STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS: Upon signing the landmark legislation, President Johnson remarked that its purpose is simple: "It does not restrict the freedom of any American . . . . It does not give special treatment to any citizen. . . . It does say that . . . those who are equal before God shall now also be equal in the polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and in hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, and other places that provide service to the public."; and

WHEREAS: This legislation finally made law what many Americans already knew in their hearts to be right and just, ending unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, and prohibiting discrimination in workplaces and facilities that serve the general public; and

WHEREAS: As we approach the 50th Anniversary of this legislation, we take time to reflect on the progress made and look forward to furthering the spirit of this legislation — a greater understanding of the effects of racism and discrimination on individuals and communities, continued dialogue with one another, and eliminating overt and more subtle racism and discrimination in our communities; and

WHEREAS: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not end discrimination, and there is much more work to be done to address ongoing disparities. But we can — as communities and as a state and nation — continue on the path toward a more equitable, equal, and just society.

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

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

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 23rd day of June.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE