



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The concept of landing armed troops into combat zones was first conceived of by General Billy Mitchell soon after the end of World War I and was proved in the first recorded jump at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas; and
- WHEREAS: The United States military, although pioneering the idea of an airborne insertion of troops, did not put the idea into practice until April of 1940 when the War Department formed a platoon of Airborne Infantry; and
- WHEREAS: The Army's first airborne test jump by Lieutenant William T. Ryder and Private William "Red" King of the newly organized test platoon was held on August 16, 1940, at Lawson Field; and
- WHEREAS: The first parachute combat unit was the 501st Parachute Battalion and the 502nd was created on July 1, 1941, with many of the men volunteering from the 501st; and
- WHEREAS: Since the creation of airborne combat units in the days immediately preceding World War II, United States Airborne units have been involved in combat insertions in conflicts in Vietnam and Grenada; and
- WHEREAS: Having served with distinction and valor whenever called upon, these elite Airborne Troops are deserving of recognition for their dedication;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ARNE H. CARLSON, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 16, 1998 to be

### *Birth of the Airborne Day*

in 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 sixteenth day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight, and of the State the one hundred fortieth.

*Arne H. Carlson*  
GOVERNOR

*Jean A. Grone*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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