



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner, a native son of the State of Minnesota, died a Prisoner of War on February 28, 1951, while serving the United States Army in the Korean War, and his family has been waiting sixty years for his return and proper memorial; and

WHEREAS: Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner was born on November 16, 1919, and resided in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Michael went on to serve in the United States Army in World War II and in the Korean War, most recently a member of A Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS: Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero at thirty-one years of age on February 28, 1951 in Prisoner of War Camp #5 in Pyoktong, North Korea, after enemy forces attacked his unit in the vicinity of Kunu-Ri in late 1950; and

WHEREAS: Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner was a decorated military hero, earning the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the World War II Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS: Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner's remains were recovered by the United States in 1993 and identified in September, 2010. He will be honored with a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, July 22, 2011, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, followed by interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner, sixty 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 Friday, July 22, 2011, in honor and remembrance of Master Sergeant Michael Charles Fastner.



Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 21st day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the State the one hundred and fifty-third.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR