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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NSP celebrates 75th Anniversary at Stowe, Vermont - October 20, 2012

The year 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the National Ski Patrol (NSP). To commemorate NSP's founding by Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole at Mount Mansfield in 1938, the NSP will hold a celebration and dedication event at Stowe, Vt. on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

At 2 p.m., the 75th anniversary celebration will begin with the induction of Dole into the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum Hall of Fame. In addition, a permanent stone sculpture dedicated to the many years of service by the members of the NSP will be unveiled. The sculpture, carved by Stowe sculptor Chris Curtis from a rock taken from Mount Mansfield's base, will contain a time capsule that will remain sealed for 75 years.

At 4 p.m., the celebration will continue at the Rusty Nail with a video recap of the day's events and dedications from NSP Eastern Division Director John Shipman, NSP Executive Director Tim White, NSP Board Chair Burt Mitchell, and NSP Historian and Museum Board Chair Rick Hamlin.

A 75th Anniversary event will be held in Denver, Colo., Jan. 31 – Feb. 3, 2013. Headquartered in the Hyatt Grand Hotel in Denver, the weekend events will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the commemorative NSP 10th Mountain historical exhibit, national ski day at Ski Cooper, a Gala black tie celebration with silent auction, and optional visits to the SIA Snow Show and a ski day at Winter Park. Visit 75th Anniversary page of www.nsp.org for more details.

More information is available on the National Ski Patrol Eastern Division website by visiting the 75th Anniversary page at www.nspeast.org, or go to the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum at www.vtssm.com.

Background:

NSP Founder Minnie Dole to be Inducted into Hall of Fame

Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole (April 18, 1899–March 14, 1976), the George Washington of the NSP, was originally from Massachusetts, and learned to ski with the Boy Scouts. Dole and his friend Frank Edson celebrated New Year's 1936 by skiing at Stowe. Dole fell and broke his ankle on Toll Road. His friends found a piece of corrugated tin, large enough for his leg, so he could push himself down the mountain. (The Vermont Ski and Snowboard Museum has one of the original corrugated tin toboggans in its collection – Dole even helped with toboggan design.) Two months after Dole's accident, Edson was killed in a ski accident. Had a patrol been in place and rescue been quicker, he might not have died.

On March 7, 1938, Dole met National Ski Association President Roger Langley at a race at Stowe. Langley and Dole discussed the creation of a National Ski Patrol Association, and Dole agreed to chair the National Ski Patrol Committee of the National Ski Association. Dole founded the Patrol on knowledge and incentive, pressing people to keep up with first aid and rescue work. He partnered with the American Red Cross, divided the country into seven divisions, and worked with the local patrols like the Mount Mansfield Ski Club (MMSC) to build his system.

Dole wrote in his article "The Ski Patrol" published in the 1938 American Ski Journal: "We all know that accidents happen in skiing as in any other sport, but we also know that they can be greatly reduced by a common sense attitude toward the sport and through widespread education by facts. The National Ski Patrol is the first constructive move in this direction and it is sincerely hoped that all skiers will accept it as such."

About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a federally-chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 75 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 28,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information, access www.nsp.org.

For further comments or interviews regarding the NSP, please call NSP Communications Director Candace Horgan at (303) 988-1111, x2625.