



STATE *of* MINNESOTA

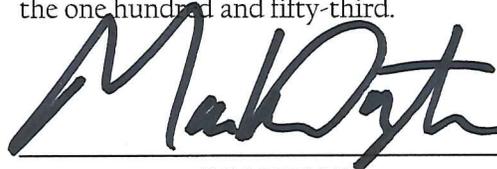
Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson, a native son of the State of Minnesota, was killed in action on April 30, 1951, while serving as a tank driver in the United States Army during the Korean War, and his family has been waiting sixty years for his return and proper memorial; and
- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson was born in 1928 in Braham, Minnesota and graduated from Braham High School in 1946. Ralph loved hunting and farming, and had aspirations of operating his own farm; and
- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson was drafted into the United States Army in January of 1949. He became a tank driver in the 25th Reconnaissance Company, 25th Infantry Division, and deployed to Korea in December, 1950, where he was stationed near Seoul; and
- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson went Missing In Action on January 4, 1951, when his platoon was cut off and surrounded by enemy forces south of Seoul. Ralph gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero at twenty-two years of age on April 30, 1951, in a Korean Prisoner of War Camp; and
- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson's remains were returned to the United States from North Korea sometime between the years of 1990-1994, and identified by DNA in February, 2011. He will be honored with a burial of full military honors on Saturday, June 25, 2011, with a memorial at Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, followed by interment at Rice Lake Cemetery; and
- WHEREAS: Sergeant Ralph William Carlson was the son of Alvin and Hilda and brother of Marvin and Florence, and had many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Sergeant Ralph William Carlson, 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 Saturday, June 25, 2011, in honor and remembrance of Ralph William Carlson.



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.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE