

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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*Joseph L. Anderson*  
Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, since the beginning of time, fire has been of tremendous benefit to mankind. It has warmed his homes, cooked his food, helped provide power and transportation. Yet, at the same time, fire can be a relentless enemy to man, destroying his property and sometimes taking his life, and
- WHEREAS, today, fire still plays this dual role as friend and foe of man. Properly controlled, it performs a host of useful tasks. Out of control, it takes a toll of over 12,000 lives in the United States and Canada every year. Each year, fire ravages property worth close to two billion dollars in our two countries, and
- WHEREAS, the greatest bulwarks against this terrible cost in lives and property are the professional fire fighters, who safeguard thousands of cities and towns in the United States and Canada, as well as scores of federal installations. Their heroic efforts in the face of extreme dangers keep the toll from soaring to new and more terrifying heights, and
- WHEREAS, fifty years ago in 1918, fire fighters from a handful of these cities and towns banded together to form a union and received a charter from the American Federation of Labor. The object of the new union was to achieve some relief from the long hours they were required to work and to attain a salary level that realistically took into account the hazards they face and the skills and experience the men must have to perform their duties, and
- WHEREAS, the goals of the Fire Fighters have been extended over the years. They stress the need for fire prevention, as well as the extinguishment of fires. Their trade union organization constantly seeks to elevate the quality of the fire service through professional training and study on the part of the men in that service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold LeVander, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of February 25 - March 2, 1968, as

"FIRE FIGHTERS WEEK"

in Minnesota, to coincide with the observance of this Union's anniversary, so that our citizens may participate formally in according an appropriate tribute to this energetic and forward-looking organization, the International Association of Fire Fighters.

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 twenty-third day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight, and of the State, the one hundred tenth.

*Joseph L. Anderson*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Harold LeVander*  
GOVERNOR

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