

Proclamation in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Park Service

WHEREAS on 25 August, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed “An Act to Establish a National Park Service” (39 Stat. 535); and

WHEREAS this act created within the Department of the Interior a department to be called the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS this act declared that the National Park Service “shall promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations”; and

WHEREAS this Act established that “the fundamental purpose. . . is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations”; and

WHEREAS American national parks now include over 400 separate properties and encompass over 84 million acres of land in the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS these parks are of such surpassing significance to our nation and its citizens that Congress has recognized them for special protection under specific acts; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service remains the guardian of our national parks, which include both natural and cultural resources, including almost 27,000 historic and prehistoric buildings and structures as well as over 75,000 archaeological sites; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service continues to serve as advocate, leader, and partner in the protection, preservation, and interpretation of America’s great places and spaces; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service oversees the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects representing the diverse history of the United States, which includes more than 1.7 million resources in more than 89,000 listings, and

WHEREAS the NPS benefits tens of millions of Americans and other individuals worldwide,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the Society of Architectural Historians honors the 100th anniversary of the passage of the “An Act to Establish a National Park Service.”

Unanimously endorsed by the SAH Board of Directors on April 6, 2016.