STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard, a native son of the State of Minnesota, was killed in action on April 3, 1945, while serving as a Bombardier Navigator in the United States Army Air Force in World War II, and his family has been waiting sixty-six years for his return and proper memorial; and

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard was born on October 3, 1922, in Greenbush Township, and resided in the Elk River, Minnesota area; and

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero at twenty-two years of age when his B-25 crashed on the Cebu Islands in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard's remains were recovered in 1947, and identified by DNA in April of 2010. He will be honored with a burial of full military honors on Saturday, June 25, 2011, with a memorial at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Dayton, Minnesota, followed by interment at Saint John the Baptist Cemetery; and

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard was a son to parents John and Clara Louise; a brother to siblings Lawrence, George, Raymond, Rose, Wilfred, Lucy, Bernice, Ethel, Bob, and Gene; and an uncle to twenty-two nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Lieutenant Harry Lester Bedard, sixty-six years after his death, for his dedicated service to and sacrifice for his fellow citizens of Minnesota and the United States of America with its deepest gratitude, and all thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all U.S. flags and Minnesota flags be flown at half-staff at all state and federal buildings in the State of Minnesota, from sunrise until sunset on Saturday, June 25, 2011, in honor and remembrance of Harry Lester Bedard.

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 twenty-first day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the State the one hundred and fifty-third.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE