STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, July 13, 2008, marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Ordinance of 1787, which established provisions for governing the Northwest Territory, an area that eventually became the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and part of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Ordinance stands as one of the most important documents in our development as a nation, along with others, such as the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution, signed on September 17, 1787; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Ordinance provided the means by which new territories became states on an equal footing with the 13 original states, assuring the orderly growth of the United States as it expanded westward, and 31 states of the Union, including Indiana, achieved statehood under the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787; and

WHEREAS, the Articles of Compact of the Northwest Ordinance assured citizens of certain basic rights and freedoms, including religious freedom, the right to trial by jury and the writ of habeas corpus, the sanctity of property and contracts, the encouragement of education, and the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude; and

WHEREAS, many of these rights and freedoms were not a part of the Constitution until passage in 1791 of the Bill of Rights and the passage of amendments following the Civil War; and

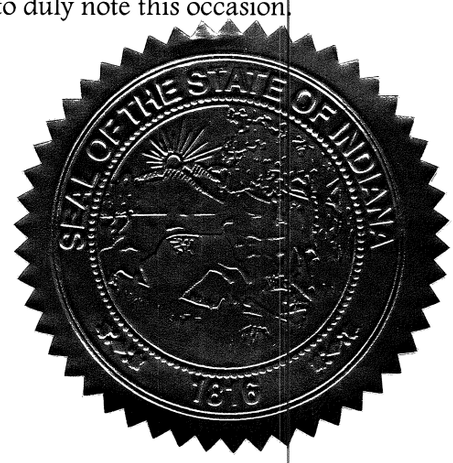
WHEREAS, the Indiana Historical Bureau has provided Northwest Ordinance resources on its Web site to inform the public about this document;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim July 13, 2008 as

Northwest Ordinance Day

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of State. Done at the City of Indianapolis, this 10th day of July in the year of our Lord 2008 and of the Independence of the United States 232.



BY THE GOVERNOR: M E Daniels, Jr.

SF 18323 (R2/8-99)