



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by all individuals throughout the United States, regardless of race, creed, ability, religion, country of origin, gender, or sexual orientation, can be protected by the availability of due process of law through which the peaceful resolution of civil disputes and the maintenance of public safety are achieved; and

WHEREAS: The foundational principles of our State and Nation were horrifically and inexcusably violated on June 15, 1920, when Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie, three Black men, were wrongfully accused of a crime, violently removed from the city jail by an estimated mob of 10,000 in Duluth, Minnesota, and brutally hanged from a lamp post on a city street without any due process of law whatsoever; and

WHEREAS: We must not allow such communal atrocities to happen again; and

WHEREAS: Prevention requires acknowledging such vile past transgressions, talking openly about them, educating our youth about the evil underlying such conduct, and coming together as a community to heal societal schisms and biases that only impede the achievement of a more perfect Union; and

WHEREAS: The Duluth based Clayton-Jackson-McGhie Memorial, Inc. and the 2020 CJM Commemoration Committee, in collaboration with individuals and entities throughout Minnesota, are dedicated to ensuring continued public awareness of this atrocity and fostering needed public dialogue to heal societal divisions that lead to and result from such crimes; and

WHEREAS: These dedicated efforts can be seen in the creation of a permanent memorial at the site of the hanging in Duluth; and

WHEREAS: June 15, 2020 marks the 100-year anniversary of the hanging of Clayton, Jackson, and McGhie; and

WHEREAS: Everyone must be aware of this tragic history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2020 as:

### ELIAS CLAYTON, ELMER JACKSON, AND ISAAC MCGHIE COMMEMORATION 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of June.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE