



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Hmong Lao, which means "free people," are Laotian members of the Hmong tribe and are noted for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery; and

WHEREAS: Beginning in 1960, the United States recruited thousands of Hmong Lao to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army in Laos. The United States relied heavily on Hmong Lao Special Guerrilla Units to engage in direct combat with the North Vietnamese troops from 1960-1975; and

WHEREAS: Lao and Hmong T 28 pilots flew thousands of deadly combat missions; and

WHEREAS: Hmong soldiers disrupted the line of communication from North Vietnam to the Plain of Jars and Lao soldiers fought against enemy forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Hmong Lao soldiers protected American personnel, guarded United States' Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed American pilots; and

WHEREAS: More than 50,000 soldiers from the Kingdom of Laos lost their lives, including 10,000 Hmong soldiers, and many more were seriously injured and disabled; and

WHEREAS: Communities throughout the State of Minnesota and the United States of America unite on this day to honor Hmong Lao soldiers for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and bravery during the Vietnam War.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, July 22, 2014, as:

HMONG LAO RECOGNITION 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 24th day of July.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE