



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Robert Thomas Velline, also known as Bobby Vee, was born on April 30, 1943 in Fargo, North Dakota; and
- WHEREAS: On February 2, 1959, at the age of 15, Bobby Vee took the stage in Moorhead, Minnesota after he volunteered to replace Holly, Valens, and Richardson who were involved in a fatal accident; and
- WHEREAS: Within months of his debut, Vee and his band, The Shadows, recorded Vee's "Suzie Baby" for Soma Records in Minneapolis, which quickly became a regional hit, and the band was signed with Liberty Records in short succession; and
- WHEREAS: Vee recorded 38 Top 100 hits, including 7 gold records from 1959 to 1970; and
- WHEREAS: Vee was a skilled rhythm guitarist and songwriter, with a voice described by fellow Minnesota great, Bob Dylan, as having "a metallic, edgy tone... as musical as a silver bell;" and
- WHEREAS: Vee moved his family from Los Angeles, California to St. Cloud, Minnesota in 1982, where he and his wife, Karen, organized annual "Rockin' Round the Clock" fundraising concerts to provide music and arts facilities for local children; and
- WHEREAS: Vee and his wife were married for more than 50 years and had four children, Jeffery, Thomas, Robert, and Jennifer, some of whom performed with him; and
- WHEREAS: Vee was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease in 2011, and passed away on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the age of 73 in Rogers, Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: The play, "Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story," is now showing and in its final week at St. Paul's History Theater.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 2, 2016, as:

BOBBY VEE 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 28th day of October.


GOVERNOR


LT. GOVERNOR