



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: Leif Erikson, son of Iceland and Norway, crossed the North Atlantic more than 1,000 years ago to land on the shores of present-day Canada. His arrival marked the first known European encounter with North America and began a legacy of exploration that would help define the character of our Nation; and

WHEREAS: More than 800 years after that first excursion, a ship called *Restauration* set sail in Erikson's wake, with the eyes and hearts of its passengers set on American shores. The Norwegians who disembarked in New York on October 9, 1825, were the first large group of immigrants from Norway to arrive in the United States. Today, we commemorate their journey and celebrate the many contributions and accomplishments of their descendants; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is home to large populations of Americans of Icelandic descent, as well as others of Nordic heritage. And monuments across our state, including near the Minnesota State Capitol in Saint Paul, commemorate Leif Erikson and his voyage; and

WHEREAS: In 1964, to honor Leif Erikson and celebrate Nordic-American heritage, the United States Congress authorized the President of the United States to proclaim October 9 of each year as Leif Erikson Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 9, 2013, as:

## LEIF ERIKSON 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of October.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE