



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** The successful use of gliders by Nazi Germany to capture the Belgian Fort of Eban Emael in May 1940, opened a new element of warfare, and in February 1941, the United States Army decided to develop its own glider force; and

**WHEREAS:** Before the gliders could be delivered, eighteen training sites were selected, including three in Minnesota. As gliders were made available, the main training site was established at South Plains Army Air Field in Lubbock, Texas, where over 6,000 pilots were qualified by the end of the war; a maintenance and repair training facility was established at Sheppard Army Air Field in Texas; and a transport carrier training facility was established at Whitman Army Air Field in Missouri; and

**WHEREAS:** During WWII, a total of 12,909 CG-4A Gliders were built, with 1,509 coming from Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation (NAC) in the Twin Cities. A total of 100 larger CG-13 Gliders were also built, with 50 coming from the NAC; and

**WHEREAS:** Gliders were utilized during military operations in Sicily, Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Bastogne, and Operation Varsity in Europe. Gliders were also deployed by Air Commandos in the China-Burma-India Theater, and by the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne in recapturing the Philippines; and

**WHEREAS:** At the end of WWII, the production of gliders ceased and utilization of gliders in combat doctrine ended; and

**WHEREAS:** On October 2, 2014, the surviving and dedicated glider pilots and other affiliated troop carrier service members continue to honor their contributions to victory at a gathering in Bloomington, Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, October 2, 2014, as:

### WWII GLIDER PILOTS ASSOCIATION AND AFFILIATED TROOP CARRIER MEMBERS REUNION 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of October.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE