



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** Nothando Zulu was a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and a member of the Minnesota community for over six decades; and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando was the co-founder and President of the Black Storytellers Alliance (BSA), which was established in 1976 with her husband, Vusumuzi Zulu. The Black Storytellers Alliance in North Minneapolis is committed to walking alongside our community in discovering, connecting, and expanding the knowledge, practice, and power of the African oral tradition that was once widely cherished across the African Diaspora. The Zulus launched the annual Black Master Storytellers Festival, "Signifyin' & Testifyin,'" in 1991, and have entertained and educated more than 51,000 Minnesotans over the past 32 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando was a master storyteller for over 47 years, sharing stories of wisdom, entertainment, education, and empowerment to youth and adults in Minnesota and worldwide, including Ghana and South Africa; and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando collaborated with numerous organizations, including the Northstar Storytelling League, Intermedia Arts, African American Family Services, Givens African American Literature, Young Audiences of Minnesota, Indigenous Roots, and Community Programs in the Arts (COMPAS); and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando was a beacon of culture. In 2023, she and her husband were recipients of the first-ever Artist Fellowship for Culture Bearers by the McKnight Foundation for their role in promoting the importance of preserving and celebrating African traditions, values, and narratives through storytelling; and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando died on September 11, 2023, and leaves behind her husband, Vusumuzi; children Makeda, Keke, Terrence, David, and Stephanie; seven nieces; five nephews; seven great-nieces; six great-nephews; and numerous extended family, community children, and friends; and
- WHEREAS:** Nothando was a remarkable master storyteller and community leader whose legacy of promoting the African oral tradition continues to inspire and educate generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, September 27, 2023 as:

NOTHANDO ZULU 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 26th day of September.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Filed on September 26, 2023
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State, Steve Simon