



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota has served as the home for several historic Deaf leaders, including Olof Hanson (1862-1933), the first deaf architect; Agatha Tiegel Hanson (1893), first female graduate of Gallaudet University; Cadwallader Lincoln Washburn (1866-1965), a well-known Deaf artist, Gerald "Bummy" Burstein (1926-2018), a notable teacher and parliamentarian; and Doug Bahl (1950-2014), a famous deaf historian, also Blanche Wilkins Williams, the first African American woman to graduate from the Minnesota State Academy of the Deaf; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is proud to be the home of historic national landmark Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, built by Margaret Brooks Thompson in memory of her husband, both of whom were Deaf, in 1916 and designed by architect Olof Hanson, a family friend, to be a space where deaf Minnesotans and friends could gather, free of charge; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD), established in 1863 in Faribault, serves students who are Deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing from early childhood to twelfth grade and has two buildings that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Administration/Girl's Dormitory and Noyes Hall; and

WHEREAS: Metro Deaf School, a free public charter school serving preschool through twelfth grade in St. Paul, was established in 1992 under Minnesota's then new charter school law, becoming the second charter school to officially open in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Community organizations serving the Deaf community include the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, the Minnesota Deafblind Association, the Hearing Loss Association of America – Twin Cities Chapter, the St. Paul/Minneapolis Black Deaf Advocates, the Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community, Deaf Women of Minnesota, Minnesota Deaf Queers, Minnesota Deaf Senior Citizens, Deaf Equity, ThinkSelf, and others; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing's website hosts several collections of oral-visual history interviews with Minnesota advocates who are Deaf, Deafblind, or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Digital Library hosts an archive of 173 historical photos and documents donated from the Charles Thompson Memorial Hall, the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, and the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf Alumni Association Museum, under their Minnesota Reflections collection.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as:

DEAF HISTORY MONTH

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 1st day of March .

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE

