



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota was the first State to offer volunteer soldiers for the defense of the Union in 1861; and
- WHEREAS: The Battle of Gettysburg inflicted the highest number of casualties during the Civil War, and proved to be the turning point of the Eastern Campaign; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota was represented during the Battle of Gettysburg by the First and Second Companies of Minnesota Sharpshooters and the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel William J. Colvill, who led an assault late on July 2, which repelled the Confederate advance on Cemetery Ridge, a decisive moment of the battle; and
- WHEREAS: The First Minnesota Infantry sustained an extremely high number of casualties, on July 2 and 3, 1863, in preserving a key defensive position in the Union line during the Battle of Gettysburg; the casualties on July 2 were in excess of 80 percent, representing one of the highest regimental casualty rates for any battle in the war; and
- WHEREAS: Gettysburg National Cemetery, which is located on the battlefield, was established and dedicated in 1863 and was the place of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; and
- WHEREAS: Gettysburg National Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 3,500 Union Soldiers, including 52 from Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: In the Fall of 1867, surviving veterans of the First Minnesota, in recognition of the service of the brave soldiers who gave their lives in the Battle of Gettysburg, placed a memorial, a marble urn, on the grounds of Gettysburg National Cemetery in the Minnesota Section; and
- WHEREAS: The First Minnesota Urn in the National Cemetery was the first memorial placed on the Gettysburg battlefield; and
- WHEREAS: On November 18, 2017, Remembrance Day, a delegation will honor the memory of Minnesotans who gave their lives in the Battle of Gettysburg, and rededicate and lay a wreath at the Minnesota Urn, on the 150th Anniversary of the placing of the Urn, while Minnesotans and First Minnesota descendants here today and across the State and Country remember the sacrifices made to preserve the Union.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 18, 2017, as:

MINNESOTA REMEMBRANCE DAY AT GETTYSBURG

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 3rd day of November.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE