

Request for Posting:	Jack L. Hayes Director, National Weather Service
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National Weather Service

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

We've been together for almost five years now and it is time for me to say farewell. Making this choice has been difficult and something I've been planning for some time. It's been a great honor to serve with the men and women of the National Weather Service, but now it is time for me to move to the next chapter of my life and make room for the next generation of leaders.

As I retire, I can proudly say we've improved the capabilities of the National Weather Service these past several years, a promise I made to you in my first national town hall meeting in September 2007.

Today, the National Weather Service is America's most trusted federal agency; and, we've established ourselves as a global leader in everything from severe weather forecasts and warnings, aviation weather services and space weather forecasting, to public preparedness with the Weather-Ready Nation initiative.

Your successes are too numerous to count - most memorably, your victory in the "Super Bowl" of extreme weather years in 2011, when you saved countless lives with advance warnings for Hurricane Irene, the Joplin tornado, the Alabama tornadoes, and historic floods.

Staying on top is never easy - it requires support from the Administration, Congress, and the American Public. It isn't always smooth but I can tell you that our Nation's leaders care deeply about you and your abilities to accomplish the mission. I have done my best these past five years to manage the many challenges with the kind of honor and dedication you expected of me.

Accomplishing the mission, developing an environment of respect and trust, strengthening relationships, and increasing the public's understanding of our capabilities, are some of the things I look back on with pride.

But most importantly, I am proudest of you.

You, the National Weather Service forecasters, scientists, engineers, technicians,

administrative assistants, IT specialists, budget officers, program analysts and more, have dedicated your lives to protecting this Nation. I know the sacrifices you have made for the mission. I know the sacrifices your families have made for the mission.

I am very proud of you and your efforts and I pray for your continued strength to do what is necessary to protect your families, friends and neighbors from the weather extremes this country faces every year.

Farewell.

--Jack