STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment was the first group of 1,000 volunteer soldiers to be offered and assigned to fight for the Union during the Civil War in 1861; 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, the Battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg, and deaths due to disease or soldiers sent home due to illness; and

WHEREAS: On July 2, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, the 1st Minnesota Infantry Regiment led by Colonel William Colvill responded to General Winfield S. Hancock's order to plug a gap in the Union line by charging at the double quick with fixed bayonets; and

WHEREAS: They did so against an enemy force five times their number and held the line long enough to secure additional reinforcements to fill that gap; and

WHEREAS: In those crucial 15 minutes, they lost 215 of 262 soldiers, amounting to a staggering 82 percent casualty rate that included killed and wounded; and

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

WHEREAS: This famous charge is remembered in the Minnesota State Capitol with a painting in the Governor's Reception Room, a bronze plaque retelling their story, and a statue of their colonel, William Colvill, in the rotunda; and

WHEREAS: Each year, a 1st Minnesota Infantry flag is rotated for display in a rotunda flag case to commemorate this regiment's service and sacrifice from 1861-1864; and

WHEREAS: A reproduction of a 1st Minnesota Infantry flag, copied from one given to the regiment in 1863, shall be flown on the north flag pole of the Minnesota State Capitol in place of the POW-MIA flag through the day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 2, 2025, as:

1ST MINNESOTA 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 2nd day of July.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE

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Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State, Steve Simon