



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Former Justice Esther M. Tomljanovich, "Justice T," was a trailblazer, advocate, and true public servant, remembered for her warmth and kindness; and
- WHEREAS: Born in Galt, Iowa, and raised in the Iron Range, Esther graduated from Nashwauk High School before moving to St. Paul and renting a room at the YWCA to attend St. Paul College of Law, where she was the only woman and graduated as a top student; and
- WHEREAS: Following her graduation, Esther worked as an Assistant Revisor of Statutes, later led the office as Head Revisor, and was appointed a Judge of the 10th District Court in 1977 by Governor Rudy Perpich, making her the second woman judge in the state; and
- WHEREAS: She later served eight years as an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, becoming the third woman to sit on the state's highest court; and
- WHEREAS: One of the first women appointed to judicial office in the state, Justice T never lost sight of that role, helping others by creating the Minnesota Women Lawyers group, serving on the Committee on the Status of Women, helping advance equal pay for equal work, and making women a protected class under the Minnesota Human Rights Act; and
- WHEREAS: Justice T continued her philanthropic work through scholarships and academic programs, establishing a scholarship in her name with her late husband; and
- WHEREAS: Justice T was a valuable mentor to many students and law professionals, recognized as a pillar in the community and remembered for her humility, authenticity, and ability to work through complex legal issues; and
- WHEREAS: Esther M. Tomljanovich passed away on July 26 at the age of 94 and is survived by her son, William; daughter-in-law, Izabella; grandsons Anthony and Justin; sister, Carol, many nieces and nephews, and is remembered dearly by many whose lives she impacted.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all United States flags and Minnesota flags to be flown at half-staff at all state buildings in the State of Minnesota from sunrise to sunset on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, in honor and remembrance of Former Justice Esther M. Tomljanovich.

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 10th day of August.




GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE