

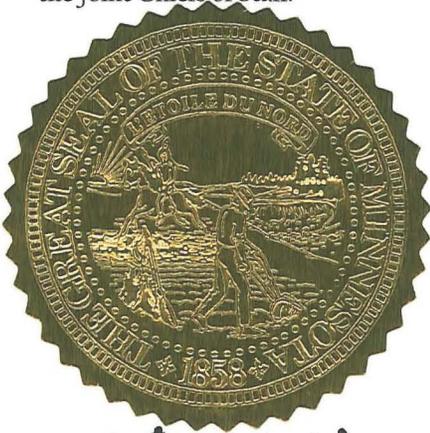


STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: General John William Vessey, Jr. was born on June 29, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and attended Roosevelt High School; and
- WHEREAS: In 1939, at the age of 17, Vessey enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Division. His unit was called to active duty in 1941 shortly before the United States entered World War II; and
- WHEREAS: During the war, Vessey fought in Northern Africa and Italy where he received a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant at the battle of Anzio in 1944; and
- WHEREAS: Vessey married Avis Claire Funk in 1945, and they had two sons, John III and David, and a daughter, Sarah; and
- WHEREAS: During his post-war service in Germany and Korea, Vessey continued his education through a series of night and correspondence courses, ultimately earning a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland in 1963, and later, a master of science from George Washington University; and
- WHEREAS: During the Vietnam War, then Lt. Colonel Vessey served as commander during the 1967 Battle of Suoi Tre, where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions, the Army's second-highest medal; and
- WHEREAS: Vessey earned his fourth star in 1976. From 1976 to 1979, Vessey served in Korea as Commanding General of the Eighth U.S. Army; Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea; and Commander in Chief of the United Nations Command; and
- WHEREAS: Vessey served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 1979 until 1982 when President Reagan named him the tenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He would be the last World War II combat veteran to serve in the position; and
- WHEREAS: Vessey retired on September 30, 1985, concluding a remarkable 46-year military career; however, he continued to serve in various foreign policy capacities over the next several years. In 1992, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and
- WHEREAS: General John William Vessey, Jr. passed away on August 18, 2016 at the age of 94.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all United States flags and Minnesota flags be flown at half-staff at all state and federal buildings in the State of Minnesota from sunrise until sunset on the day of his interment in honor and remembrance of General John William Vessey, Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



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 19th day of August.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE