



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota has long been known as the Gopher State. The first University of Minnesota yearbook to carry the title "Gopher" was published in 1888; and

WHEREAS: In 1926, University of Minnesota football coach Clarence Spears first referred to the team as the "Gophers." Beginning in the 1930s, football head coach Bernie Bierman led the University of Minnesota football team to six national championships, and sports announcer Halsey Hall dubbed them the "Golden Gophers;" and

WHEREAS: In 1940, George Grooms designed the first identity for the Gopher mascot and throughout the next several decades different versions appeared, with the current mascot, Goldy Gopher, being established in 1986; and

WHEREAS: Goldy Gopher has become an ambassador for the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, evoking pride, spirit, and fair play. A similar role is played by University of Minnesota mascots representing their respective campuses, including: University of Minnesota - Duluth Bulldog, "Champ;" University of Minnesota - Morris Cougar, "Pounce;" University of Minnesota - Crookston Eagle, "Regal the Eagle;" and University of Minnesota - Rochester Raptor, "Rocky the Raptor;" and

WHEREAS: Goldy Gopher has represented the University of Minnesota well and was the National Mascot Champion at the 2011 and 2013 Universal Cheerleading Association National Championships; and

WHEREAS: Goldy Gopher will be honored with a statue on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus, adjacent to Coffman Memorial Union, to be unveiled on Monday, September 23, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, September 23, 2013, as:

GOLDY GOPHER 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 20th day of September.

Mark Dayton

GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE

