

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Joseph L. Donovan
Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION

MINNESOTA CIVIL WAR AND SIOUX UPRISING CENTENNIALS

The one-hundredth anniversaries of two tragic and significant conflicts that have had far-reaching effects on American life will be observed in 1961 and 1962. The year 1961 marks the centennial of the beginning of the Civil War between the North and South, in which Minnesota played a unique role. One hundred years ago today the state, through its governor, Alexander Ramsey, offered the first troops for the Union cause. A Minnesotan, Josiah R. King, was the first to volunteer. The gallant charge of the First Minnesota regiment at Gettysburg, a battle almost unparalleled in the annals of military history for its loss of human lives, brought lasting fame to our great state. Albert Woolson, the last surviving Union veteran, was a resident of Minnesota. In 1962, our state will have occasion to commemorate the centennial of the great Sioux Uprising, a unique frontier phase of the Civil War, in which nearly 500 Minnesotans lost their lives. Both conflicts made lasting impacts upon the state and nation. The Civil War, one of our nation's most trying experiences, led to a clarification and reshaping of our national character. The Sioux Uprising began the momentous twenty-eight year "War for the West", which greatly strengthened our nation but created problems that remain unsolved to this day.

A commemoration provides us with an unequalled opportunity to sharpen our sense of national purpose at a time when we are urgently seeking to redefine it. Because a wider public knowledge and appreciation of the differences of opinion which led to both conflicts is highly desirable, and because it is fitting that we should pay tribute to our forebears who suffered in these experiences, I call upon all Minnesota citizens and organizations to participate in these observances and further call upon the heads of all political subdivisions of the State to issue a similar proclamation commemorating these events.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-one and of the state, the one hundred third.

Elmer L. Anderson
GOVERNOR

Joseph L. Donovan
SECRETARY OF STATE

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