

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED  
DEC 3 - 1970

*Joseph L. Donovan*  
Secretary of State

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, our State and Nation are gravely concerned over the treatment of prisoners of war held by the forces of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese, together with the agonizing uncertainties over said treatment endured by the families of these prisoners, and

WHEREAS, four of the Nation's college students have embarked upon a trans-continental trip intended to focus public attention on the urgent need for communicating this concern for American prisoners and securing signatures for a petition to the government in Hanoi, North Vietnam, via their delegation in Paris, France, and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, emphasized the plea for humane treatment of American prisoners under supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and

WHEREAS, the Government of North Vietnam has repeatedly and unmercifully employed the suffering of the American prisoners and their families as a political tool, and

WHEREAS, it is known that at least 45 Minnesotans are among Americans held as prisoners of war or are listed as missing in action, among the 2,300 total Americans, and

WHEREAS, the endeavors of these four young students, William Michael Tolley, Robert Joseph Aikward, Michael Joseph Cole, and David George Gibian, in making their cross-country journey are most praiseworthy and commendable, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold LeVander, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, December 20, 1970, as

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS

and urge all citizens of Minnesota to join in humble plea to the Almighty God in behalf of our fellow Americans held in perilous captivity and their families.

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 second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy, and of the State, the one hundred thirteenth.

*Joseph L. Donovan*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Harold LeVander*  
GOVERNOR

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