



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Members of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division were ordered into Federal Service on February 10, 1941, under Presidential Order; and
- WHEREAS: The 34th Infantry Division arrived in Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, in February 1941, for one year of training; and
- WHEREAS: The Minnesota National Guard's 34th Division was the first American Division on European soil. After continuing its training in Northern Ireland and moving to Scotland, the 34th Infantry Division was selected to take part in the first big Allied offensive of the war, the landing in North Africa; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota's 175th Field Artillery, deployed with the 34th "Red Bull" Division, were the first Americans to be dispatched to Europe in January 1942; and
- WHEREAS: The 175th Field Artillery broke off from the main body of the 34th Infantry Division to support British units in Tunisia and is credited with firing the first round against the enemy in the European Theatre of Operations in November 1942; and
- WHEREAS: On March 1, 1943, the 175th rejoined the 34th Division and took part in numerous subsequent engagements in Tunisia during the Allied build-up; and
- WHEREAS: The 175th Field Artillery, as part of the 34th Division, participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa and Italy. The Division is credited with amassing 517 days of front line combat, more than any other U.S. division; and
- WHEREAS: Artillerymen of the veteran 34th "Red Bull" Division fired more than 1,125,639 shells at the Germans in World War II. This figure is the greatest record of artillery-support-of-infantry of the war; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota National Guard recognize Lloyd M. Nelson, Joseph R. Piche, Gordon K. Bennett, and Victor V. Knoph, as members of the 175th Field Artillery 34th Infantry Division, for meritorious service during World War II, and acknowledge they are credited with firing the first round by U.S. Forces in the European Theater of Operation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 19, 2009, to be:

## 175TH FIELD ARTILLERY RECOGNITION 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 30th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the State the one hundred fifty-first

*[Signature]*

GOVERNOR



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