

C-17

MINNESOTA STATE

- WHEREAS, the Minnesota National Guard, in time of war and peace, has achieved a most distinguished record of devoted and heroic service to the state and nation; and
- WHEREAS, it seems highly fitting that the Minnesota National Guard, as an outstanding example of the noblest attributes of patriotism in a democracy, should accord all citizens, duly qualified, an equal opportunity to serve in its ranks; and
- WHEREAS, the policy of the state of Minnesota has long set forth the conviction that there shall be no discrimination between its people by reason of race, color, religion or national origin; and
- WHEREAS, this attitude was expressed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1908 when it enacted a civil rights statute, which to this day prevents discrimination in public places; and
- WHEREAS, opposition to discrimination was again stated when the 1943 session of the Minnesota Legislature memorialized the Congress of the United States to permit all citizens, and particularly Negro citizens, to serve in the National Guard, without segregation into separate units; and
- WHEREAS, Minnesota Negro citizens, in accordance with our philosophy of justice and fair play, merit the right to membership in the National Guard, without the limitation of segregation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK B. FENNER, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the military and naval forces of the State of Minnesota, do hereby establish as the policy of the military and naval forces of the State of Minnesota including the Minnesota National Guard, that there shall be therein equality of opportunity and treatment for all, including Negro citizens who shall serve therein without segregation into separate units, and I hereby order the Adjutant General of Minnesota to forthwith issue all necessary directives to carry into effect in the military and naval forces of the State of Minnesota, including the Minnesota National Guard, the policy herein established.



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 Capital in Saint Paul this twenty-second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine and of the state, the ninety-second.

Frank B. Fenner
GOVERNOR

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W. H. H. H.
Secretary of State.

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