



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Bruce "Boo" Smith was born on February 8, 1920 in Faribault, Minnesota, where he first discovered his love for football and excelled as a high school athlete; and

WHEREAS: Following high school, Bruce attended the University of Minnesota, playing halfback for the back-to-back national champion Golden Gophers in 1940 and 1941, earning first team All-American and All Big Ten honors and the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 1941; and

WHEREAS: Receiving his Heisman Trophy two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Bruce served the United States of America as a Navy Fighter Pilot during World War II, before returning to the United States and entering the National Football League; and

WHEREAS: In the spring of 1967 Bruce was diagnosed with cancer, and spent the next several months visiting young cancer patients before succumbing to the disease on August 28, 1967. After his death, the Reverend William Cantwell, unfamiliar with Bruce's athletic achievements, nominated him for sainthood; and

WHEREAS: Bruce was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1972; and in 1977, his number, 54, was the first to ever be officially retired by the University of Minnesota Gophers; and

WHEREAS: On Saturday, September 17, 2011, the University of Minnesota will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Bruce Smith receiving the Heisman Trophy and honoring him at their home game versus the Miami University (Ohio) RedHawks.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2011 as:

BRUCE SMITH DAY

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 16th day of April.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE