



National Society of Professional Surveyors

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February 26, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Society of Professional Surveyors respectfully requests that you issue a proclamation designating the week of March 17-23, 2013 as "National Surveyors Week".

The role of the surveyor has been, and remains, of vital importance in the development of the United States. Since the colonial days of this Nation, surveyors have been leaders in the community, Statesmen, influential citizens, and shapers of cultural standards. Former surveyors include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. It was the work of the surveyor that determined the boundaries of land, the greatest economic asset in the colonies that became the United States. Thomas Jefferson reportedly wrote a plan, which was debated in Congress and in modified form was adopted as the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785, establishing the Public Land Survey System ("PLSS"), the rectangular system that continues today in 30 mid-western and western states.

Today, there are over 45,000 professional surveyors in the United States. Hydrographic surveys are important to the use of all our bodies of water. Engineering surveys are utilized in the study and selection of engineering construction. Geodetic surveys determine precise global positioning for such activities as aircraft and missile navigation. Cartographic surveys are used for mapping and charting, as well as photogrammetry, the science of using aerial photographs for measurement and map production. Many services are provided through the use of sophisticated equipment and techniques, such as satellite borne remote sensing devices and automated positioning, measuring, recording, and plotting equipment.

The establishment of the third week of March as National Surveyors Week would be a fitting tribute to all surveyors. The American people can observe National Surveyors Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities paying tribute to professional surveyors and their contribution to society. Citizens can look back at the historic contributions of surveying and look ahead to the new technologies which are constantly modernizing this honored and learned profession

I respectfully request that you issue a National Surveyors Week proclamation for 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis W. Sumner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Curtis W. Sumner, LS
Executive Director