



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, born on September 21, 1898 in Lake Park, Minnesota, was a pioneer in the advancement of modern surgery; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Wangensteen was chief of surgery at the University of Minnesota for 37 years (1930-1967), where medical students from all over the world were attracted to the department because of his emphasis on surgical research; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Wangensteen is credited with establishing a legacy of developing surgeon scientists, surgeons who were required to conduct laboratory research, which was a marked departure from the norm in medical education and clinical practice of the day; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen's former students were leaders and pioneers in surgery, including Dr. Norman E. Shumway, and Dr. Christaan Barnard who performed the first human heart transplants, Dr. F. John Lewis who led the world's first successful open heart surgery in 1952 using hyperthermia, Dr. C. Walton Lillehei who introduced the technique of cross-circulation in 1954 for open heart surgery, Dr. Richard DeWall who introduced the heart-lung machine in 1955, and Drs. Clarence Dennis, DeWall, and Lillehei who developed the bubble oxygenator; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Wangensteen invented the Wangensteen Suction, a device which uses suction to aid patients with intestinal obstruction, and because later his work with lower and obstruction and gastric suction had become so renowned that he became the first University of Minnesota surgeon to be honored with the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery's prestigious Samuel D. Gross Prize; and
- WHEREAS: The Wangensteen Suction is credited with saving an estimated 100,000 lives in the 13 years after its development and a million lives by the time of Dr. Wangensteen's death in 1981.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, September 21, 2016 as:

DR. OWEN H. WANGENSTEEN 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 September.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Tara Suth in black ink.

LT. GOVERNOR