



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson, born on November 1, 1937, in Zimmerman, Minnesota, was killed in action on April 11, 1965, while serving in the United States Navy in the Vietnam War, and his family has been waiting forty-seven years for his return and proper memorial; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson graduated from Patrick Henry High School and earned a degree from the University of Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson began service with the United States Navy on September 24, 1960, and was stationed in Pensacola, Florida. He soon earned his wings and was deployed to Vietnam, serving aboard the USS *Ranger*; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and died a hero at twenty-seven years of age on April 11, 1965, when the A-1H Skyraider aircraft he was piloting was shot down while on an armed reconnaissance mission of enemy targets on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the mountains north of Boualapha, Khammouan Province, Laos. Enemy activity in the area precluded the recovery of his remains; and
- WHEREAS: At the time of his death, Lieutenant William E. Swanson was survived by his father, Marvin Swanson; brother, Robert; sisters, Marva and Peggy; and today by many loving family members and friends; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson was posthumously decorated by Vice President of the United States Hubert H. Humphrey with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Gold Star in lieu of a second Air Medal, and the Purple Heart; and
- WHEREAS: Lieutenant William E. Swanson's remains were recovered in July, 2010 and identified. He was honored with a burial with full military honors on Monday, June 11, 2012, at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes Lieutenant William E. Swanson, forty-seven years after his death, for his dedicated service to and sacrifice for his fellow citizens of Minnesota and the United States of America with its deepest gratitude, and all thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all U.S. 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 Tuesday, June 12, 2012, in honor and remembrance of Lieutenant William E. Swanson.



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 11th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the State the one hundred and fifty-fourth.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE