

## GOVERNOR TIM PAWLENTY'S 2007 STATE OF THE STATE GUESTS OF DISTINCTION

### First Sergeant Mark Gaulke (Ret.), Father of Jessica Gaulke

First Sergeant Mark Gaulke (Ret.) is the proud father of Specialist Jessica Gaulke. He served in the National Guard from 1976 until he retired in 2005. In July 2004, he helped protect Governor Pawlenty on his trip to visit troops in Kosovo. More recently, First Sergeant Gaulke has worked as a Utilities Supervisor for the city of New Hope, Minnesota.

### Specialist Jessica Gaulke

Specialist Jessica Gaulke, who was named the 2007 Aquatennial Queen of the Lakes, recently relinquished her title to prepare for a year-long tour in Iraq. As a member of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Specialist Gaulke will begin training this spring in Fort Hood, Texas. Her association with the Minnesota National Guard marks the first time an Aquatennial Queen has been called to active duty in the military. In addition to juggling the demands of pageantry and the military, Gaulke has maintained her status as a sociology student at Augsburg College and a volunteer lacrosse coach at a local high school.

### Brenda Thielen Willard, Minnesota Department of Administration

Brenda Thielen Willard, CPPB is the Assistant Director - Acquisitions Manager of the Materials Management Division (MMD) of the Minnesota Department of Administration. She has served the state of Minnesota since August 1987, when she was hired as a buyer in the MMD. Since then, she has fulfilled several positions in the department, including Acquisition Management Specialist – Professional/Technical, Purchasing Supervisor, Acquisitions Manager, and her current post. The Acquisitions section of the MMD is charged with the purchase and distribution of goods and services for state agencies and other government entities in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

### Mark Willers, Wind Energy and Ethanol Producer

Mark Willers is the President and CEO of Minwind Energy, an innovative wind farming company in Rock County, Minnesota, which aims to provide clean, alternative energy and develop the local economy. The Minwind projects are the only multi-stockholder owned, commercially-sized wind projects in the United States. Additionally, Willers sits on the Board of Directors of Agri-Energy Ethanol Plant in Luverne, Minnesota and has served on a number of task forces including the Rock County/USDA Farm Program Committee, the University of Minnesota Southwest Research Farm and the Kellogg Foundation's Vision for Change Program. He has been a farmer in the southwest corner of the state for over 25 years. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Luverne, Minnesota.