



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Virginia Salazar-Halfmoon, c. 2006. NPS Photo.

Virginia Salazar-Halfmoon
Southwest & Intermountain Regions
Curator, 1977-2012

- Born Virginia Maria Salazar in September 1954 at Espanola, NM near Santa Clara Pueblo.
- Worked as an interpretive aide at the NPS Southwest Regional Office while in college.
- Earned a B.A. in anthropology from New Mexico State University in 1977.
- Hired as a part-time GS-5 park technician at Bandelier NM in 1977, giving programs and guided walks and organizing cultural demonstrations.
- Joined the NPS Intake Trainee Program in 1978.
- Hired as a permanent curator at Bandelier, a position she held for 12 years.
- Earned her graduate degree through the Native American M.A. program at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, NM.
- In 1989, became regional curator for the Southwest Region, and the first Native American regional curator in the NPS.
- Over the next 15 years, was the regional curator for the Intermountain Region, Santa Fe Support Office and then the Intermountain Region.
- Led the region's implementation of the Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Began national dialogues with tribes regarding museum object contamination from pesticides.
- Spearheaded the regions first comprehensive museum collection storage facilities strategy.
- Married Otis Halfmoon in c. 2002.
- In 2005, became the manager for the NPS Vanishing Treasures Program.
- Retired December 29, 2012 after 37 years of service.

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