



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Army Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy, twenty-five years of age, was raised in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota and was a 2004 graduate of Simley High School; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy, with aspirations of becoming an engineer in the Green Berets, began his military career in April, 2009, at Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he excelled physically and mentally, being named an 'Expert Marksman' and achieving the status of Squad Leader; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy was a member of the U.S. Army Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, based out of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was deployed to Andar, Ghanzi Province, Afghanistan in January, 2011; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy, also known as "Schmolie", was a remarkable young man. Active and always moving, with a zest for life, he was creative and extremely gifted with his hands and loved to have lively video game marathons with his friends. A fearless thrill-seeker, Joe loved to ride his motorcycle and was always in search of his next adventure; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy was kindhearted and loved to laugh and joke with those around him. Joe was extremely loyal to his friends, loved welding and guitars, and was strong in his Christian faith; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero while proudly serving his country on Friday, April 15, 2011, in Afghanistan while in combat; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy has the distinction of posthumously being awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart; and
WHEREAS: Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy was preceded in death by grandfathers Alan M. Kennedy and Frank J. Skoglund, and is survived by proud parents, James H. and Valerie A. Kenney; brother, Casey J. Kennedy; grandmothers, Jean Kennedy and Josephine Skoglund; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, close friends, and brothers-in-arms; and
WHEREAS: A Celebration of Joseph's life will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Church of Saint Patrick in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, with an interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery; and
WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy 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 entire community.

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 Thursday, April 28, 2011, in honor and remembrance of Specialist Joseph Alan Kennedy.



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 26th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE