



Dave Doyle honored by the Virginia Association of Surveyors

A colleague, a friend, a surveyor, Dave Doyle, was honored for his many professional achievements and contributions by the Virginia Association of Surveyors this January. The award—an honorary membership in VAS—was a small thank you to this Virginia-adopted son for advancing the cause of geodesy at his agency, the National Geodetic Survey; internationally, through his work on the U.S. Spatial Reference System and the GRS; professionally, as a member of several member organizations of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping; and as a surveyor for whom geodesy is a passion, to be nurtured in projects small and big, with great expertise and limitless humor. Only three other individuals have received honorary membership to VAS in the association's sixty-year history.





—by Steve Douty



Top: Doyle receives Honorary Membership Certificate from Doug Richmond, president of the Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc. Below: Dave and Nancy Doyle sharing in the honor.



Dave Doyle

joined the National Geodetic Survey in 1972, and currently holds the position of chief geodetic surveyor. He is responsible for the development, technical design and management of plans and programs that enhance the United States National Spatial Reference System. He provides technical assistance in Geodesy to international, federal, state and local surveying, mapping, and GIS agencies.

Dave was born in Japan to a U.S. Army surveyor, and he lived in Texas and Germany before moving to Virginia. Dave graduated from George C. Marshall High School in Falls Church, Virginia, in 1967, and began his career as a geodetic surveyor in the U.S. Army the same year.

He served on numerous field survey campaigns until the completion of his service in 1970. From 1970 until 1972, he worked for Virginia's own Long and Rinker surveying company where he was responsible for conducting boundary, topographic, and engineering surveys while he attended undergraduate classes in geodesy and mathematics at the George Washington University.

Since joining the National Geodetic Survey, his experiences have included all phases of geodetic

triangulation, astronomic positioning, leveling, GPS data collection, data analysis, datum transformations, network adjustments, and data publication.

Dave has delivered over 180 workshops in all 50 United States, its territories, and internationally (that includes Fargo in February, and five weeks performing recon for Caribbean Island airports).

His favorite projects involved the resurveying of famous landmarks such as the Mason-Dixon line, the boundary markers of Washington, D.C., and the top of the Washington Monument.

An additional important project Dave completed was a survey in the basement of the U.S. Capitol intended to help the Architect of the Capitol find the corner stone that George Washington had set two centuries ago. This project was later expanded to include the positioning of the top and center of the axis of the Capitol when the statue Freedom was removed for cleaning.

Dave is a Past President of the American Association for Geodetic Surveying, a Fellow member of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, a charter member of, and the current Vice-President of the Geographic and Land Information Society, and a charter member of the District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors.

Dave Doyle is also active in the Maryland Society of Surveyors and the International Association of Geodesy. The President of the IAG attributed credit to Dave for his closing statement in Costa Rica in November 2007 by quoting "Good coordination begins with good coordinates."

Dave learned how to drive in an Austin-Healey Sprite, and enjoys driving his slightly larger Healey today. He spent many years going to car races (Mosspport, Watkins Glen) and driving in Time-Speed-Distance rallies.

His other interests range from being a Deadhead, gourmet cooking (according to Dave, chili doesn't have beans!), hiking the Appalachian Trail, watching the Orioles play, quoting Monty Python movies, drinking Guinness, and spending time with family and friends.



Dave Doyle [left] on top of the U.S. Capitol, with friend and fellow geodesist, Alan Dragoo.

Dave is best known though for two traits: one being that he is a great story teller—his nickname is "Fingers", and for those of you who haven't heard yet, there are over 100 stories of how he lost his index finger, and how the digital counting system works with only 9 fingers. And second, Dave is infamous for his taste in "conser-

vative" ties ... you see that, don't you in the official award ceremony photos.

Dave is married to Nancy Doyle, a senior geodesist at the National Geodetic Survey, and they have two sons, both in their twenties. Dave and Nancy live and work in Silver Spring, Maryland. ■