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February 16, 2003

National Engineers Week Statement “Engineering Contributions to Health”

by

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National Engineer’s Week begins February 16 and is a time for the nation to recognize the contributions of the nation’s engineers to our technologically advanced society.

The more than 600 engineers within the Indian Health Service, and those who have served in the past, have built a legacy of more than concrete, adobe, metal, and mortar. Their contributions have increased the quality of life for American Indians and Alaska Natives through engineering achievements in safe water and sewerage treatment systems, through the construction and maintenance of more than 470 health care facilities complexes, and by providing safe, healthy, and more productive living and work environments for our health and administrative teams.

They have built on the frozen tundra of Alaska, the sands at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the mesas of New Mexico, and the plains of the Dakotas. Each year the engineers of the Indian Health Service design and manage millions of dollars in construction projects and oversee the maintenance of 2500 buildings, housing units, and hospitals and clinics.

The achievements the Indian Health Service has been able to make over the years are in large part due to an outstanding team of hard working, dedicated, and professional engineers.

A quote that I believe sums up the engineers of the Indian Health Service was made by Theodore Von Karman, who founded the U.S. Institute of Aeronautical Sciences:

“A scientist discovers that which exists. An engineer creates that which never was.”

Our thanks go out to each and every engineer across the nation. And our gratitude goes out especially to the engineers of the Indian Health Service for their contributions to improve the health status and quality of life for American Indians and Alaska Natives.