



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The Lao-Hmong are an ethnic minority group within the country of Laos, who are well-known for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery; and
- WHEREAS: Beginning in 1960, the United States recruited thousands of Lao-Hmong for Special Guerrilla Units to serve as surrogates of the United States Armed Forces in Southeast Asia, and fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and the North Vietnamese Army in Laos, from 1960-1975; and
- WHEREAS: The United States relied heavily upon the Special Guerrilla Units to intercept the flow of communist reinforcement and war supplies from North Vietnam to South Vietnam, along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and
- WHEREAS: The Special Guerilla Units conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly combat missions in support of the United States Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, protected American personnel, guarded United States air radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy movements and operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed American pilots; and
- WHEREAS: More than 35,000 Lao-Hmong lost their lives, and many thousands more were seriously injured, disabled, or continue to be missing in action, in the defense of democracy and America's interests in Southeast Asia; and
- WHEREAS: Communities throughout the State of Minnesota and the United States of America unite on this day to honor Lao-Hmong soldiers for their warrior tradition, loyalty, bravery, and service to the United States of America during the Vietnam War.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, July 22, 2014, as:

## LAO-HMONG RECOGNITION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



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 6<sup>th</sup> day of October.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE