



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment was the first group of 1,000 volunteers to be enlisted and assigned to fight for the Union; and

WHEREAS: By 1863, this unit was reduced to one-third of its original strength due to casualties suffered at major engagements at the Battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, and the Battle of Antietam. Additional losses were due to disease or because soldiers were sent home due to illness; and

WHEREAS: On July 2nd, 1863, under the orders of their corps commander, Winfield Hancock, the regiment, led by Colonel William Colvill, charged advancing Confederate forces four times their number. They held the line long enough to secure additional reinforcements to plug the gap in the Union line; and

WHEREAS: In those crucial fifteen minutes, they lost 215 of 262 soldiers, amounting to a staggering 82 percent causality rate – one of the highest percentages endured by a unit in the Union army; and

WHEREAS: This sacrificial charge is considered one of the pivotal moments of the Battle of Gettysburg, helping the Union army conquer victory in that conflict; and

WHEREAS: This famous charge is remembered and memorialized in the Minnesota State Capitol with a painting in the Governor's Reception Room, a bronze plaque retelling that story, and a statue of William Colvill in the rotunda. As part of an annual rotation, the flag used by the 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment during their service from 1861–1864 is displayed as an additional commemoration for these brave volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, July 2, 2024, as:

1ST MINNESOTA INFANTRY
REGIMENT 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 June.




GOVERNOR

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Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State, Steve Simon


SECRETARY OF STATE