

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 2, 2015

It is my pleasure to join in marking National French Week.

America and the French-speaking world have been shaped and strengthened by our shared values and beliefs for over two centuries. Under the red, white, and blue, and the blue, white, and red, the United States and France have stood together, unwavering in our commitment to the ideals that bind us—rising time and again in support of one another and in dedication to liberty and equality for people around the world.

Today, from Paris to Dakar to Montreal, and everywhere in between, French is essential to international diplomacy and integral to literature and the arts. By coming together around efforts to expand the teaching and speaking of French, you are helping add to that storied legacy.

You have my best wishes for an outstanding week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page.

Note: This letter from President Obama was received on the first day of National French Week when there was little time to distribute it. We e-mailed it to all AATF members, but since the message is timeless, we wanted to make sure that everyone saw it and has it to use in promoting the study of French.