



STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Florian W. Chmielewski, Sr. was born and raised with 14 brothers and sisters at his family's farmhouse in Sturgeon Lake, where he still resides today; and
- WHEREAS: Florian served our country as a member of the United States Air Force during the Korean War from 1950 to 1954; and
- WHEREAS: Starting his musical career in 1945, Florian received his first accordion and at the age of 90, still continues performing today with his fourth, fifth and sixth generation family members; and
- WHEREAS: Florian spent 10 years as a Pine County Commissioner from 1960 to 1970, and 26 years in the Minnesota State Senate from 1971 to 1996, where he was a leading advocate on employment, health care, housing, and veterans issue; and
- WHEREAS: Florian has promoted polka music throughout the United States and around the world with the Chmielewski Funtime Band; and
- WHEREAS: He has dedicated his life to his endless performances and decades of radio and television shows to continue the heritage and preservation of polka music; and
- WHEREAS: Over the past 70 years, Florian and his family have brought entertainment and happiness into the lives of many; and
- WHEREAS: Florian Chmielewski has made a significant mark on the polka industry as the recipient of the International Polka Association's Pioneer Award and to the State of Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 20, 2017, as:

FLORIAN CHMIELEWSKI APPRECIATION 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 12th day of April.


GOVERNOR