



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Throughout our nation's history, many from Minnesota and across the country have answered the call of duty and service, defending our freedom as members of the United States Armed Forces; and
- WHEREAS: As a result of the Manhattan Project, the United States conducted the Trinity nuclear test – the first detonation of a nuclear device – in New Mexico on July 16, 1945; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 250,000 United States veterans were directly impacted by nuclear weapons technology while serving during 1945 to 1963, including many who were witnesses to or participants in some of the at least 235 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests as well as those serving in Hiroshima or Nagasaki during the period of the occupation of Japan by the United States immediately following World War II; and
- WHEREAS: From 1977 to 1980, an additional 8,033 United States veterans and civilian contractors participated in the Radiological Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, along with others involved in radiation risk activities; and
- WHEREAS: The National Association of Atomic Veterans was formed in 1979 to help atomic veterans obtain medical care and assistance; and
- WHEREAS: In accordance with Public Law 98-54, July 16, 1983 was designated as "National Atomic Veterans' Day," and, through an oversight/omission the designation failed to include "every year hereafter"; and
- WHEREAS: In 1996, Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreements Act freeing atomic veterans to describe their military involvement in nuclear testing in order to file for Veterans Affairs benefits; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes the important role played by the Atomic Veterans in defense of the Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, July 16, 2016, as:

## NATIONAL ATOMIC VETERANS' 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of July.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE