

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, Monday, July 13, 2009 marks the 222nd 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 three most important documents in our development as a nation, along with 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 provides Northwest Ordinance resources on its website, and with the Indiana Supreme Court and Commission for Continuing Legal Education will sponsor a free program on July 13 on the Northern Boundary of Indiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim July 13, 2009 as

NORTHWEST ORDINANCE DAY

in the State of Indiana, in recognition of those rights and freedoms that have made our state and nation great, and invite all citizens to celebrate this document and its contributions to freedom and democracy.

*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 8th
day of July in the year of our
Lord 2009 and of the Independence
of the United States 233.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

M E Daniels, Jr.