



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The first Fort Snelling Post Chaplain, Episcopalian Ezekiel G. Gear, served from 1838 to 1858, using a chapel located adjacent to the headquarters building within the stone walls of the frontier fort; and
- WHEREAS: After the Civil War, the regular Army returned to Fort Snelling to serve in the Indian campaigns and the Spanish-American War of 1898, and the post expanded to include a small white-framed "Post Chapel"; and
- Whereas: In June 1923, U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain) Frank C. Rideout, a Baptist, was assigned to Fort Snelling and realized that the small chapel would not be adequate to meet the religious needs of the growing installation; and
- Whereas: The Fort Snelling Commanding Officer requested that the War Department build a Post Chapel, and in September 1923, the Adjutant General of the Army gave approval for a building "Pan-Sectarian (non-denominational) in character"; and
- Whereas: Between 1923 and 1925, the garrison raised nearly \$50,000 from ecclesiastical, patriotic, and service organizations, and incorporated the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel and Community Center Association; and
- WHEREAS: On Sunday, September 5, 1926, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first Army Chapel in America to be built by public contributions and opened to all faiths. As the first combined Church and Parish House on an Army post, the Chapel inspired at least 20 other posts to replace inadequate facilities and equipment dedicated to the moral and religious welfare of the 120,000 young men of the peacetime Army; and
- WHEREAS: Eighty years ago, on Sunday, June 10, 1928, the first morning worship was held at 10:30 a.m. and a Dedication Service was held at 3:00 p.m. where it was said: "Primarily the Chapel will be a house of worship... it will provide a shrine where the friends of those who have died for America may come, as on a holy pilgrimage, and offer up their thanks to Almighty God for the precious gift of friends who have been so fondly loved..."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, June 10, 2008, to be:

### FORT SNELLING MEMORIAL CHAPEL DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



*Mark Ritchie*

SECRETARY OF STATE

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 first day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the State the one hundred fiftieth.

*[Signature]*  
GOVERNOR



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