active President of Sequoia ForestKeeper®, an organization that protects the Giant Sequoias and forest ecosystems in Sequoia National Forest. We will miss him but continue to fight for the natural world which Martin championed his entire life.

A donation to remember Martin may be made to SFK in his name

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